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Ugandan Water Project - Giving Water, Giving Life

May 2007 - It was just another summer day for James Harrington of Lima, NY. He pulled up to his house after a long, hot day remodeling a friend's home. Totally exhausted and ready to unwind for the night, he parked the car and was headed into the house when the aroma of food grilling on the BBQ lured him over to the neighbors' busy yard. Crashing the neighbors' BBQ was a far better idea than whipping up his own dinner. Bill welcomed James' imposition, gave him some burgers and introduced him to Pastor George Nsamba. George was visiting from quite a distance - 8,000 miles away from Uganda, Africa.

"So, tell me about Uganda," James asked. George described the beauty of his country and life as the National Youth Director overseeing 600+ churches. Both fathers and both passionate about young people, the two men found a connection. James inquired of George what challenges he was facing. And with sincerity, George responded that it is difficult to encourage his people and challenge them to grow on the inside, while on the outside they are starving and thirsty, sick and dying. George went on to share a potential solution of installing rainwater collection tanks in his communities to provide safe drinking water, but he just did not have the means to make it happen.

It was with this conversation that a chance meeting at a BBO materialized into a new direction for James and his family. James felt compelled to help George help his people and to be a voice for those suffering in this developing nation. He spoke with his friend, Derek Levendusky of Isaiah Six Ministries, who also felt moved by George's needs. Together with George, they launched the Ugandan Water Project.

James is now the director of the Ugandan Water Project, a not-for-profit organization that partners stateside with individuals, schools, civic organizations, churches and businesses to fund and install the rainwater collection systems George had only dreamt about. The tanks are manufactured in Uganda and are installed on community buildings such as churches, schools, orphanages, and clinics. One tank provides enough drinking water for 100 families or 500 children and has a 35 year life span. The project also underwrites the startup cost of microeconomic business opportunities for Ugandan people through their 2nd Steps Program and takes teams to Uganda to do humanitarian



James tests the water quality at a UWP tank site

relief projects multiple times a year.

The Ugandan Water Project has installed 27 tanks to date. George reports a dramatic increase in health, lower death rates and more children attending school within the communities. This simple process only costs \$3,500 per tank, which is an insurmountable amount of money for them, but is not out of reach for us!

James and a team of 11 will travel to Uganda from July 25th-Aug 7th. Trip highlights include facilitating a three day youth conference in Kawanda where approximately 400 young people will be attendance. The team will also visit existing tank sites to assess the physical condition of the tanks and continue to build relationships within the communities. Finally, they plan to spend two days in the slums where they will provide food and basic needs for some of the poorest people in Uganda.

Won't you consider partnering with the Ugandan't Water Project to give water and give life? For more information, visit UgandanWaterProject.com or call 585-752-5396. Donations may be mailed to: UWP, 1748 Rochester Street, Lima, NY

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