

# CCF sponsors H<sub>2</sub>O project

Campus groups drink only water to raise money for clean water sources in Africa

BY LAURA PRATHER  
Features Editor

Recent droughts around the world have left countless residents with little to no water.

The southeast and southwest coasts of the U.S. have struggled to find additional water sources, and in African countries like Kenya, residents have been plagued with severe droughts for several years and worry every day if they will have enough water suitable for drinking and bathing.

To raise awareness about water issues locally, nationally and internationally, Campus Christian Fellowship is sponsoring an H<sub>2</sub>O project Nov. 1 through Nov. 14.

Senior Emily Krogmann, a member of CCF's Social Mercy Ministry and a project organizer, said the goal for individuals is to sacrifice all beverages other than tap water for two weeks and then donate money that is not spent on beverages to the project.

"Just the idea of giving up all of your beverages and drinking only tap water — it's a sacrifice, and so we think people will think about it more," she said. "Also, just the fact that we have tap water and we can just get it whenever we want and people in Africa will not experience that."

Those who participate can keep track of how much money they should be donating with a scorecard, Krogmann said.

"Every beverage that you give up, you keep a tally," she said. "And then it has about how much you would have spent so you can tally all that up."

The idea of the H<sub>2</sub>O project led the ministry to another organization, Blood:Water Mission, which works to provide clean water sources to African residents, Krogmann said.

"[Blood:Water Mission] is an organization that was started by the band Jars of Clay, and they went over to Africa in 2003 — just on a mission trip, I think — and were really affected by what they saw," she said. "... They saw the HIV

pandemic was kind of connected to the water issue, ... so they started the whole 'clean blood, clean water' idea."

Krogmann said the organization has medical clinics in Africa to promote clean blood and established a project to foster natural, clean water sources called 1,000 wells. So far it has built about 52 wells in seven different countries in Africa. Kenya specifically has received 13 of the 52 wells because its drought conditions are so severe.

The ministry decided on the project with help from members who have been to Africa, including sophomore Alexandria Smith.

This summer, Smith traveled to Kenya on a nine-week internship with New Mission Systems. Smith, along with 13 others, engaged in relief work and taught at local schools in the Maasai tribe region.

"We stayed in the bush of what you would picture Africa as being in the National Geographic picture," she said. "It was an amazing trip."

Smith said the families who hosted the volunteers had to walk three miles to the nearest water supply. She said that on the way back from the springs, women carried up to 50-gallon jugs full of water, and sometimes additional jugs were attached to their backs with leather straps.

"It wasn't a rule, but we were told not to drink the water because we would get very sick because our bodies weren't immune to the diseases," she said.

In addition to the drought, residents had trouble keeping water sources clean and blocked off from animals that would often contaminate them, Smith said.

"Just to see the water they used — I wouldn't bathe in it," she said. "It was just so gray[ish] brown, creamy-looking. It didn't look like water. Just to see what they lived with and they were used to. And a lot of times their bodies ... are used to digesting this sort of water."

Smith said that while in Kenya, her group worked with a local architect to create a clean water source.

Donations from the H<sub>2</sub>O project also will create water sources. Krogmann said all the money raised will



Photo submitted  
Children from the Maasai tribe in Ilitalala, Kenya, play in their school yard. Members of the tribe have to walk about three miles to the nearest water source.

## Water Weight | The worldwide problem of clean water

- Annually, 1.6 million children under the age of 5 die from unsafe water combined with lack of sanitation.
- 84 percent of the population without access to an improved source of drinking water live in rural areas.
- Although 80 percent of the developing world population have access to some type of improved drinking water source, only 44 percent have access through a household connection from a piped system.
- On average, it takes a member of the household (commonly a woman or a child) almost a half hour to walk to a water source, fetch water and return.

Design by Dylan Herx/Index

Source: UNICEF/WHO



go toward building wells through Blood:Water Mission. One well costs about \$2,500, and she said CCF is hoping to raise \$5,000 which would provide enough funds for the construction of two wells.

To help reach this goal, CCF is hoping to get other campus organizations interested and involved in the project, Krogmann said. CCF is raising awareness by presenting students with information about the crisis in Africa, such as the fact that \$1 can provide an entire year's worth of clean water for one person in Africa.

"We really liked the idea of partnering with organizations all across campus," she said. "It's CCF-sponsored, but it's an event that I think everyone should be aware of. ... Just giving people a chance to know more about it and become more involved and serve in a different way that we normally get to."

Krogmann said the idea of giving

up money people normally would have spent will make it easier and more appealing for students to donate.

"The project tries to make it a little easier by saying that this is your allotted budget anyway, this is the money that you would have spent on any other beverage anyway," she said. "So instead of skimming off the top of your already limited budget, just dip into it and pull a little bit out."

Krogmann said that in addition to raising donations to build wells, CCF is hosting several speakers next week to speak on water-related issues.

"That's also another one of our focuses in this project is raising awareness of water issues on a local level ... and then on an international level where people don't have any clean water and need access," she said.

Jack Schuster, deputy public works director, said that although some parts of the nation and world are experiencing droughts and short-

ages of water, Kirksville's water supply is in great shape.

"It's really not an issue with us," he said. "Our lakes are healthy, and what I mean by that is they are not extensively polluted. They're in pretty darn good shape health-wise."

Schuster said preservation and conservation are very important for any water source.

"Once you have a water source, you got to protect it," he said.

Smith said she hopes this project will help people realize how sacred water is and how people should think twice about how they use the resource to avoid waste.

"We're just damaging our environment so much by wasting the water that we do in the United States," she said.

Members of CCF will collect donations on the Quad, in the Student Union Building and at the CCF house throughout the next week.

# GlobeMed group sets sights for service on Haiti

BY ALEX BOLES  
Index Staff

The University's GlobeMed organization is spreading the health.

GlobeMed began in the fall semester of 2006 but just got its footing this year with executive meetings and 60 active members. The organization focuses on informing the University and the Kirksville community about global health issues, concentrating on Haiti this year.

"I first heard about GlobeMed ... from a UMKC student who started a GlobeMed chapter at her school, and I realized that our school didn't have a lot of opportunities for students that are interested in global health to get involved with it," president senior Paul Rotert said. "I thought it would be great to bring an or-

ganization that allowed students to pursue that interest."

The GlobeMed organization sponsors a direct partnership with Maison de Naissance, a health clinic in Haiti started by a doctor in Kansas City to help benefit mothers in poor, desolate areas of Haiti.

"The infant mortality rate there was extremely high before the clinic got there, and they've worked to safely give prenatal care to the mothers and do follow up visits after the children have been born to make sure they're healthy," fundraising chair junior Kent Buxton said.

Rotert said Haitian people operate the clinic and that organizations in the United States have helped with funding. He said GlobeMed plans to take a trip to

Haiti to help in the clinic sometime next spring or summer. The group plans to spend about 10 days in Haiti working with the community and the clinic.

Rotert said the organization wants to plan a special project to complete while in Haiti but that it is still in the works.

"We really want to make sure we keep the focus on the people in Haiti and not have it just be a vol-

unteer experience for us," he said.

Vice president senior Gabe Koenig is the coordinator of the trip to Haiti and said he wants to make sure students' heads are in the right place. He said they are going to Haiti to make a positive impact on the community and that he wants to educate people on how they can best make a difference.

"As far as the people going on the trip, I'd like them to have exposure to a lot of the problems with global health nowadays like poverty, not enough medical equipment, clean water, sterile equipment," Koenig said. "They will take what they see and come back here and do something about it."

Rotert went to Haiti in January of 2005 and will lead the GlobeMed group on its trip. He said the group hopes to bring 12

members, but the selection process has not begun.

The group has sponsored many fundraising events for Maison de Naissance, including a "Disking for Dishes" tournament last Saturday.

"The money for that will go towards a satellite dish," Buxton said. "Our goal for the rest of the year will be to raise \$2,000 for a satellite dish system and the software required to run it and training the people at Maison de Naissance to use this equipment to relay information back to Kansas City."

Rotert said this satellite system would allow Maison de Naissance to send medical records to Kansas City, where doctors can keep track of the progressing health with statistics.

GlobeMed also focuses on spreading global health aware-

ness through education. Buxton said the education committee has been giving lessons on Haitian history and will host a presentation on health in Darfur as well.

Throughout this semester and next, the organization will travel to local schools and inform them about global health, Rotert said.

"Next semester the education committee is planning a global health awareness week," he said. "We're going to have a clinic on the Quad, like a mock third-world clinic set up on the quad, and we're also bringing in a speaker who is one of the founders of the clinic."

Rotert said he will attend medical school next year and that he hopes to come back to see a thriving GlobeMed chapter that is just as successful, if not more, than when he started it.

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