



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER - FALL 2021

**Ryan's Well**<sup>®</sup>  
FOUNDATION

Get all the news on what we've accomplished this year!

## A Message From Ryan

When I was a kid starting the Ryan's Well project, there were some who questioned my ability to succeed. Not because they were unsympathetic naysayers, but simply because they were adults who knew that my dream of clean water for everyone might be unrealistic. It's true we still have a long way to go, but we've now supplied clean water to over 1.1 million people in total (with 61,803 given access to clean water and sanitation this year alone - despite the pandemic)! Sometimes all it takes is an ordinary kid with a dream to help the world in a small way, and when that dream is shared by others, the impact can be astounding. Ryan's Well is now a community of young, old, and everyone in between, throughout the world, doing extraordinary things to empower more people with access to clean water. Thank you to all our supporters, volunteers, and donors who believe in our mission to construct water and sanitation projects in a sustainable, transparent way. We look forward to doing even more together in the years to come!



## Sharon's Story

Before the new well was built at her school (Awirao Primary School in Uganda), Sharon, 14 years old, had to walk a 100-minute round-trip to collect water for her family. Sharon had been missing hours of school every day, because she had to collect water in the morning and afternoon, causing her to perform poorly in school. Sharon says that the new well in her village drastically changed her school performance: "This well is the answer to my education, because it takes me only five minutes to reach the water source, and I will not be reporting to school late anymore when school opens."



## Note from a Longtime Donor

"Each one of us has the power to change the world. We can build a healthy and hopeful future for tens of thousands of people simply by providing their villages access to clean drinking water. It takes commitment and action to achieve it. Community wells built through Ryan's Well Foundation have provided clean water and healthier communities in village after village throughout each country where they've worked. Ryan's Well has been positively changing the world for thousands of people, giving them improved health and hope for over two decades. And, it has received the highest charity rating possible from Charity Intelligence Canada while doing this amazing, world-changing work. I know that my support of Ryan's Well over most of this time helped many families enjoy a better and healthier world."

**Bernie Burns, Retiree and Longtime Supporter of Ryan's Well**

# EDUCATE AND MOTIVATE!

## School Challenge 2020/21

Thanks to amazing and dedicated students and teachers, the 2020/21 School Challenge project helped fund the construction of two deep wells and handwashing stations - one each for two schools in the Adansi South district of Ghana. Altogether, 59 schools around the world participated in the challenge. They raised \$25,956.86, and provided over 870 students, teachers, and staff with clean water!

**WOO HOO!**

**Thank you, students and teachers!**



Mrs. Mason's grade 5 and 4/5 classes at Guardian Angels School created and managed an online store that sold coffee from "The Artery," spices from "13: A Social Enterprise," and collected donations. Altogether, the students raised over \$1,100!

Mrs. D'Astolfo's grade 5 class at Searingtown Elementary School raised \$3,189 by creating their own well, and developing daily dress themes to encourage donations, such as "Nickels and Neon" and "Pennies and Pajamas!"



Mrs. Friend's grade three class at Middle Creek Year Round Elementary school in North Carolina held their annual popsicle sale, and managed to raise \$625 for the School Challenge project!



## You're Never Too Young Or Old to Make a Difference!



Evelyn Cole, 89 - Longtime Ryan's Well Donor, with Ryan

"I knew Ryan's grandparents when Ryan's dad was a little boy. They lived in my subdivision, and his grandmother taught my daughter at school. When I read in Reader's Digest about this little boy, Ryan Hreljac, I knew there had to be a connection, and I immediately knew that I wanted to help. I belonged to a Tops chapter, and we sold water at our meetings, and all the money we made went to Ryan's Well. I've never stopped donating since then. I even still have the Reader's Digest with Ryan's story! Ryan is a super young man, and I'm so proud to be able to call him a friend."



Maverick, an 8-year old boy from Ontario, was one of our youngest donors this year - raising \$1,800 by collecting donations for picking up garbage along the road in his hometown. Maverick did double duty by providing clean water to those who need it, and cleaning up his neighbourhood!

In the last year, Ryan gave virtual presentations in:

- Brazil
- Canada
- Italy
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- United States



Sharing our story with 5,255 people!



Hi Ryan's Well Team!  
My name is North. I'm 9 years old, and I'm from Wisconsin.  
This year, I raised \$500 (my goal was \$100) through an online candy jar count and read-a-thon! I'm so glad that I can help people who need clean water.

Take care!

North



Ryan's Well Foundation

P.O. Box 1120

Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0



Anyone can create positive change!



# THIS YEAR'S PROJECT WORK

## This Year's Work

40 Water Projects

1 Four-Stance Latrine

61,803 People with Clean Water!



- 9 Deep Wells
- 10 Deep Wells
- 19 Protected Springs
- 2 Rainwater Harvesting Tanks
- 1 Latrine with Handwashing Station

## Project Report

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to fund the construction of 40 water projects and four latrine stances in two countries, Ghana and Uganda, providing 61,803 people with self-sustaining access to clean water and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) education. We consider ourselves very lucky to have such long-standing and trusted relationships with our local partners. This trusted relationship enabled us to continue with our mission last year, despite being unable to travel to project sites. By increasing the frequency of updates, and improving upon our methods of communication and reporting with each local partner, we successfully completed our project plan for the 2020-21 fiscal year. All of our local teams are safe, healthy, and have begun project activities for 2021-22! We plan to evaluate every site completed last year as soon as it is safe to travel internationally, and we anticipate some double monitoring trips in 2022. Be sure to check out the Active Projects page on our website, and remember – WASH your hands!

## Next Year, A New Country: Malawi

It has been 12 years since we last worked in Malawi, but we are returning with a trusted Canadian partner, Canadian Physicians for Aid & Relief (CPAR). Our funding will focus on the construction of 40 latrine stances and four rainwater harvesting tanks required by four schools in the Central area.

## Challenges This Year

Other than restrictions associated with COVID-19, this year was made difficult by increased costs for materials, supply issues at local hardware stores, and over-scheduling for drilling companies. Our partners also reported heavy rainfall and bad road conditions throughout 2020-21, causing some sites to be inaccessible on certain days.



## Protected Spring in Kyabehesi



"I feel so good, with a lot of happiness in my heart. For a long time, we have been surviving on dirty and unclean water. Diseases like flu, typhoid, and diarrhea never leave our village. You know, for those of us at old age, we easily get sick and, therefore, we need this clean and safe water to extend our life span. Now, our children are going to grow healthy, and we won't have to spend money on hospital bills!"

**This is what Katorotozi Eryezare, 70 years old, had to say about the effects in his community - Kyabehesi B, Uganda - after a protected spring was built by RWIDF and Ryan's Well.**

## Clean Water Through the Generations!

With RWIDF, clean water and sanitation is a family affair! Our Western Ugandan partner organization was started by husband-and-wife duo Hellen and Steven in 2004, and their sons Anthony and Timothy have begun taking the reigns after graduating from university. Hellen and Steven worked hard to instill a sense of "selfless service" and of giving back to your community in their sons from a young age. Steven is months away from retirement, and has said, "I am so humbled that, at my age, I'm still able to work towards uplifting my community, and I believe we can all make a difference at any age." Thank you, RWIDF!



If you wish to send in a donation, please fill out the form below, detach, and return in the enclosed envelope.  
Your generous contribution will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people.  
For the MONTHLY donation option, please see other side.

Yes, I would like to give a **ONE-TIME ONLY** gift of clean water and sanitation!

- \$100       \$75       \$50       \$20       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my cheque payable to "Ryan's Well Foundation."

Please bill my credit card:  VISA  MasterCard Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV #: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a Canadian tax receipt?\*  Yes  No

\*Issued for donations of \$10 or more

Or, you can make a secure online donation at [www.ryanswell.ca/donate](http://www.ryanswell.ca/donate)

I would like to receive Ryan's Well e-mail updates.

Ryan's Well Foundation appreciates your gift and respects your privacy. We do not sell or trade our donor information. If, at any time, you wish to be removed from these periodic contacts, please contact us at [info@ryanswell.ca](mailto:info@ryanswell.ca) or 1.613.258.6832

**Thank you!**

Registered Canadian Charity 88858 7110 RR0001

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## What is WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene)?

WASH projects provide adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene services, which are essential components of basic health and well-being. However, clean water and sanitation alone can only go so far. Our local partners also train benefitting communities on crucial WASH behaviours. These training sessions differ slightly for each working region, and include lessons relevant to the area; for example, communities in Uganda learn to wash their mangos before eating. Other lessons include the importance of washing your hands with soap or ash, collecting your water in clean jerry cans, storing your water in a dark, dry place, and keeping latrines and rubbish pits at least 30 metres away from the water source to avoid cross-contamination. Training is also given on how to repair and maintain their source of clean water. Of course, a few WASH-specific training sessions with our local partners is not enough to permanently change the behaviours and habits of an entire community. Thus, our local partners help these communities identify leaders from the village to form Water Committees, who reinforce the lessons annually. We and our partners encourage at least 50% female representation in these committees, because it is women and girls who disproportionately shoulder the burden of collecting water for their families, and therefore, can have the greatest impact on the longevity of our water and sanitation projects. WASH lessons improve the overall health and well-being of these communities, both immediately and over generations - ensuring that your donation goes as far as possible!



## The Future of Ryan's Well

Given all the unexpected challenges in 2020-21, our small team, working remotely, has had even more time to dedicate to planning for future risks. We've been setting concrete goals for our three charitable programs (Build, Educate, and Motivate), updating the efficiency and ease-of-use of our website, digitizing our operations, and, ideally, working towards a larger impact each year through set objectives. However, while these are things we already do throughout our work, we've also had the time to experiment with new processes and technologies! We've experimented with the Puente App, which allows our on-the-ground partners to collect and send us data in real time, providing us with even more stories, photos, and information about the project sites and communities to share with you - not just in reports every few months. With the help of members of the Board, we've also introduced an Education Committee, which will help us extend the reach of our Educate program, and provide teachers and students alike with the resources they need to make a difference. While this year has been filled with challenges, it has also given us the opportunity to re-evaluate what we do and how we do it - reaching and supporting even more people each year.

## Videos From the Field

Want to learn more about why we build latrines, conduct WASH training, or just want to see more of our project work? Head on over to our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/RyansWellFoundation](http://www.youtube.com/RyansWellFoundation) to find out more, and to see footage directly from the communities we help. We love sharing the joy on the faces of those who receive clean water, but photos can only do so much. We can't wait for you to see the joy directly!

## Ways to Donate

When planning our future projects, or supporting our current ones, having consistent income is extremely beneficial. Our number of monthly donors has been steadily climbing - and we are so grateful for this consistent support. Signing up for monthly donations is as easy as visiting our website and choosing the option for "Monthly Gift."

Another area of support that we are incredibly grateful for is legacy donations - a meaningful way to leave a lasting memory. If you are interested in knowing more about legacy giving or monthly donations, please contact [info@ryanswell.ca](mailto:info@ryanswell.ca). As always, we are here and happy to help answer any questions you might have.



## Keep in Touch with Us!



If you wish to send in a donation, please fill out the form below, detach, and return in the enclosed envelope.  
Your generous contribution will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people.  
For the **ONE-TIME ONLY** donation option, please see other side.

Yes, I would like to give a **MONTHLY** gift of clean water and sanitation!

\$100/Month     \$75/Month     \$50/Month     \$20/Month     Other \$\_\_\_\_/Month

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my VOID cheque payable to "Ryan's Well Foundation."

Please bill my credit card:  VISA  Mastercard Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV #\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Three-digit code on back of card

Card #: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, you can make a secure online donation at [www.ryanswell.ca/donate](http://www.ryanswell.ca/donate)

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Canadian residents will receive a Canadian tax receipt for your annual contribution at the end of the year.

Thank you!

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If you have selected payments by Preauthorized Debit, you may revoke your authorization at any time, subject to providing notice to Ryan's Well by e-mail ([info@ryanswell.ca](mailto:info@ryanswell.ca)) or by mail. You have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD agreement.