

# Thank Offering Update

## *Living Waters for the World*



BY JANET TUCK

Presbyterian Women has awarded three major grants to LWW in past years, supporting their efforts to secure clean, sustainable water for communities in need. Two of those were Thank Offering grants, one for \$9,000, the other for \$30,000. The third was a Birthday Offering grant of up to \$225,000, awarded in 2007 to benefit LWW's Clean Water U program. Clean Water U equips volunteers to partner with and train local people to maintain and run a water treatment system, while also educating others in the community about the system.

But PW's relationship with LWW goes way beyond the financial generosity of the PW organization itself. It is personal—members of PW from many parts of the country dedicate their time and passion to the project. "There are many women active in PW who are doing hands-on work with LWW," says Steve Young, administrator for the Living Waters organization.

### Water and Education

One such PW is Jenny Thagard of First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. After hearing Wil Howie, LWW founder and director, speak at her church's mission conference in 2005, she instinctively knew that she would be involved with this project. Since first meeting Wil, she has trained at Clean Water U, become an instructor at Clean Water U, and helped plan and implement the installation of two systems in Manakavaly, Madagascar. Her church has sponsored two representatives from Manakavaly to receive additional training at Clean Water U so they can better maintain the systems in their community.

Ruthie McRae, of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas, is another



**Top photo: Barbara Snyder, Versailles, Kentucky, with a friend she met at a Living Waters installation at Santa Isabel in Campeche, Mexico. Second row, left: Ruthie McRae, Ft. Smith Arkansas; Right, Advent women from Advent Presbyterian Church in Cordova, Tennessee, Bottom image, Jenny Thagard, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.**



PW active in Living Waters for the World. In February 2008, she took her third LWW trip to Haiti.

Ruthie is a registered nurse, so she teaches the hygiene of clean water to Haitian communities. “One would think that clean water is a God-given right of all people. Not so in developing countries. Once you go and witness what people have to drink, it makes everything else you do seem out of order,” she says. For Ruthie and her husband Chris, also heavily involved in LWW, bringing clean water to the people of Haiti is a mission. Alongside their Haitian and church home partners, LWW is their way of accomplishing this mission.

For PW Barbara Snyder, the Clean Water U experience was excellent preparation for her work in the Mexican state of Campeche. A member of Troy Presbyterian Church in Versailles, Kentucky, Barbara has participated in a Living Waters installation at Santa Isabel in Campeche. Currently she is helping to plan Troy’s next installation at San Antonio Cardenas, also in Campeche. Most gratifying, Barbara says, “is how the partners in the Yucatan Peninsula have taken ownership of their projects. These partners now use their clean water for mission in their own communities on a daily basis and in neighboring communities when natural disaster strikes.” Ultimately, LWW is about empowering communities.



Standard LWW Filtration System

### Prayer and Joy

Advent Presbyterian Church in Cordova, Tennessee, has a dedicated history with LWW. Since 2003 this church has sent many for training at Clean Water U, and has completed installations in Honduras, Mexico, Ghana and the Philippines. Jackie Penel recently returned from an installation trip to the Philippines. A teacher by training, Jackie attended Clean Water U and learned how to teach hygiene and clean water use with the installation partners. In the Philippines, she found that unexpected difficulties can arise, particularly in developing countries. “We encountered some challenges, so everything about the way we were teaching had to change. But we found that our Clean Water U training was so extensive, so excellent that we could easily adapt to the challenges on site,” she enthusiastically reports.

PW Jari Dykstra, also from Advent Presbyterian Church, found on her

trip to Ghana that her team was blanketed with prayer. These prayers were from the Advent church and from new Ghanaian friends. “There was a singing congregation, women singing while they worked, drums and rejoicing in the night,” says Jari of her experience in Africa. This sense of joy added to the deep sense of accomplishment her team found as they worked with their Ghanaian partners.

This long working relationship between Presbyterian Women and Living Waters for the World runs deep and wide. Gifts by PW to LWW have ranged from monetary gifts to relationships forged with partners at an installation site. In part because of the efforts of both the PW organization and individual PWs, LWW is thriving, with over 190 installations worldwide to date. However, as is the way with God’s overflowing grace, the vitality runs both ways. The PW organization has the deep satisfaction of knowing that, partly because of Thank and Birthday Offering gifts, many communities have clean water where there was none. And individual PWs can pause, think of the work they have done to bring clean water to a community somewhere around the globe, and have a quiet, enduring joy.

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### Here’s What You Can Do!

- ✓ **Build a Clean Water Mission Team.** LWW trains and equips mission teams to bring the gift of clean water to communities in need. Training sessions at Clean Water U occur several times throughout the year. No prior experience is necessary to be part of a team—just a desire to serve!
  - ✓ **Donate to Living Waters for the World.** Your financial support directly translates into more clean water, which means more lives improved and saved.
  - ✓ **Become a Clean Water Ambassador.** Provide information on the world’s water crisis, and spread the good news about Living Waters for the World, to your church or organization. Ambassadors receive promotional materials and a LWW T-shirt to help in their work.
  - ✓ **Pray.** Please pray especially for the children and elderly whose lives depend on getting access to clean water.
- To learn more about any of these opportunities, visit [www.livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org) or call 615/261-4008.