

Water to Thrive

By Tom Waldoch

Water to Thrive is a faith-based, grassroots organization that started in Austin, Texas, through a six week Bible study on World Poverty and Hunger. The founder, Dick Moeller, was part of that Bible study, and during the six weeks, he learned about the water crisis, specifically in Ethiopia. He felt called to respond.

The Mission is simple – to transform lives through the gift of clean water. To give the gift of water to God's people. Water to Thrive builds water wells. These wells literally give the gift of life to people who are struggling to survive every single day.

Many congregations, schools, organizations and individuals have dug deep to support this mission, changing thousands of lives, and yet...

- Every 15 seconds, a child dies because of a lack of clean drinking water.
- The daily minimum water requirement for sanitation, bathing, cooking, drinking and cleaning is about 13 gallons per person. An average American taking a shower uses that much.
- Women and children are forced to walk for hours every day to get water that is often dirty and nasty.
- Children carrying heavy water jugs with their mothers miss out on their chance for an education, but the need for water takes precedence.

The average cost of a water well project is \$5,000 and benefits up to 500 people, so for as little as \$10 per person, lives can be changed forever.

Water to Thrive believes there are five things that set them apart from other organizations.

1. All project donations of \$1,000 or more are guaranteed that 100% of their funds will go directly to the construction of a water well.
2. All project sponsors have the right to know where their money goes. Sponsors are provided with information about where their well is located, GPS coordinates along with Google maps, photos of the well and a completion report that documents the water well and its impact on the community.
3. Sustainability is achieved by working with the local communities themselves to insure the long term success of each water well.
4. Community education through Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) is implemented including training lessons on washing after using the toilet, daily bathing, cleaning dishes and maintaining the new source of clean water thereby increasing the longevity of the well.
5. All project sponsors are given the opportunity to personalize the sign plaques left at the well to share a message with the water well beneficiaries.

Without clean water there is no life. We cannot survive. We can't exist without it.

<https://www.watertothrive.org/>

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