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Colers aid Ugandan Water Project



Jim Coler and James Harrington labeling a Ugandan Water Project Tank at Kivulu slum, Uganda with their Ugandan partner Collins Alinaitwe. Submitted Photo.

Jim Coler, co-owner of Coler Natural Insulation in Ionia, and his 7 year old son, Christian, took a two-week trip to Uganda, Africa with the Ugandan Water Project this August. They joined James Harrington, Lima resident and Director of the Ugandan Water Project, and nine other team members with a mission to bring safe and accessible drinking water to the Ugandan people.

Many Ugandans walk 2-5 miles twice a day to reach their nearest water source - usually a murky pond or river shared by livestock, wild life, and micro-organisms that often lead to disease and death. This is completely unnecessary, as Uganda has over 80 inches of rainfall annually. The solution is as simple as collecting and storing the rain and making it accessible to the people who desperately need it. The Ugandan Water Project facilitates relationships between sponsors in the U.S. and communities in Uganda to fund rain water collection systems.

Each system holds 2,600 gallons of water and provides safe drinking water for 100 families or 500 students. These tanks are installed on community-valued

locations like schools, churches, orphanages and clinics. The Ugandan Water Project also takes teams to Uganda four times a year to assess the rain water collection systems and build relationships within the project communities by serving in various capacities.

Jim says, "I chose to go to Uganda to help make a difference in people's lives. I chose Uganda, because of the drive and desire of James Harrington to help these people in such a simple way."

After 40 hours of travel and some missing luggage, Jim and Christian, along with the rest of the team arrived in Kampala, Uganda ready to make a change. During their first 3 days in Uganda, they facilitated a National Youth Conference in the village of Kawanda. An entire day was reserved for Service Projects. The group built fences, repaired potholes in roads, painted, fixed computers, cleared a path to a water hole near a church, and even went into the village to sweep storefronts and the fronts of people's homes. The people in the community were in awe as to why this group of young people would be serving them in this capacity. These projects served as a tangible way to express to the

folks in the community what it means to love your neighbor as yourself and likewise, to help the conference attendees learn practical ways to impact their communities. It was a huge success!

After the youth conference, the team made visits to multiple water project sites. Jim had the opportunity to put his industrial engineering skills to work by re-installing some of the gutters and look for new systems for the gutters, downspouts, tank bases, and filtration needs. The team brought over a manually operated UV water filtration system that will remain in Uganda for experimental data collection. Jim was able to make some vital adjustments to this system so that it would work more efficiently. Jim is ready to make a second trip to Uganda sometime this upcoming year. He says, "I feel I have had more of an impact since coming back by thinking through many of the ways I can improve their way of life."

Although just 7 years old, Christian was a vital part of the team - his innocent and joyful way of seeing beyond the oppression lifted team spirits. When asked what his favorite part of the trip was, he responds, "Playing soccer with the Ugandan children." He played hard with his new Ugandan friends and took many photos to capture his experience.

The team of 12 spent their last few days serving food, doing first aid and spending time with street children who live in the slums of Uganda. They hopped back on a plane bound for the U.S. and now they are home sharing their experience and raising awareness about the need for water and the need for change in Uganda.

Visit ugandanwaterproject.com for more info and please consider what you might do this holiday season to make a change in the world.

HF-L Middle drama

BY DONNA MACKENZIE

The Honeoye Falls-Lima Middle School Drama club presents *The Beverly Hillsbillies* to be performed on Friday, November 19 and Saturday, November 20 at the District Auditorium at 6 Quaker Meeting House Road Honeoye Falls. Tickets are per seat and will be sold at the door. The show begins promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Cast members are Justin Ortenzi (Jed Clampett), Amar Borden (Granny Moses), Tim Santucci (Elly May Clampett), Jack Tata (Jethro), Miriam Latorre (Cousin Pearl), James Zimmer (Mr. Milburn Drysdale), Emma Stout (Mrs. Margie Drysdale), Kristie Bracagnoli (Miss Jane Hathway), Heather Reinke (Emaline Fetty), Ed Schaubert (Colonel Foxhall), Melissa Antalek (George Turney), Marisa Brazak (Jane Brewster), Lauren McKinnon (Marilyn Pennyweather), Tony Creighton (Percy Pennyweather), Bridget Wangler (Gloria Mundy), Hannah Hayes (Frederika Collins), Claudia

Quilt Show for local

