

The Safe Water Prize

By Tom Waldoch

This past April during the coffee/adult education period, we watched a documentary called “The Balanced Equation” produced by three Racine Unified high school students. This video demonstrated the lack of freshwater sustainability in developing countries and the benefits of “Point of use” (POU) water filters in Kenya and the Dominican Republic.

These three young ladies: Madison Richards, Samantha Noll and Sinclair Richards, are now involved in the judging of an International Video Competition focusing on topics relating to POU filtration systems. These extraordinary students’ accomplishments have been featured on a National TV Washington Journal Special, CBS, as well as local and national newspapers including USA Today and The Wall Street Journal. (see www.safewaterprize.com and click on “Meet the Judges”). The Safe Water Prize will create a collection of videos that will inspire youth to take action, raise funds and get involved in providing safe drinking water to families in desperate need.

The aim of Safe Water Prize is to produce a creative, informative and inspiring collection of videos that focus on a variety of topics about the world safe water crisis. Each video will be created by young people for use in classrooms throughout the world.

According to UNICEF, “more than a billion people do not have access to safe water and well over 2 billion people live without adequate sanitation. At any given time, more than half of the developing world’s population is suffering from one or more of the primary diseases associated with unsafe water and poor sanitation.”

Without access to safe water and adequate sanitation, families remain mired in deplorable conditions. Young children die from preventable diseases. Those who survive are often unable to learn in school or succeed in life because of the legacy of ill health in their early years and the burden of recurring illnesses.

On March 16, 2014, between services, we hope to meet these young ladies, who are truly difference makers, and have them share their insights on clean water and sanitation with us. Mark your calendars.

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