



Living Waters International, Inc.

- Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Spring Newsletter

May 2019

Living Waters' mission is the support of Roman Catholic missionary and international development projects in East Africa.

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On Any Given Sunday

Convent Dedicated in Memory of Long-time Music Minister

The sport's expression, "on any given Sunday" describes the excitement of knowing anything is possible when two professional football teams play... For Catholics, "on any given Sunday" could describe how a single Mass might inspire us to make anything possible. Living Waters International, founded in 1996, came into existence because of the influence of the Holy Spirit during a Mass.

Brian and Karen Prunty heard the call during Mission Sunday Mass at their parish, St. Mary's in Antigo. On that same weekend at a neighboring parish, St. Wenceslaus in Neva, Stephen and Mary Zimmerman received their call. Both families began to support the visiting African missionaries who spoke at their respective parishes in their own way; the Prunty's by sending money, and the Zimmerman's by traveling to Tanzania to assist with an agricultural project. It took a while, but eventually the Prunty's and Zimmerman's learned they were supporting the same African missionary congregation. The result of their shared experience was the formation of Living Waters International (LWI), a non-profit public charitable organization. Sadly, Mary Zimmerman never got the opportunity to see what became of the seed she helped plant; she died at the age of 36 from a terminal illness within months of LWI's start.

LWI has grown thanks to the generosity of US based charitable foundations and hundreds of benefactors. In recent years LWI has been able to annually send overseas between \$700 thousand and \$1 million to support religious congregations in almost a dozen countries.



Brian and Karen Prunty meet with sponsored child in Kenya.

Today LWI works in three primary areas; grant-writing, student sponsorships, and project fundraising.

LWI acts as a fiscal agent for non-US based religious congregations. In its role as a fiscal agent, LWI requests grants from US Foundations on behalf of missionaries working in Africa. This effort is led by Stephen Zimmerman, who works on nearly 100 grant applications each year.



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It is well worth the effort because in a typical year 50-60% of the grant applications submitted get funded. Steve is assisted by Monsignor Paul Koszarek, a retired Green Bay Diocesan priest living in the Crandon area. "Our work is important because some US foundations will not consider applications submitted from missionaries outside the US. Without Living Waters International, many missionary initiatives simply would not get funded," said Zimmerman.

The student sponsorship program continues to grow. "Presently we have 220 students located in four different East African countries being supported by families here in the states. Many of the students are orphans, and those with families are among the poorest of the poor," said Karen Prunty. She went on to say, "We are so very grateful for our current benefactors, and we are praying for new sponsors because the list of waiting poor African children is long."

Often missionaries need help with building projects or other needed aid. Brian Prunty and Eileen Hartl, who is a long-time LWI board member, do what they can to find the requested funds. LWI's efforts have borne fruit, "We have been able to find generous people to help build and equip schools, feed the poor, and heal the sick," said Brian Prunty. One of the most gratifying efforts was sending money to save a small child, named Goretti who was born with her bladder outside of her stomach cavity. Following Goretti's birth the family was told to make her as comfortable as possible, but to expect the worst. Unwilling to accept this fate, the family reached out to the Church who asked for help from LWI. "Funds raised at food sales in Wrightstown and Antigo, together with donations from others, got her the surgeries she needed," said Eileen Hartl. More financial aid for Goretti will be needed for future surgeries as she grows.



Karen Prunty with Goretti's family.

Over the years board directors and supporters of LWI have traveled to Africa to see for themselves the impact being made. In February the Prunty's, along with long-time supporter George Shinnners, also of Antigo,

trekked to Kenya and Tanzania for such a visit. "This trip's objectives were to meet as many of the sponsored students as possible, as well as visit missionary project sites where we played a role in the last two years," said Karen Prunty. The 14 day trip was productive with 26 site visits, including 18 schools where 81 children are sponsored.

The highlight of the trip came in the final days, when the group traveled to Dumila, Tanzania to participate in the blessing of a newly constructed convent, which was placed in close proximity to a pre-primary school that opened last year. Both the school and convent were made possible through the generosity of George and Jane Shinnners.



George Shinnners cuts the ribbon opening the new Convent in Dumila, Tanzania.

"Without Living Waters International, many missionary initiatives simply would not get funded"

"Jane and I believe a good education provides poor children not only hope, but an actual opportunity for a better life not only for themselves, but also for those close to them," said George Shinnners. The sisters living in the convent administer and teach at the school.

The Shinnners made their gift for the convent in memory of Colleen Krivoshein, who was the music director at SS. Mary & Hyacinth in Antigo for over 30 years. Colleen died in early 2018 at the age of 58. "Colleen was a wonderful person who inspired many through her music ministry. She gave so much of her time and talent to area churches. We wanted Colleen's family to know the impact she made. She will not be forgotten," said Jane Shinnners.



Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Living Waters International. When you shop at AmazonSmile, (smile.amazon.com) the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to Living Waters International, Inc.

Visit us at our website at www.livingwatersinternational.org!



SPOTLIGHT

By Eileen Hartl

Dear Friends, this issue's spotlight is on our "Friends of Living Waters" from Wrightstown, WI, particularly Bonnie and Dick Vanden Wymelenberg & Rose and Don Aerts. Since the summer of 2003, these friends of Living Waters have been annually organizing a brat fry and fresh baked pie sale to benefit Living Waters. Beginning in 2008, Catholic Financial Life also joined in contributing matching funds of \$500. This year's event will be Saturday, June 8, 10:00 – 6:00 PM.

What makes this event so special is the people of course, and the good fruits their efforts bear. But even more special, Bonnie and Dick are parents to Living Waters' secretary, Karen Prunty. Bonnie explains, "We do our brat and pie sale each year because we see the good our daughter Karen and her husband Brian are involved with in helping the poor in Africa. It is our Christian duty and a gift to the poor." Another special aspect is its location: Dick's Family Foods, owned and operated by the Vanden Wymelenberg family since 1908, when Dick's grandparents first opened its doors.

The pie preparation for this summer fundraiser begins the preceding summer and fall when berry, apple and rhubarb seasons are in full swing. The pie fillings are prepared and stored in the store's freezer. Once March rolls around, Bonnie and daughters Karen and Mary Ann Ozarowicz assemble several dozens of pies and send them to the store's freezer where they remain fresh, frozen, and ready for baking. The pies are then baked the morning of the sale by the head baker of the store. Bonnie tells us, "If it weren't for the store, we just couldn't do it." Rose contributes to the tally with her "famous" lemon meringue pie. Bonnie and Rose could well be dubbed as a dynamic duo. "We go back a very long way. I don't recall the year, but I first met Rose when we hired her to work behind the deli." Over the years they worked the store, joined exercise classes, volunteered for civic causes and various ministries of their home parish, St. Clare. "One of us would be inspired to volunteer for a cause and would ask the other to join us. We've also recruited many loyal helpers and family members right on down to the grandchildren."



I couldn't help but reflect on Bonnie's admission of their being inspired by Karen. Surely, they as parents must've been Karen's first examples of compassion for the poor, to love, that is, to will the good of another. The "another" in this cause has a name, Goretti (the little girl in Africa who you have helped us to assist). In this Season of Easter please rejoice with us, as we rejoice in all of you fulfilling your Christian duty to love one another and to resurrect hope and consolation in others as we ourselves have received hope and consolation in Him.

Since the completion of this article, we've learned that Rose passed away Tuesday, May 7, in her home. Please accept our condolences Don and family & Bonnie and Dick. "Eternal rest grant unto her O' Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon her."



MUSIC IN THE PARK

Pie & Ice Cream Social
Sponsored by Living Waters International
(Pie donations & workers needed – **Call 715 610-9567**)

Where: Antigo City Park, 200 Aurora St., Antigo

When: Thursday, June 6, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

PIE & BRAT FRY

Sponsored by Wrightstown Area Friends of Living Waters

Where: Dick's Family Foods, 400 High Street, Wrightstown, WI

When: Saturday, June 8, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

BRAT FRY AT GILBERT'S SENTRY FOOD STORE

Sponsored by Living Waters International
(Workers needed for two- hour shifts, **Call 715 610-9567**)

Where: 115 South Superior Street, Antigo, WI

When: Friday, July 19, 10:00 – 5:00

Students In Need

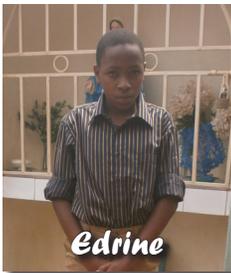


Student Sponsorship



My Name: Fortunata Kalogota
Birthdate: July 23, 2013
Chores: Too young
Favorite Pastime: Playing games with her peers
Other Remarks: Fortunata comes from a family of ten children; her father works only on a seasonal basis. Their approximate family monthly income is \$90/month.

Gender: Female
Country: Tanzania
Favorite Subject: ABC's



My Name: Edrine Ninsiima
Birthdate: December 19, 2008
Chores: Fetching water, dishes & cooking
Favorite Subject: English
Favorite Pastime: Football
Other Remarks: Edrine's father was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident and his mother has a small market grocery business. There are four other siblings in which the mother is struggling to support on an income of \$80/month.

Gender: Male
Country: Uganda



My Name: Elizabeth Jakson Matonya
Birthdate: May 8, 2014
Chores: Assists her mother with little things around the house
Favorite Subject: Science & Math
Favorite Pastimes: Singing & Dancing
Other Remarks: Elizabeth lives with her mother who has no source of income. Her father left the family and married another woman. They live in a house made of mud and a grass roof with no running water or electricity. They have an outdoor latrine pit and cook on an open fire.

Gender: Female
Country: Tanzania



My Name: Erildinho Vander Byl
Birthdate: August 14, 2014
Chores: Assists his grandmother with little things around the house.
Favorite Subject: Story time
Favorite Pastimes: Singing rhymes and playing with friends
Other Remarks: Erildinho's father is in prison and the whereabouts of his mother is unknown. He lives with his grandmother who is aged and ill and can't afford to pay his school fees. He needs your support.

Gender: Male
Country: South Africa

To learn more about these children and other children waiting to be sponsored, visit our website at: www.livingwatersinternational.org

\$25 a month provides help for:

- Tuition
- Books
- School Supplies
- School Uniforms
- Shelter
- Food
- Health Care

Payments can be made:

- Monthly..... \$25
- Quarterly \$75
- Semi-annually. \$150
- Annually \$300

100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to your child's sponsorship.



THE POWER OF PRAYER

By Steve Zimmerman

In our Advent 2018 newsletter, I shared with you the proposed Kindergarten in Ponta do Ouro, Mozambique. Trusting in your prayers and support, Sister Saroj Kindo, the MSMHC Mission Superior and I worked diligently to meet the February 15th deadline of a charitable foundation that we felt might be interested in supporting this project. Once submitted, we prayed fervently for its fruition. The Good News came on the last day of April: the kindergarten received a grant of \$40,000! This is a great start, but we still need more. \$30,000 is still needed to complete this project. Please keep praying and offer your financial support if possible.

