Clay Water Filters Improve Children’s Health

Orphans and Vulnerable Children, an organization in Uganda set out to improve household water quality and decrease diarrheal diseases among children in a population of 3 sub-counties lacking potable water and were successful. They did this with a project to make clay water filters and distribute them. The picture below shows a child getting water from a contaminated source.

100 Village Health Promoters were trained on how to service clay compacting machines to make the clay filters from cheap local products, costing about $1 each. They made 1,000. They held 4 radio talk shows, created posters, and made a video which is shown on our Facebook page.

The compilation of data has indicated that on average per Satellite health center, the cases of diarrheal and respiratory incidences have reduced by 85% among the pilot villages that were targeted by the Clay water filter project (600).

Community ownership of the project should ensure sustainability of the project and perhaps spread it to other communities.

Cronkite Students Enhance CHF

This letter was written by Susan Lisovicz, a member of our Board of Directors, to the other Directors when the students of the The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication in Arizona she was directing finished their assignment.

Hello CHF friends,

Many, if not all of you, have seen the spectacular work done by Cronkite School Public Relations students this semester on everything from CHF’s messaging, logo, social media and website. On Friday the two teams of students -- one handling the website/logo, the other tackling messaging -- did a formal presentation along with other student teams in front of faculty and clients.

I was proud to represent CHF. There were a number of other student teams presenting. But CHF was the only client that got two student teams.

The students, on large screens in the school theater, walked us through their work: interactive maps showing the wide reach of CHF, the new logo, colors that may be more evocative of the mission, more pictures of those being helped, an easier to navigate website, recommendations on better social media engagement and a nice section on board members and links to your work. I’m sorry you couldn’t be there to see yourselves. I’ve enclosed a picture of the students: Lori Fussak, Savannah Harrelson, Kaitlyn Klonowski, Krista Tillman, Kasey McNerney, Alisa Stone and Taylor Williams.

All the best,

Susan

Visit our Website at www.childhealthfoundation.org; also on Facebook
In Memoriam: R. Bradley Sack, MD, ScD
Child Health Foundation Director

Dr. Sack has been the Director of CHF since 2009, his expertise greatly benefiting the organization. A professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a faculty member for over 40 years at the Johns Hopkins University, he died in April at age 81 at his home in Lutherville, MD. His work combating infectious diseases, most notably diarrheal diseases including cholera, helped avert millions of deaths around the world, particularly among infants and young children.

Dr. Sack’s research into diarrheal diseases, which remain a leading cause of death among children under the age of 5, led to treatments that have helped significantly reduce the infant mortality rate. In the late 1960s, when based in Calcutta, he and colleagues discovered in their research that cholera patients responded favorably to oral rehydration treatment (ORT), a solution of sugar, salt, potassium and water that restored lost fluid and prevented dehydration and death. The treatment would eventually become standard, adopted by the World Health Organization, and has been credited with saving over 50 million lives in the past 30 years.

Hands and Hearts

Grampari in India continued the project funded by CHF in 2015 by selecting seven new schools to promote their hand washing with soap program. Eight old schools were selected to assess the impact after regular visits stopped. A program has been organized to promote value based living, calling it cleaning your heart. They say, “One of the main tools used in this program is to be silent as a group and look at things we need to change in our life to become part of the solution in the country rather than the part of the problem.”

The students were made aware of Why, When, How to wash their hands and given a demonstration to learn how to build and use a Tippy Tap (see photo; Tippy Tap on the right).

This year we are working in two blocks WAI and JAWLI with 899 students. We checked the schools covered by us in the year 2012-13. This was done to observe the sustainability. They found that even without reminders, use had continued and even improved in some cases.

Global Hand Wash Day was celebrated with eight schools from remote areas. Then 10 students from other parts of the world joined them in their program. Parents and teachers also participated.

They were happy to hear that in 2015 a group of scholars from 8 countries learned about the Tippy Tap, and one of them launched a program in January 2017 in Zimbabwe. We at CHF are happy too!

Workshop for teachers

Please: Use GoodSearch as your search engine and earn dollars for Child Health Foundation. We get one cent every time you use it and you can shop there too and get a percentage from the retailers. Go to www.goodsearch.com and register.

CHF 2015 Annual Report is ready. You can read it on our website: childhealthfoundation.org