

Dear Friends,

There's a verse I keep returning to this year: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). It's a good reminder that no plan or system, however well designed, holds together unless the Lord is the one building it. We're grateful for the provision God is giving us at Water for Good, and for how He is helping us build something strong.

One of the ways we're building stronger than ever is the launch of **Project SusTAin**, which will strengthen the water systems that communities in Uganda and Cameroon already depend on. (**Yes – Cameroon is a whole new country for us to be working in!**)

Building well also means keeping what we've built running, and you'll see that in this newsletter. You'll meet Desta, a 26-year-old service provider in Ethiopia whose team keeps water flowing to **more than 10,000 people**, often making repairs **within 72 hours** of a breakdown. And we'll tell you how, in Kigali, Rwanda, and Stockholm, Sweden, our team joined sector leaders shaping the future of water, sanitation, and hygiene.

You'll also read about a new way we're honoring the donors who've included Water for Good in their legacy planning, and about six kids in Virginia who remind us that big change often starts small.

None of this work happens because of any one person. It happens because of partners like you, faithfully building something that lasts.

With gratitude,

Dave LeVan
CEO, Water for Good



Q3 Progress Report

Water for Good's Total Impact:

- Open Defecation Free (ODF) communities: **35**
- Registered Healthy Homes: **1,336**
- Water Points Constructed/ Rehabilitated: **41**
- Community members served with new water access: **12,239**

Central African Republic (CAR):

Our team in CAR began implementing our VHV program for the first time. We look forward to providing progress updates in future newsletters!

- Total Maintenance Visits: **485**
- Population Served with Maintenance Services: **322,420**
- Water Points Maintained: **476**

Ethiopia:

- Open Defecation Free (ODF) communities: **27**
- Registered Healthy Homes: **967**
- Healthy Villages: **17**
- Water Points Constructed/ Rehabilitated: **5**
- Population Served by New Water Access: **507**

Cambodia:

- Registered Healthy Homes: **340**
- Registered Healthy Villages: **3**
- Open Defecation Free (ODF) communities: **8**

Tanzania:

- Registered Healthy Homes: **29**
- Healthy Villages: **3**
- Water Points Constructed/ Rehabilitated: **5**

Uganda:

Uganda is part of our new **Technical Assistance** work under **Project SusTAin**; continue reading below to learn more!

Announcing Project SusTAin

Water for Good is stepping into an exciting new chapter. Project SusTAin is a **three-year, multi-million-dollar initiative** to strengthen the operation and maintenance of **225 existing solar-powered water systems** across Cameroon and Uganda. Together with local partners, we're helping keep safe, clean water flowing for approximately **800,000 people or more.**

Instead of building new systems, we're equipping local service providers to rehabilitate and maintain the ones communities already depend on. The project also marks **our entry into working in Cameroon**, where we will begin our first Technical Assistance work. This builds on our progress in Uganda and supports our 2026–2028 Strategic Plan goal of serving **2.6 million people annually by 2028**.

Project SusTAin ties payments to verified results, creates good local jobs, and works closely with governments. It's led from Africa by **Emmanuel Curuma, our VP of Impact & Learning**, based in Kampala. Success means families can count on safe, reliable water for decades, not just until the next breakdown.

This is a big step, not the finish line. Reaching 2.6 million people will take many partners standing shoulder to shoulder with the communities we serve.

You can visit our blog for more information: https://waterforgood.org/announcing-project-sustain/



On the Air: A Recent Podcast Appearance with Dave

Dave is still making the rounds on the podcast circuit, sharing our mission and what it takes to lead a nonprofit through meaningful change. We're excited to share that one of his latest conversations is now live on the **Nonprofit Vision podcast** with Gregory Nielsen — a show that ranks in the top 2.5% of podcasts globally among nonprofit leaders.

In this episode, Dave got specific about what the merger actually produced, not just what it took to survive it. He talked candidly about the mindset shift that made the difference: looking for what a merger makes possible, not just what it costs. That shift has meant **cutting the cost of reaching each person served by 40% and growing our Africa-based team to more than 40% of headquarters staff.**

You can listen to the full episode at the link below to hear more about how we're building a stronger foundation to serve every village, and more.

Listen to the Episode



Introducing the Ashe-Hocking Legacy Society

We're excited to launch the Ashe-Hocking Legacy Society—a new way to honor and connect the visionary supporters who have chosen to include Water for Good in their will, trust, or estate plans.

Named for our founders, Bill Ashe and Jim Hocking, the Society recognizes donors whose planned gifts ensure that safe water, sanitation, and hygiene remain a permanent reality for communities long into the future. Members receive quarterly updates from our leadership and field staff, an annual Founder's Fireside Chat, a recognition gift and certificate, and optional recognition on our donor wall—both online and at our headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

If you've already included Water for Good in your estate plans, we'd love to officially welcome you as a founding member. And if you're just starting to think about your own legacy, we'd be honored to talk it through with you.

Click here to learn more.



ASHE-HOCKING LEGACY SOCIETY

Stories From the Field

Central African Republic

From Loss to Leadership

For years, Sevaphine walked nearly an hour into the forest each day to collect water from an unsafe spring — a burden that turned tragic when one of her children died from a waterborne illness. Everything changed when Water for Good installed a safe water point near her community. Today, Sevaphine has stepped into her late father's role as village chief, leading her community's water committee so no other mother has to carry what she once carried. Safe water sparked a legacy of local leadership in her life.







Ethiopia

A Village Transformed, One Home at a Time

In Ethiopia, unsafe water and a cholera outbreak once brought fear into Aster's home and claimed the lives of relatives in her community. After Water for Good installed a safe water point and led hygiene training, Aster built a household latrine and handwashing station — and her example inspired her neighbors to do the same. **Today, more than 90% of households in her community have latrines, and the village has been declared a Healthy Village**. One family's courage became a community's transformation.



Cambodia

The Well That Washed Away Fear

In Cambodia, Mey spent her days worrying about the contaminated well her family depended on, watching her three children fall sick again and again. Through Water for Good's WASH program, her community learned healthy home practices, and a new hand pump well was installed just steps from Mey's house. **Today, her family drinks clean, safe water every day**, her children attend school more consistently, and she has time to grow vegetables that support her family. Safe water became a foundation for a healthier future in their lives.



Tanzania

A Five-Minute Walk That Changed Everything

In Tanzania, Scolastika once walked nearly an hour each day to a stagnant pond for water, and waterborne illness was a constant in her home. Through Water for Good's Vision of a Healthy Village approach, her community received hygiene training and a new water point just five minutes from her house. **Today, her family practices regular handwashing and safe water storage, and the hours she once spent walking are now spent farming and caring for her children**. A healthier home has become a healthier community for her and her family.



The Local Team Behind Sustainable Safe Water

In rural Ethiopia, a broken water point can mean long walks for water, missed school days, and uncertainty for families. Keeping water flowing takes more than infrastructure; it takes people ready to respond.

That's the job of 26-year-old Desta, team leader of a five-member Service Provider Group that **maintains 227 water points**. When a pump breaks or a pipe fails, the team responds **within 72 hours**, trained and equipped to make repairs on the spot.

"Our work is to make sure the water points continue serving the community without interruption," Desta said.

One repair can restore water for thousands of people. Desta's team has fixed solar-powered and gravity-fed systems that **now serve more than 10,000 people**, providing safe drinking water, better hygiene, and healthier homes for entire communities.

The work isn't just technical. Damaged fencing and construction can threaten water points, so the team partners closely with communities and local officials to protect them long-term.

"**We have to work hand in hand with the community and government officials," Desta said. "We need active community awareness and efficient work on sustainability.**"

Behind every functioning water point is a promise that children will have safe water, families will have healthier homes, and communities will have a chance to thrive. Local hands like Desta's are what make that promise last.



The Lemonade Squad: How 6 Kids Raised $250 for Clean Water

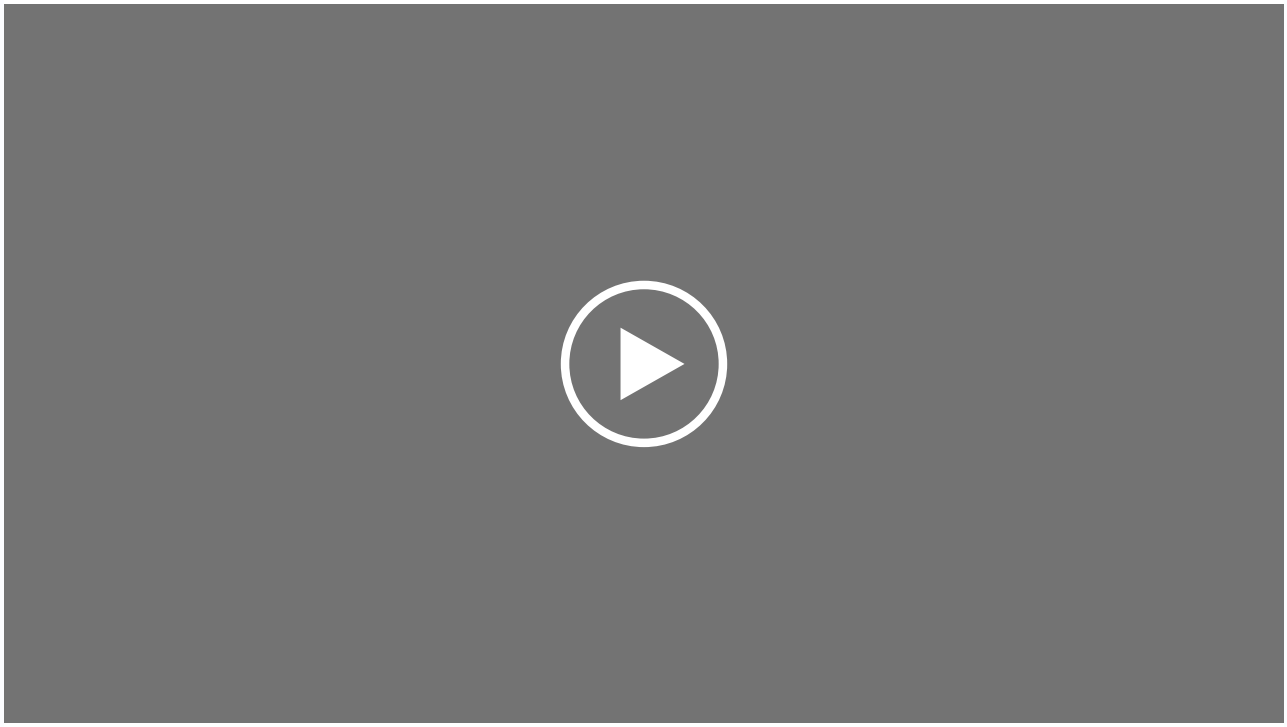
For their third annual neighborhood stand, six kids (ages 7–10) in Virginia took their summer tradition a step further. After doing months of extra chores to fund their own supply "seed money," the team researched non-profits and voted to give 100% of their cash register earnings to Water for Good.

Their hard work paid off: they raised $250.80!

As 10-year-old team member Nora shared, "If we help with that one thing, it could make a big difference. Making a big difference is a lot of work, but once you do it as a team, the challenge won't seem that hard anymore."

We are deeply grateful for the next generation of global citizens showing us all how big change starts small.

Watch a video clip of the squad here:



Water for Good Brings Systems Thinking to Kigali and Stockholm

This August, **Water for Good leaders took part in two of the sector's most important gatherings**: the Africa Water and Sanitation Systems Leadership Symposium in Kigali, Rwanda, and World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden. In both rooms, the focus was the same: **building water and sanitation systems that last**. In Kigali, Chief Operating Officer **Zerihun Desta** and VP of Impact and Learning **Emmanuel Curuma** took an active role in shaping the continent's sanitation agenda. Emmanuel delivered opening remarks on professionalizing rural sanitation, and Zerihun presented on the critical role of community behavior change.

"Real transformation in rural sanitation doesn't start with a toilet — it starts with a mindset," Zerihun shared. "Professionalized systems only work when communities are equipped and motivated to demand and own them."

Water for Good's emphasis on community demand and behavior transformation resonated widely, **earning direct inclusion in the symposium's final declaration**.

The following week in Stockholm, CEO Dave LeVan, Chief Development Officer Ethan Hayman, VP of Partnerships Adrienne Lane, and VP of Engineering and Sustainability Berhanu Mekuria joined funders, researchers, and service providers from around the world. Water for Good co-convened a session on equitable, sustainable WASH services for fragile and hard-to-reach communities, where Berhanu shared how **professionalized maintenance keeps water flowing for more than 1 million people**. *"The last mile is proving to be the hardest mile,"* Adrienne told participants. *"A water point is not the same thing as a water service."*

Beyond the sessions, both weeks were a chance to learn from peers and deepen ties with funding, government, and sector partners. As Emmanuel noted*, "Africa's water, sanitation, and hygiene future will be built together, not alone."*

Water for Good returns from Kigali and Stockholm, energized and committed to advancing the professionalized, community-led systems that keep water flowing for generations.



Join Us in Tanzania: 2027 Vision Trip

Come see what your generosity makes possible. From June 19 to 27, 2027, Water for Good is hosting a Vision Trip to Tanzania, where you'll meet the families and church partners in the communities you've helped bring safe water to and see the impact up close. To learn more, visit waterforgood.org/vision-trips or email info@waterforgood.org.

Become a Monthly Donor 💧 Make a Donation 💧 Find Us on Instagram 💧 Follow Us on Facebook
https://info.waterforgood.org/unsubscribeConfirm/748953 https://help.salesforce.com/articleView?id=pardot_view_online_link.htm