



# The Vision

A newsletter of *A Vision For Clean Water*

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

Summer 2016

Vol. 5, Issue 2

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Learn more at [avisionforcleanwater.org](http://avisionforcleanwater.org)

## In Memoriam

A Vision For Clean Water mourns the passing of two dear friends.

**William E. Cowger**, of Troy MI, passed away from cancer January 2016. The former software designer turned safari operator/photographer used his many talents to help A Vision for Clean Water. An enthusiastic AVFCW supported, he photographed our workshops and hosted attendees.

**Juliana Msaghaa** died in a tragic auto accident in Tanzania March 2016. Juliana won our hearts when she attended AVFCW's Sanitation workshop in September 2013. After the workshop she was able to network with several workshop participants. A District Water Engineer in Bagamoyo Tanzania, Juliana loved her family, her work and her country so much.

## Putting Workshop Knowledge to Good Use

*Several attendees at A Vision For Clean Water's May Low Cost Sanitation Workshop are currently working on water and/or sanitation projects; others have big plans to put their new knowledge to work. Let's meet some of them.*

General Motors engineer and Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Detroit Profession Chapter volunteer **Shafali Bhavsar** is actively working on EWB's project in the village of Laguna de Apoyo, Nicaragua. The water phase of the project is well underway. Assessments and testing determined that there are few reliable sources of water in the community of 400. The surface water of the lake has arsenic levels 30 times the World Health Organization's recommended limit. Most of the villagers rely on shallow wells which have significant arsenic levels and also bacterial contamination. The proposal is to drill a deep well in a central location and provide a distribution system to homes. Shafali and fellow AVFCW workshop participants and EWB volunteers **Joe Sklarczyk** and **Jake Graham** are working on the sanitation aspect of this project. Shafali and the sanitation team went on an assesment trip at their own expense in May 2015. Their survey and baseline showed that some villagers have flush toilets but many have inadequate latrines. They now need to propose a plan and alternatives before they return for a second site visit. The plan will be presented to EWB-Detroit and then to the EWB National Board and to the community committee for their reviews. The community committee is extremely important as that is where the community's best interest are kept in mind and their buy-in is obtained.

To learn more about Engineers Without Borders Detroit's work in Laguna de Apoyo visit their website: [ewb-detroit.org/projects/laguna-de-apoyo-nicaragua/](http://ewb-detroit.org/projects/laguna-de-apoyo-nicaragua/)



*Jake Graham, Joe Sklarczyk, Shafali Bhavsar,  
Fr. Fale in back row*



*Fr. Emmanuel Fale and Peter Tanner*

## Quick Bits

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

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88% of global cases of diarrhea are estimated to be attributable to unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene. (World Health Organization)

90% of the deaths due to diarrheal diseases are children under 5 years old, mostly in developing countries. (UN Water)

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**Thank you Christ Our Light Students**  
As their Lenten charity, students at Troy MI's *Christ Our Light Catholic Church Monday Night Religious Education Program* donated over \$2000 for A Vision for Clean Water workshops. They raised 250% of their goal by doing chores and small jobs. Of course, their parents helped, too. A Vision For Clean Water's workshop scholarship awardees are most grateful.

## OUR BOARD

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*A Vision For Clean Water*

University of Dayton graduate student and Catholic priest from the diocese of Kumbo Cameroon, **Father Emmanuel Fale Lon** learned “a lot, a lot, a lot” at A Vision For Clean Water’s recent Sanitation Workshop. He comes from an extremely poor village in Cameroon where the people have no access to money and barter to obtain what they need. Father Emmanuel says, “It is a village that the government does not know or care about.” When he finishes his PhD in about two years he expects to be assigned to teach at the seminary. However, Fr. Emmanuel stresses that he will not forget his village. He is determined to make a difference to the people he knows and loves. This is a big order as the people of his village drink water from the stream, do not know the basic rules of hygiene, practice open defecation and are not educated. On the positive side the people are willing to work hard and will provide the labor for projects. Father Fale has many ideas including collecting spring water in a cistern, treating it and using gravity to bring the water to distribution points in the village. He knows latrines and education are also major needs. He invited workshop participants to come to his Cameroon village called Nkanchi.



*Natalie Relich and Prasad Choppadandi*

At the recent workshop, AVFCW Board member **Peter Tanner** networked with **Natalie Relich** executive director of OHorizons, a New York based nonprofit committed to using low-tech solutions to solve development problems, and **Dylan Lunney** OHorizons' director of

communications. All of OHorizons' full time staff have attended at least one AVFCW workshop to build upon their technical skills. They currently have projects in Ecuador, Kenya and Bangladesh using their patented Wood Mold and BioSand Filters. So far they have given approximately 1000 Ecuadorans clean water. Five hundred people in Kenya and 5000 in Bangladesh will have clean water in the coming months. Peter will be joining the OHorizons team in Ecuador this October.

To learn more about OHorizons' water projects, visit their website: [www.ohorizons.org](http://www.ohorizons.org)

Eastern Michigan University construction management students and workshop participants **Prasad Choppadandi**, **Mahipal Reddi** and **Sravan Survant** are from India. They each choose to research an Indian village that is in need of clean water and sanitation. Prasad choose Perantapalli, a remote tribal village of about 200 in south India. The residents of the village use the Godavari River upstream for drinking water and downstream for washing clothes, open defecation and bathing. Prasad is investigating various latrines options for the village.

190 Paragon, Troy, MI 48098