

THE PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER



OK CLEAN WATER PROJECT STATEMENT SEPTEMBER, 2019

Registered Charity # 81907 0145 RR0001

To Our Supporters,

On behalf of the OK Clean Water Project committee, I would like to inform you that 2019 is the last year for our fundraising. The OK Clean Water Project committee and its partners in Cameroon are most grateful for your loyal support since the Project's inception in 2003. That year, the OK Clean Water Project was established by the late Norma McCoy in response to a letter written by a Cameroonian mother as she explained the difficulties accessing clean water from such long distances for her family. The initial fundraising was able to assist fourteen families to access clean water and therefore a better quality of life. Norma also planted the seed for the project's growth.

Over the last 16 years, thanks to your generosity, the Project has grown each year benefitting more and more Cameroonians. We are proud to say that as of 2019 there are now sixty villages with a population of approximately 210,000 receiving clean water from systems funded by OK Clean Water. Such an impact would have not been realized without the leadership of Sr. Cathy Molloy in Cameroon, the technical

expertise of Visi Edwin, and the significant manual labour of the Cameroonian villagers. Their work includes digging trenches for the pipes, spreading gravel on the trenches, laying the pipes, building catchments to collect the water from the springs and channel the water through the pipes into the village where stand taps are built. The impact of this project has made it possible for people to live healthier lives and become more independent.

Several years ago, Sr. Cathy and Visi wisely recognized the need to focus on the sustainability of the many water systems. They worked with those villages that already had water management committees to emphasize that it was a village project and that they were responsible for the operation and maintenance of it. The training sessions and peer sharing were key components of the ongoing education for sustainability. This recognition led to the establishment of an umbrella organization of village water committee with a strong focus on



Carmel Horan, Sr. Cathy Molloy, Sr. Norma McCoy



2019 Ottawa volunteers of OK Clean Water Project

training sessions on sustainability practices and peer experience sharing. The umbrella association of the village committees has its own board of directors. Visi Edwin is the Country Director and is assisted by Yenilka Collins, the Community Liaison Officer.

After some lengthy consultation, the Ottawa committee volunteer members have decided that it is now time to hand over the reins to our Cameroonian partners and the umbrella association to continue to work on the sustainability of the completed village projects, proceed with a few selected new projects, and to raise funds on their own. Our partners understand that there is a two-year window (2019 and 2020) for us supporting the transition. All your generous contributions already received and new donations in 2019 are planned to be disbursed to our Cameroon partners this year and over 2020. Because of the civil unrest in Cameroon, the disbursement

timing will be coordinated with the association team and the Sisters of CND who have assumed Sr. Cathy's role. We anticipate the termination of the Project as a registered charity in Canada by the end of 2020.

Again, on behalf of the committee, I wish to thank all of you, our supporters and volunteers, for your loyal generosity. Till the end of 2019, we welcome any "farewell" donation you may wish to give. In 2020 and years later, if you wish to continue to support water projects in Africa, we encourage you to consider directing your donations to the Ryan's Well Foundation, www.ryanswell.ca

Many thanks to all! We couldn't have done it without you. Beri Wo!

Carmel Horan
President

