



# The Vision

A newsletter of *A Vision for Clean Water*

Providing clean water and sanitation to those who need them through education and collaboration

Spring 2018

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Eileen and Erica at Peace Conference

## *A Vision for Clean Water Participates in Lebanese Conference*

*In February, A Vision for Clean Water Founder Eileen Heasley and Board Member Erica Gwynn were invited as panelist and keynote speaker respectively to the Rotary Presidential Conference on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Peace in Beirut. Here are Erica's comments on the conference.*

Water security is a central challenge for the development and stability of the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA). The region contains less than 1.5 percent of the world's renewable freshwater resources, yet increasing human consumption, inadequate governance, conflict and climate change continue to place unprecedented stresses on this precious resource. Yet, an enormous opportunity exists in the region to address these challenges through innovative governance and management strategies, information systems and technologies. To seize upon these opportunities, *civil society* plays a crucial role in raising awareness and promoting dialogue among individuals and government officials about the solutions best suited for the region.

February 16-17, 2018, Lebanese Rotarians hosted the first ever Rotary Presidential Conference on WASH and Peace to stimulate discussion around the current challenges threatening water security in the Middle East and to initiate a change in attitude around water management and governance. It was impressive to see the selection of speakers assembled: prime ministers and department ministers, academics, CEOs, non-profit organizations and of course, Rotarians themselves. Each one shared their unique perspective and expertise on how complex the nexus between water and sanitation and peace really is in the Middle East and North Africa. Attendees took away a better understanding of how the number of forcibly displaced persons arriving from Syria to Lebanon (1.5 million) and Jordan ( 2 million), is forcing these governments to re-evaluate legislative frameworks and water management approaches to providing water to an exploding population. Likewise, rapid climate changes in the Mediterranean have created an urgency for Arab nations to share scientific and technical resources to invest more in research and development for water technologies best suited for water scarce areas with high user demand.

### **AVFCW WORKSHOP Household Water Filters - Biosand and More April 19-22, 2018**

The biosand filter (BSF) is an effective and sustainable household-level safe drinking water solution. By the end of this workshop you will have the necessary skills and knowledge to choose appropriate filter technology and to plan and implement a successful BSF project.

Dates: April 19-22, 2018  
8A.M. Thursday - 5P.M Sunday  
optional evening activities

Location: Colombiere Conference Center  
9075 Big Lake Rd.  
Clarkston, Mi 48346

Cost: full workshop with 4 nights  
+ 10 meals  
\$750 (full registration fee)  
\$400 (students and volunteers)

**To register:**  
<http://avisionforcleanwater.org>

## Donate to AVFCW

Make a [donation](#): provide a workshop scholarship, help install water filters and sanitation in developing countries.

[avisionforcleanwater.org](http://avisionforcleanwater.org)

Become a **sustaining member** via PayPal. Use the [DONATE](#) button on the AVFCW homepage and choose **Recurring**.

100% OF YOUR DONATION TO A **VISION FOR CLEAN WATER** GOES DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION. WE HAVE NO PAID STAFF AND PAY OUR OWN TRAVEL EXPENSES.

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Through various speakers, we heard about the importance of partnerships to implement a national initiative by Rotarian volunteers to provide clean water to all the public schools in Lebanon. **A Vision for Clean Water Board members served as subject matter experts and consultants on this project.** The power of Lebanese Rotarians to mobilize resources and convene diverse groups of people for a cause was incredible to learn about. It emphasized to me the important role that citizens have in creating positive change within the most daunting issues, such as the water crisis and peace in the Middle East.



**Lebanese boy enjoying a drink of clean, safe water**

## AVFCW featured in Michigan Catholic newspaper

If you have been curious about how A Vision for Clean Water got started there is a great newspaper article about it. Founders Eileen and John Heasley were interviewed by The Michigan Catholic newspaper in the March 8th issue about what motivated them to undertake this work. Here is the link:

<http://www.themichigancatholic.org/2018/03/fifteen-years-later-couples-vision-water-now-crystal-clear/>

NOTE: AVFCW is not a religiously-associated organization, and we believe in everyone's right to access to clean water and sanitation.