

The Vision

A newsletter of *A Vision for Clean Water*
Providing clean water and sanitation to those who need them through education and collaboration

Fall 2021

Volume 10, Issue 3

A Vision for Clean Water Provides Hand Washing Stations for Navajo Nation Chapter

Through our recent interactions providing hand washing stations and hand sanitizing stations to St. Bonaventure Mission in New Mexico, A Vision for Clean Water was made aware of several local Chapters on the Navajo Nation interested in assistance with hand washing stations to help slow the spread of the COVID virus.

AVFCW was told that forty families in the Iyanbito Chapter community live in homes with no running water. There is a community well, but its water is discolored and has an odd smell so the residents rely on water donations from other sources, which they have to haul to their homes, and also purchase bottled water for daily needs.

When AVFCW volunteers spoke to the local Iyanbito members, the Chapter had recently been classified as at high risk of infection due to "uncontrolled spread". Uncontrolled spread means that individuals who tested positive for COVID could not identify where they came into contact with the virus. This rampant spread of the virus made staying home and practicing proper hygiene a priority for all households.

The Iyanbito Chapter requested individual hand washing stations for the families in their community that lacked access to running water. They felt this would have the most significant impact for their community. AVFCW volunteers went to work to find the number of stations requested. The process of finding, shipping, assembling and initiating distribution of the hand washing stations took about ten days. In total, AVFCW provided the Iyanbito Chapter with hand washing stations and large containers of liquid hand soap for all forty households.

Mr. Marshall, the Chapter's maintenance man, took on the task of assembling, testing and distributing all the stations to the community with the assistance of Delray Tom, who has been a champion of this endeavor. These two individuals worked diligently for the health and safety of their community during these difficult times.

AVFCW has received positive feedback on the project, and the recipients are pleased with their new hand washing stations and the soap. We are happy to have worked with such dedicated individuals for the betterment of their community.



Greetings Supporters of A Vision for Clean Water,

If you are like me, you enjoy getting updates from the organizations you support. I love knowing the work continues and hearing about new volunteers and progress. It made me think of how important a newsletter is to keep us all connected. And, how important Kay Ehrke is for leading this effort! Thinking it may be interesting to all of you to know a bit more about the person who drafts, edits and sends you this newsletter every Spring, Summer and Fall, I posed a few questions to her.

Kay was born in Detroit. The family moved to Cleveland when she was about 12 years old. In high school she met a young man from that area and they got married. Kay and Jack had two sons and a daughter while yet in Ohio. In 1968, Kay, Jack and the kids moved back to Michigan to be closer to family and they had another daughter. She's lived in that same home in Birmingham to this day!

Kay worked for an advertising/P.R. firm until she had her first child. Fifteen years later she went back to work at St. Columban Catholic Church in Birmingham as an administrative assistant to the Pastor, where she stayed for 27 years, until retirement.

Eileen Heasley, co-founder of AVFCW, met Kay at St. Columban's years ago. She admired the work that Eileen and her husband John were doing and donated to the cause. She helped with a few simple things but she felt too busy to commit as a regular volunteer, already committed as Treasurer for another non-profit organization. However, in 2018, after Mass, Eileen was chatting about volunteer opportunities with a few people and Kay felt a nudge. She realized preparing the newsletter was something she could do from home while she cared for her husband who had recently become home bound. And with that, she committed!

Two favorite stories that Kay has included in newsletters were Summer 2018's update on the Spring 2018 workshop. It was then she became aware of AVFCW's global reach as she learned that participants from 10 countries attended that workshop. Another favorite is Board Member Scott Brill's Spring 2020 newsletter's personal and heartwarming account of his visit to check on Cambodian clean water and sanitation projects that AVFCW helped make happen.

Kay belongs to two women's clubs. She loves to eat out, read books and spend as much time as possible with her four kids and five grandkids. And, as we all know...she loves to keep you all updated on AVFCW's happenings. And for this, I am very grateful!

Nikki Beetsch
Director of A Vision for Clean Water

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