

# *Give the gift of life-giving water this Christmas... A Well*

Last year Peace sent a check to Water 4 Kids International for \$10,938.81 to drill a well at a cost of \$10,150. Did you know that since 2012 - YOU, as contributors to our well campaigns at Peace Lutheran Church, have drilled 13 wells!!!! Together, we've made a HUGE impact in saving lives with clean water!! Even more than the plaques we have, because they started those in 2013 and in 2012 we did 2 wells; 2013 - 3 wells; 2014 - 4 wells; 2015 - 1 well; 2016 - 2 wells; and 2017 - 1 well.

I asked Hope 4 Kids how we drilled more wells than we'd sent money for, and if the cost of some wells was less, and they replied. "The wells all do cost \$10,150. But when someone doesn't have enough funds to complete the well, we have donors that specifically will donate to that well in order to complete it.) We just had a regular donor call the other day and he asked "what wells need help being completed?"!! Oh the gift of generosity!!:) It's pretty incredible!"

The most recent well Peace Lutheran drilled is Busamba, Uganda. Here is the bio of the village impacted last year:

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your amazing gift of fresh water for those in need around the world! Your generous financial donation will enable us to save thousands of lives who are suffering from dysentery and other preventable diseases, all due to the contaminated water they currently drink. An entire community will benefit in so many ways from this source of clean, safe water.

I wanted to share with you a little bit about this unique village that you will be impacting in Eastern Uganda. The name of this village is Busamba (pronounced boo-sam-BUH) and it is located in the Samia Region, Bugiri District in the subcounty of Masinya. Busia is a fairly new district. It originated from the Tororo District and it was cut off from the Mother District during recent decentralization mapping. Being newly established this district has not been able to budget for its people in all sectors of life sustenance, particularly in the water sector. It is simply beyond their ability to provide safe water for its people.

The UN Assembly development goal of ending extreme poverty and creating a fairer, more sustainable planet does not seem to have reached many villages in Africa and definitely not the village of Busamba. Among the goals for sustainable development is to tackle extreme poverty, inequalities and climate change, including water and sanitation crises which kill half a million children each year from preventable diarrheal diseases. Uganda as a country has made political and financial commitments to improve sanitation and provide safe drinking water since early 2000 however, it has failed to meet its national goals with 70% and 83% of the country falling significantly behind the established targets for safe water. According to Essential Element, Uganda is one of 45 developing countries facing chronic under-funding for water, sanitation and hygiene services and the resulting negative impact on its economic growth is enormous. The livelihood of the Ugandan people would be greatly improved without the cost in time and money of hospital treatments for diseases such as diarrhea and cholera. And the loss of life due to these preventable diseases impacts generations to come in unimaginable ways.

The current water source of Busamba is an open spring that is located 3 kilometers from the village. It was sunk back in 1950 and was originally intended for livestock. Any open water source ends up with pollutants from the ground carried in to it when the skies open and rain is abundant. Water running over the open earth picks up trash and waste products that pour in to the spring. Animals still share this source and often trek in sediment and go to the bathroom when drinking. Algae can be seen on the surface of this spring and it is poisonous to humans. Snakes are also found in this area and snake bites pose a huge threat to the community. Various water-borne diseases are prevalent in this community including diarrhea, cholera, bilhazia and dysentery. Although treatments for these ailments are available, it is very expensive and thereby unattainable for most villagers living in poverty. In a desperate bid to find alternative water the people of Busamba will often trek up to 5 kilometers in search of clean water. The sweet people of this community endure the dire consequences of fetching and drinking this contaminated water every day. They have simply never known the benefits of readily accessible clean water.

The situation for life and health are desperate and often hopeless in the village of Busamba. But the lives of these precious villagers will soon be radically changed for the better with your gift of a borehole. This deep well will provide fresh, pure water for these villagers and their surrounding community. They will simply have to pump a small handle on their new well to receive clear, clean, life-giving water. Health, safety and abundant life will no longer be a dream for the families of this village, they will be a reality. Sparkling, untainted water will be readily available to them year-round. The number of people impacted by your generosity includes 4,400 children and 3,500 adults including the people from the surrounding villages of Buhumwa, Bunyukhe and Budibya and the precious schoolchildren from Busamba and Buhumwa Primary Schools and Masinya Secondary School. Access to clean water will enhance the growth of every child in this area thereby helping build up a nation and our world at large.

Thank you for bringing this unsurpassed gift of healthy, wholesome water to the village of Busamba and its' surrounding community. The people of this society, particularly the children, will be blessed with abundant life and hope for generations to come. Pastor Hillary Malo sums up the thankful hearts of villagers everywhere as he prays, "Let the favor and blessings of Almighty God be upon you for making a difference in the Kingdom of God."

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Because no one should have to drink dirty water, we are again this year accepting donations to drill another well in Africa. date we have received gifts of \$350 to our Christmas 2017 campaign. **Please make all checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church**, and mark "*African Well*". Gift cards are also available on the counter in the office if you'd like to give your gift as a Christmas gift to someone. If you need several gift cards please check early as we'd need to ask for more.