

World Water Day (March 22) 2011

Educating, Engaging, and Empowering Local People to be Global Citizens

Why World Water Day?

World Water Day (WWD) was launched in 1992 by the United Nations to focus international attention on protecting clean water access as a basic requirement for life. Sustainable Water 2019 recognizes this annual event as an opportunity to educate, engage, and empower Clevelanders around water issues in solidarity with communities throughout the world, especially since the UN has designated “Water for Cities” this year’s WWD theme. By highlighting a partnership with middle school students at Cleveland Municipal School District’s Carl and Louis Stokes Central Academy, we will:

- **Provide Education:** to shift participants’ understanding of the world, helping them become...
- **Engaged:** in the world through water and...
- **Empowered:** in their communities to make a difference.

Sustainable Water 2019’s multi-day activities related to WWD help fulfill our mission:

“to create societal change at the level of the individual cultivated and nurtured through outreach activities, educational campaigns, and regional efforts to reconnect people to the Great Lakes and local drinking water.”

Summary of Activities

Note: All World Water Day events will be filmed by local partners to share experiences, capture awakenings and build awareness at future events.

2.10.11 – Stokes students will be introduced to World Water Day at an assembly featuring 23-year-old **Katie Spotz** from Mentor. In 2010, Katie became the youngest person in the world to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She made the trip to support global access to safe drinking water.

3.18.11 – Sustainable Water 2019 and local partnering organizations will conduct a **half-day educational workshop** for approximately 200 6th-8th graders at Stokes. The program will teach students to act locally to make water more sustainable in Northeast Ohio, as well as honor Stokes’ sister school (St. Charles School) in Uganda, Africa, where access to water is very limited. The children at Stokes Academy regularly keep in contact with St. Charles children through writing and research assignments led by their teacher, Ms. Teddy Mwonyonyi, who attended St. Charles as a child.

Children will participate in **hands-on learning** stations related to:

- Local Water Issues vs. Global Water Issues and World Water Day
- Drinking TAP vs. Bottled Water
- Water Reflection
- Watersheds and Urban Water Cycles
- Combined Sewer Overflows, Healthy Beaches, and OUR Great Lake
- Art Bottle Design

In honor of the **students in Africa**, Stokes students will decorate 176 two-liter bottles to carry a day's worth of water with them on World Water Day the following week (March 22nd).

3.22.11 - Students will take a field trip to Tower City Cinemas (two days prior to the start of the **Cleveland International Film Festival**) to see a special screening of the documentary ***Tapped***. *Tapped* discusses the depth of the bottled water industry as well as social, economic and environmental issues related to bottled water and TAP water. After the screening, students will symbolically transfer their water into reusable containers while having a closing moment of silence for those without access to clean drinking water. This will mark students' "graduation" from the program.

That evening, volunteers and local artists will arrange the decorated bottles in a massive **public art display** in one of Tower City Center's large fountains **for 75,000 film-goers to view during the 12-day Cleveland International Film Festival**. Edited film clips of the WWD activities will also run on continuous loop in public areas throughout the Film Festival.

3.24.11 – 4.3.11 - Drinking water stations donated by Purewater will surround the fountain during the Film Festival and donated reusable bottles will be sold to raise funds for the St. Charles School in **Uganda, Africa** to build basic water facilities. Students and orphans at St. Charles currently do not have basic hand washing, drinking water or sanitary facilities.

This portion of connecting with their peers globally through World Water Day events is the final component of the Cleveland schoolchildren's **service project** designed to help youth become **educated** about water, **engaged** in activity and **empowered** to make a difference globally and locally.

In order to have Sustainable Water by 2019, we must reconnect individual people, communities, and businesses with local drinking water and the Great Lakes.

Please contact Erin Huber, Sustainable Water 2019 Chair and Program Development Manager for the Institute of Applied Phenomenology in Science and Technology 501c3-SW 2019 fiscal agent

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