

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN



Over 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa lack access to clean water – equivalent to the entire population of the United States. As water is considered a woman's responsibility, rural African women can spend up to 8 hours a day walking as far as 10 miles carrying water, on their backs and heads, that can weigh as many as 44 lbs.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN is a Voss Foundation campaign that has brought together more than 400 champions of clean water in 8 countries to raise nearly \$200,000 for water projects since 2009. Thus far, WOMEN HELPING WOMEN events in Oslo, New York, and Boston have funded four water systems in Kenya, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

With access to clean water, an entire region gains immediate health benefits. But women's lives often improve the most, since searching for clean water prevents women from going to school and earning an income; girls are often taken out of school at a young age to help their mothers carry water, or drop out when they reach puberty because schools lack hygiene and sanitation facilities. With a new clean water system built by the Voss Foundation, women find hours of new time to devote to their families, to education, to income-generating activities, and to their communities.

Each year specific WHW water projects are selected; detailed information about each project, including budget, project news and updates, is made available to ensure transparency and a close connection between donors and beneficiaries. For two consecutive years, WHW donors have gone to Africa to visit their water projects and meet the women they have helped. In 2012 WOMEN HELPING WOMEN events and efforts will occur this year in the United States in New York, Boston and San Francisco, as well as in Europe.

WHW exemplifies the strength of women to change the world. Every single donation is like a drop of water – as every woman contributes her share to form a whole water system for a village, so do individual drops of water come together to quench the thirst of thousands. Every droplet, every contribution, every woman is necessary for the whole.

THE VOSS FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing access to clean water to communities in Sub-Saharan Africa and raising awareness of ongoing need in the region. Founded by the directors of VOSS of Norway ASA as an independent 501(c)(3) public charity in 2008, with offices in New York and Oslo, the Voss Foundation has changed the lives of over 100,000 people in Kenya, Mali, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Liberia.

“ Whenever we build a well, we save lives with clean water right away. But it's the subsequent outcomes, what we call “the ripple effect of clean water”, enabling women and girls to improve their own lives and transform the community, which really thrill us.– Kara Gerson, Executive Director, Voss Foundation, “Investing in Women & Girls” Special Report; USA Today; March 22, 2012; p.9. ”



To get involved with the Voss Foundation's Women Helping Women, please contact us at info@thevossfoundation.org.

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