

Rotarians Thirsting to Serve: Our purpose is to help people improve their access to clean water. Our role is to provide the leadership and coordination to execute a sustainable business model for Rotary Clean Water projects.

Thirsting to Serve is a 501(c)3 foundation established by Rotary District 6290 to organize and manage District water projects, dedicated to World Community Service

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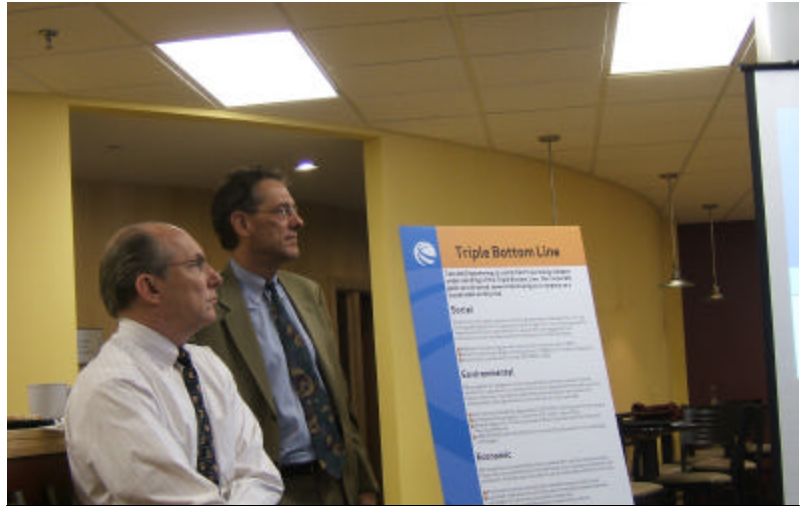
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Precious Singh, like other employees of Cascade Engineering in Michigan, is proud of her product and the role she plays in helping to address the world's need for clean water.

Cascade Engineering: Injecting Life

The plastic biosand water filters, that so many of us have funded and helped place, are born in Michigan through the efforts of a very unusual and socially conscious company, Cascade Engineering. The company works arduously to achieve not one, but three bottom lines. A visit to their facilities suggests that the usual bottom line (profit) is a subsidiary of two other major objectives, pursuit of positive social and environmental values.



Jim Gingrich, general manager, commercial accounts, and Steve Pearson, Executive Vice President, discuss Cascade Engineering's focus on the triple bottom line, which includes social and environmental benefits in addition to financial outcomes.

The company has spent well over \$250,000 to develop an injection mold for the newest biosand water filter, the HydrAid filter. With an average production time of 71 seconds, the company is producing approximately 50 filters an hour. Every day, working with their partnerships with International Aid, Rotary and other NGOs world wide, they are making clean water possible for 400 families and approximately 1,600 people each day.

Once you see Cascade Engineering in action, this doesn't seem like such a surprise. The buildings are environmentally friendly and the employees recycle 93% of their trash. The company's value of environmental stewardship is also evident in their development and evaluation of wind energy systems and in their subsidiary, Choose Renewables. If you want to analyze or reduce your power consumption, purchase renewable energy credits, or otherwise reduce your ecological footprint, you can go to their website:



www.chooserenewables.com.

Cascade Engineering invests in people and pursues a "welfare to work" program that recognizes the potential of people, regardless of their current economic or historical criminal justice history. In the same spirit of supporting people, the company has contracted with Goodwill Industries to produce the piping that is part of each HydrAid unit. This investment in people has paid off. Like Rotarians, the employees take pride in their efforts and are grateful for the opportunity to take part in the world wide effort to reduce illness and death due to water bourn diseases. Each filter is finished by hand, with a smile and awareness that the filter will soon be used to improve the lives of others.

2008 Clean Water Conference: Better Than Ever



Afternoon panelists included: Tony Medina (Honduras), Kurt Paterson (Engineers Without Borders), Anthony Kolb (USAID), Mark Sobsey (Univ. of North Carolina), Ron Denham (WASRAG), Scott Noesen (Dow Chemical Co.), Kim Lorenz (World Vision), and Bob Goodwin (International Aid)

The fourth annual Thirsting to Serve Water Conference of District 6290, in partnership with International Aid and Rotary Districts 4060, 6360, 6380, 6400 and 5970 was better than ever. The Conference, held on Monday, February 25th, 2008, at the Aquinas College Center for Sustainability in Grand Rapids, MI presented a vivid picture of progress, coordination, determination, and awareness of the great challenges that lie ahead in bringing clean water to much of the world. The great support of Rotary for water projects was demonstrated by the presentation of a check for \$5,000 to Thirsting to Serve, by the Rotary Club of Sault Sainte Marie. The presentation was appropriately made by PDG Dave Seabrook, who, as district governor in 2004/2005, initiated the Seabrook Challenge and the humanitarian effort that has become Thirsting to Serve.



PDG Dave Seabrook

What made this conference the best yet? It was clear that progress had been made during the past year. There are more people working cooperatively to make changes, and to address the needs of the poor who have no voice, no power and no money. The conference went way beyond Rotary and single projects. The presenters spoke of coalitions, government support, and long term planning.

The evaluation of the conference by attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Some would have liked more time for networking, which was a highlight of the conference given the caliber of the presenters and the attendees. But the quality of all of the presentations, the variety of perspectives, the ability to dialogue with the presenters, and the international focus were all cited as being excellent.

DOW Chemical Becomes a Partner

A significant event of the conference was the announcement of an alliance between Dow Chemical and International Aid. Dow Chemical, headquartered in Midland, Michigan, has offered to provide all of the plastic resin required to manufacture 300,000 HydrAid BioSand Water Filters. David Kepler, Senior Vice President, Chief Sustainability Officer for the Dow Chemical Company has said, "As a world leader in chemistry, we are uniquely positioned to use our products and technologies to develop innovative solutions to supply cleaner and safer water to those in need. Through

partnerships with organizations like International Aid, we can increase the global sense of urgency to help solve these world challenges.”

With annual sales of \$54 billion and 46,000 employees, Dow is a diversified chemical company that is well positioned to achieve such goals. The Company combines the power of science and technology with the “Human Element” to constantly improve what is essential to human progress. More information about Dow can be found at www.dow.com.

Sue’s Side of the Story:

Much of the success of the conference is due to the efforts of Sue Bodenner, Rockford Rotarian. Thank you, Sue, for bringing us together, letting us learn from each other, and for the motivation we got from the Conference to work even harder next year.



Sue Bodenner,
Conference Organizer

What a site visit can do for a project

Sue Bodenner is still a little taken back by the growth and popularity of the conference and of water projects in general. In the following commentary she relates how the site visits to the Dominican Republic have mobilized the Rotarians in District 6290 and beyond, and resulted in Dow Chemical’s generous gift of resin for 300,000 biosand water filters.

There have been 12 trips to the Dominican Republic so far, with other trips to other countries also occurring. Each of these has had rippling effects, motivating people, establishing alliances and relationships, and expanding efforts to bring clean water world wide. This is just one story.

“Let me tell you a little story. In the spring of 2004 Jim and I took over 30 Rotarians and spouses to the DR to see the biosand water filter project and meet the Dominican Rotarians. It was our first 'large' group and seemed momentum was building. We were asked about going another time of year, so we announced a trip in October 2004. We had 3 takers...Renee Terbeek (Grandville RC), Amanda Brink (Elk Rapids RC) and Don Moss (Grand Haven RC and at that time DGN). Was it too soon after the other trip? Was it too few? We briefly thought of postponing but we really don't like to break a promise and all three expressed a strong interest in going. The trip answered questions about the efficacy of the filter, the desire of the Dominicans to get more was strong and the dedication of the Dominican Rotarians was steadfast. When we returned Amanda Brink wanted her husband and another Elk Rapids Rotarian to meet us. Conversation was lively over dinner with Peg Comfort, the Donbergs and Brinks in early November. In February 2005, Paul and Amanda Brink and Bill Donberg attended the first water conference. Peg Comfort had been on the Spring 2004 trip and offered to help with that water conference. It turns out that Bill and Paul knew each other because of many years at DOW Chemical. The second water conference Bill Donberg invited two executives from DOW to attend the 2006 conference. One of them was Scott Noesen. Cascade Engineering then became the manufacturer of the HydrAid Filter(TM). Cascade

Engineering is one of DOWs major customers. The stars were aligning and Feb. 25, 2008 at the 2008 Thirsting to Serve Water Conference, DOW speaker, Scott Noesen, announced DOWs intention to donate the resin for 300,000 HydrAid Filters.

This is only one story. Renee went on to get her club involved and has returned to the DR two more times. Her electrician husband, Dave, has helped wire a container hospital in southern Sudan. She got Bill Ritsema interested in going with us two years later. He returned and organized a 15K race that raised over \$100,000 for water. And Don Moss returned to his Grand Haven club and the members of HHOP with a strong desire to get International Aid to use the filters in 28 communities (2800 families) in the mountains of Honduras. Today ALL of those 2800 families have filters. The Hondurans will not leave their home without having their flask on their belt carrying filtered water from their home.

Margaret Mead had it right...

'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has'."

Funding Your Project with Thirsting to Serve Funds

You have been contributing to The Rotary Foundation and Thirsting to Serve and now your club is ready to jump in and do a project. Fortunately, what goes in comes out, and both TRF and T2S are ready to help fund your project.

If your project will use only your District 6290 club money and the one – to- one match available through T2S, then you will want to complete the grant application form for T2S that is posted on the District 6290 website. This application is brief, easy to fill out, and will allow you to seek a match of \$1,000 minimum and a maximum of 10% of T2S's fund balance.

If you are also going to ask for District funding (a simplified grant) or a matching grant from Rotary, then you should use the Rotary Foundation Matching Grant form that is available on Rotary's web site as well as on the District's web site. Again, you can include funds from T2S, which are eligible for a match of \$.50 on the dollar by Rotary.

If you plan on using funds from T2S for your grant, regardless of the type of grant, you should submit your proposal to the secretary, Ginny Ryan, VRSpringLake@yahoo.com, so that your proposal may be put on the agenda of T2S's committee for consideration. Proposals must be submitted at least one week prior to the committee's monthly meeting, which is typically held on the second Monday of the month.

It is the hope of Rotary that every club completes a water project. If your club is unsure of where to begin or what you want to do, there are opportunities to partner with other clubs in a variety of projects. Even if every club in the District did a project we wouldn't make a dent in the problem, so there is no time to waste. Let Thirsting to Serve help you find the project that is best for you and let us help you participate in a grant.



Tap versus Bottled Water: What should you Drink

The following article was posted on Yahoo on January 7, 2008

Glug, glug, glug--that's the sound a ginormous number of us make as we sip bottled water in our cars, at the gym, behind our desks. The sound you DON'T hear is the *thwack* of 60 million bottles a day being tossed into U.S. landfills, where they can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade.

If that's not enough to turn your conscience a brighter shade of green, add this: Producing those bottles burns through 1.5 million barrels of crude oil annually--enough fuel to keep 100,000 cars running for a year. Recycling helps but reusing is even better. Invest in a couple of portable, dishwasher-safe, stainless steel bottles like [Klean Kanteens](#) that won't leach nasty chemicals into your water. (Don't get into the habit of refilling the water bottle you just emptied; the polyethylene terephthalate it's made of breaks down with multiple usings.)

4 REASONS TO TURN ON THE TAP

1. Tap water is tested daily

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, water suppliers are *required* to provide an annual report on the quality of your local water and to test tap water daily. By comparison, the FDA examines bottled water only weekly, and consumers can't get the agency's results. You can easily get the lowdown on your state's drinking water quality at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/index.html>

2. Tap water is a bargain

Bottled water costs about 500 times more than tap. If you're into really fancy labels, up to 1,000 times more.

3. Tap water is a tooth saver

It has more fluoride than bottled water, which helps prevent tooth decay. (Yes, you never outgrow your need for fluoride.)

4. Tap water is often tasty

Some places (New York City for one) have delicious water, but if you don't love the flavor of yours, the solution is simple: Run your tap water through a Brita or Pur filter to remove most tastes and odors. The average home filter goes for \$8.99 and produces the equivalent of 300 large (16.9 ounce) bottles of water. That's about \$0.03 cents a bottle, versus the \$1.25 or so you'd pay in a market.

One last thing: Don't just think about making this switch; actually do it. Today. It does the world *and* you. Plus, allowing nagging, unfinished tasks (known as NUTs) to go undone can make your [RealAge](#) 8 years older!



ROTARY District 6290

Thirsting to serve

Rotarians in District 6290 and beyond are encouraged to participate in Thirsting to Serve, the Clean Water Project. Each club member is encouraged to support the Project with a \$50 donation. This donation is sufficient to fund the construction of a water filter capable of providing up to eight families with clean drinking water or, combined with other contributions, will build community wells, distribution systems, reservoirs, etc. in underdeveloped countries. Checks should be made out to "Thirsting to Serve," and mailed to:

Thirsting to Serve:
P.O. Box 514
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

Please include your:

Name: _____ **Amount enclosed** _____

Address: _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone _____ **E-MAIL** _____

Rotary Club Affiliation – Name: _____ **Club number** _____

You will receive a receipt for your donation. If you would like additional information about the project or a gift certificate please note this below.

Additional information about the project ? Yes ? No
Gift certificate ? Yes ? No

If you want a gift certificate, please provide the name of the recipient you wish to be on the certificate:

For more information about Thirsting to Serve go to: www.Thirstingtoserve.org

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