

The Organization Water Without Borders

*Recorded by Joe Pilling
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As we have seen in this series of podcasts, there are many terrible problems related to water throughout the world. For instance, too many people lack access to clean water that is easily accessible. However, we have also seen many organizations that work to solve these issues. One organization that aims to help people gain access to water is Water Without Borders. The organization describes itself as “a nonprofit organization with international reach, dedicated to providing sustainable sources of safe drinking water” (“Water without b orders,” 2010).

Water Without Borders provides many different types of services, both short-term and long-term. For instance, they help different areas during natural disasters and other emergencies. They also create water systems to provide permanent help. Other tasks that Water Without Borders says they work on are: “drilling wells, laying new water mains, [and] installing water plants” (“About water without,” 2010).

One of the more interesting projects with which Water Without Borders is currently involved is their “disaster relief trailer.” When completed, this trailer will be used to help regions suffering from natural disasters. It is over forty feet long and can provide water or cleanse existing supplies. The trailer has various systems that can be used to disinfect water, including an advanced filter, and carbon, chlorine, and ultraviolet systems (“Climate controlled disaster,” 2010). Just think of recent catastrophes like Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, or the earthquakes in Haiti and

Japan, and how many people could benefit from such a phenomenal project as this relief trailer.

The founder of Water Without Borders is Franklin Evert. Legally blind, Mr. Evert has done great things through Water Without Borders. He was inspired to start the program because he saw how many people needed water and how many health problems and social conflicts are caused by lack of water supplies ("About water without," 2010). I was able to ask Mr. Evert a few questions via e-mail and he discussed Water Without Border's different projects, including the aforementioned disaster relief trailer.

Interview

Joe: In the background section of your website, you discuss going to dangerous and depressed areas. Could you provide some examples of such places where Water Without Borders has been involved recently?

F. Evert: Yea, we have been involved in the United States, Haiti, Honduras, and Africa.

Joe: Now has your organization been involved in helping with the recent disaster in Japan, and if so, to what extent?

F. Evert: Well, to put it bluntly, Water Without Borders does not have the funding to go to Japan at this time. We would have been there if we had more support though.

Joe: And what are some regions, in the United States and/or internationally, that your organization is looking to become more involved in, in the future?

F. Evert: Alright, this is a fun one for me to answer. Water Without Borders is trying to get grants for a Water Center to be located in Jacmel, Haiti. This center will be a large part of our organization. We would also like to open a water center in Africa. We also don't want to forget about the USA. Water Without Borders has worked with a few companies to design a disaster relief trailer. We would like to have one of the two trailers on our wish list within two years. The trailer is just what it sounds like, a disaster relief unit that will be able to provide up to 100 gallons of drinking water per minute.

Joe: Thank you very much for your time.

There is much potential for the specific regions with which Water Without Borders is working. These projects range from a high school in Kenya affected by tribal violence to a very poor region in South Dakota, Buffalo County, where levels of sodium, sulfate, and fluoride in the water are concerns. The organization is also working in Ivoire, Haiti, an isolated region in the mountains. Here, people travel long distances to retrieve unclean water. Water Without Borders is working alongside Clean Water for Haiti, another nonprofit, and the project will involve bio-sand filters, wells, pumps, and a rainwater collection system. Mr. Evert also mentioned the Jacmel Water Center in Jacmel City, Haiti. This large project would help provide needed jobs, safe water, and assistance for other charitable organizations working in Haiti. The program could help over 100,000 people. Finally, the organization is working in Honduras, helping students from Villanova University create a purification system at a foster home ("Projects," 2010).

Thus it is clear that Water Without Borders is a very special organization that has helped and will continue to help humans all throughout the world. This organization, and its founder, Mr. Franklin Evert, should be a reminder that although there are many problems with water in the world, major changes can be made through perseverance and optimism. To learn more about this organization, please visit www.waterwithoutborders.net.

References

About water without borders. (2010). Water Without Borders Corp.

Retrieved from <http://waterwithoutborders.net/about.html>

Climate controlled disaster relief trailer. (2010). Water Without Borders Corp.

Retrieved from http://waterwithoutborders.net/disaster_relief_trailer.html

Projects. (2010). Water Without Borders Corp.

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Supplemental Resources

Blog from Villanova University about Collaboration with Water Without Borders:
<http://blog.villanova.edu:8080/roller/VUCEEHonduras/>

Facebook page for Water Without Borders:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=42388196045>

Socially Superlative Article about the organization:

<http://sociallysuperlative.com/2010/09/03/art-for-life-water-without-borders-haiti-benefit/>

Water Without Borders Blog:

<http://www.waterwithoutborders.net/news/>

Water Without Borders LinkedIn profile:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Water-Without-Borders-3731399>