

THE PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER



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SAD FAREWELL TO A GREAT WOMAN

In July, Norma McCoy, our past-president, founding member and inspiration, died peacefully after a brief illness, 2 days before her 81st birthday. Norma spent her life, committed to social justice.

OK Clean Water Project which Norma founded seven years ago grew beyond her expectations. Norma has left a big void in our OK family. Many agree that Norma had a special gift of bringing people together to accomplish things they could not imagine. Her charismatic personality attracted and sustained each one of us. She always empowered us to do our best. We miss her greatly. We recognize that she left us a great legacy in the OK Clean Water Project. We hope you will join us in our continued commitment towards this project, in her memory. Carmel Horan, Norma's longtime friend, succeeds her as President.



Carmel

Cathy

Norma

NEWS FROM CAMEROON

Cathy Molloy, our project coordinator in Kumbo, and Edwin Visi, the project engineer continue to receive requests from villagers for a clean water system in their village. Water management training is an important component of the village projects. Not only do the village committee members agree to provide some of their own monies, tools, and labour, but they must also commit to some training sessions on water management. Villages are in remote areas and often difficult to reach for Cathy and/or Edwin, on a regular basis. Management training involves learning how to fix broken pipes and standpipes, how and when to clean the storage tanks and catchment basins, how to keep the standpipe areas clean and free of animals, just to name a few. Cathy and Edwin have reported that some repairs have occurred thanks to the diligence of the trained villagers.

We look forward to Cathy's and Edwin's visit to Ottawa in November.

NEWS FROM OTTAWA

School Partners

This spring members of our committee visited 27 schools to present information on actual projects. Despite the international appeals in the last year to support devastated countries, many students with their families and teachers reached deep into their pockets to raise a generous amount: \$29, 602.00!! We were touched by their unfailing generosity and faithful support. While the funds raised improve the life of the Cameroonian villagers, it also alerts students, in Canada and other countries who support our projects, to the importance of this most precious resource. Our power point presentations give them a realistic view of the challenges of life in Cameroon. Special thanks to the school staff-members who coordinate creative and fun activities to raise funds in their school, as much as to even 'kiss a pig'!

Local Business BBQ's

We raised \$6870 this summer by hosting five BBQ's at local businesses in the Ottawa area. The weather was great, the burgers and hotdogs delicious, especially to the dozens of people who followed the trail of the BBQ aroma to our tent! We are thankful to 15 corporate sponsors for our fundraising success this year. We invite you to visit our website for a list of our sponsors. We thank you for your patronage at these local businesses.

Initiatives

As the project grows, more members are developing creative ways to help. There were jewellery sales in church basements and retirement homes; a residential garage sale; bake sales at the University of Ottawa (*nothing like a sugar hit to power an academic through a stressful day!*)

Special thanks go to Pat McGuire, the Garby's, Yuan Chung, Juliane Ngo, and other university student volunteers.

Grants

The Retired Teachers of Ontario awarded us \$4000.00 for our outstanding work and for the high number of retired teachers involved in the project. We were also very fortunate to also receive a grant of \$5000 from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

These "micro-funding" initiatives require extra effort and have made a significant difference this season to our bottom line. Special thanks to Carmel Horan and Christine Mengwei.

"A Night at the Races"

Our spring fundraising venue was changed this year from a Cabaret evening at the NAC 4th Stage to the Rideau Carleton Racetrack where we indulged in a never-ending buffet and enjoyed the excitement of the raceway. This was a welcome, high energy change of pace which also brought new supporters, raising \$2000. Next year we are considering a "Betting 101" workshop for neophytes. That sounds like entertainment, fundraising and education as well!!! Stay tuned.

Annual Brunch

We are holding our annual brunch on Sunday, November 21st at the St-Elias Banquet Center, 750 Ridgewood (at Riverside Dr). We are pleased to welcome Edwin Visi, the on-site project engineer as guest speaker. He and Cathy Malloy, our project manager, will enlighten us about the nuts and bolts of project fulfillment in an information-packed presentation. Our silent auction items will be available for viewing on the website at the beginning of November. We invite you to join us for this...our *signature* event. We look forward to seeing long-time supporters. Please call Kathy 613-422-7674 for tickets: \$35/adults \$20/child/student

Volunteer Appreciation

On May 13th, we hosted an appreciation get together at the Centurion Conference Center in recognition of the volunteers and friends of the project who really make it all happen. It was nice to meet with and get to know the people who share our interest in this project in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Many of them have been long-time supporters for the entire seven years since the birth of the project.

WORLD WATER SUMMIT

Two of our members attended this summit in Montreal on June 19th sponsored by Rotary International. Many NGO's from around the world were represented. We were pleased to learn that OK Clean Water Project is heading in the right direction in addressing the need for clean water by working in simple ways with the poorest of the poor. Unlike many NGO's who need to build community trust, we are fortunate to have associates (Cathy and Edwin) living and working in the Kumbo region and knowing the culture there. The World Health Organization, UNICEF, and Rotary International encourage NGO's to deliver sustainable balanced outcomes of better health and less poverty. There needs to be more emphasis on the human dimension of our programs, empowering the community, training in self-sufficiency and behaviour change. Thanks to our visionaries, the late Norma McCoy, Cathy Molloy and Edwin Visi, the OK Clean Water Project is already meeting this criteria.

Thank You
for
bringing
CLEAN
WATER
to
our village!

