



American Jewish  
Joint Distribution  
Committee



# Clean Water for Ethiopia

## Digging “David’s Well”

Drought in Ethiopia affects 14 million people. Only 11% of the rural population has access to clean water. Waterborne diseases such as cholera, yellow fever, hepatitis, diarrhea and typhoid kill hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians each year, comprising *the largest infant killers in a country that loses one in six children before their fifth birthday*. Moreover, lack of understanding and education about hygiene promotes contagion.

In an effort to improve sanitation and combat disease, the Montreal based humanitarian initiative **Kulam**, together with Toronto-based Ve’ahavta, and our partner on the ground JDC, have been working with the Gondar Ethiopia Water Bureau to increase access to fresh, potable water and raise sanitation standards. By installing hand-pump wells, Kulam, Ve’ahavta and JDC supply acceptable water quality, save women from grueling walks to distant water sources and help fight disease caused by intestinal parasites – one of the greatest health problems particularly affecting children. To date, JDC has undertaken over 100 water projects in Ethiopia.



*Ethiopian children fetching drinking water at a JDC well*

**The Arlene and David Sternthal partnership will provide a safe and adequate water supply with appropriate technology and reasonable cost in rural Ethiopia.** “David’s Well” will be situated in an area near Kulam’s Shumargie School, an area identified as urgently needing clean drinking water.

Since there are few schools in the region with safe drinking water, Kulam, Ve’ahavta and JDC generally place wells near schools. As part of the project children and community members will be educated about hygiene. By training the community, working with the local water authorities and appointing community members in charge of upkeep, the wells will be maintained self-sufficiently to provide an accessible, efficient and sustainable source of safe, clean water for years to come.

The well digging is scheduled to begin in early 2012, at the height of Ethiopia’s dry season when the water level in the soil will be at its minimum. Kulam is grateful for the commitment and enthusiasm of David and Arlene Sternthal, their family and friends in reaching out to rural Ethiopian communities and providing them with the most basic of human needs: safe drinking water. Our experience in Ethiopia has demonstrated that a small investment in this fundamental human need often serves as a trigger for further development of a village and surrounding communities: girls are freed from daily back-breaking labor of walking to distant water sources and can attend school; pride in the community’s physical surroundings leads to environmental awareness.

**\$5,000 will cover the construction of one well.**

This funding will include physical construction, as well as community education that will make the wells sustainable and bring about behavioral change in hygienic matters affecting children. Through this donation, you will literally save the lives of children in rural Ethiopia – and provide the gift of a better future to entire villages.

**“He who saves a single life, it is as though he has saved an entire world.”**

**– The Talmud–**