

THE PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

Registered Charity # 81907 0145 RR0001

NEWS FROM KUMBO

(EXCERPTS FROM REPORT BY EDWIN VISI AND YENIKA COLLINS LITIKA 29/03/2017)

Efforts to continue educating communities on the importance for sustainability of their new water schemes remained OK's main priority for most part of the year. The transition towards becoming a Cameroonian Association also took centre stage in our activities.

In Tobin-Kumbo, on August 1st, 2016, Mr. Edwin Visi, who had been our consultant for the past 8 years was named Country Director of OK Clean Water Project in Cameroon. Yenika Collins Litika was recruited as Community Liaison Officer to assist the Country Director, as well as gradually take over the role of the advisory committee in the field. Sister Cathy Molloy, our coordinator and co-founder of OK Clean Water Project (Ottawa) was replaced by Sister Lucie (Mekoulou Me-Zambo), a native of Cameroon. Sister Cathy Molloy has since returned to White Plains, New York to assume other duties with the Congregation of Notre Dame. In November 2016, instead of holding individual meetings in each subdivision, an enlarged

Annual General Meeting was held in Kitiwum village, where representatives from each village came together to share their experiences and expertise, but also to discuss the importance of joining the OK (Cameroonian) Association. A first ever Board of Directors was created for this new association, recognized by the Government of Cameroon. Mr. Nyar Marten of the Himalayan Institute of Cameroon was elected its Chairperson.

The gravity-fed water pipe systems, storage tanks and catchment basins, are the basis of the OK Clean Water Projects. These systems allow villagers to have continuous supply of clean water year round, especially during the dry season. To ensure this continuous supply of clean water, caretakers of the various management schemes play a very important role in the sustainable management of the existing and would-be water projects. They are charged with the day-to-day maintenance and repairs of the water facilities and installations. Caretaker training was emphasized and caretakers, from villages supported by OK, worked alongside each other where they shared common practices and exchanged best practices for water testing,





identification of common fittings used in plumbing. Through regular training workshops, many more caretakers are becoming versed with their duties and responsibilities in water management. The Advisory Committee made up of representatives from many villages were instrumental in sharing information about the new OK association being established in Cameroon, in supporting the construction of water systems, in collecting water maintenance levies, among others.

A volunteer from the University college Leuven-Lemburg in Belgium, Mr. Mathieu Mannekins, came to Kumbo to do his postgraduate research and thesis write-up. His job description included among others, field visits to monitor water schemes, carryout water tests when the need arose, assist in OK's ongoing education for sustainability and assist the community liaison officer develop the WASH and other educative programs and activities for schools in villages supported by OK Clean Water Project.

NEWS FROM OTTAWA

The representatives of the Ottawa team of OK Clean Water Project wish to extend sincere congratulations to the team in Kumbo and the villagers for their overwhelming accomplishments in past years but especially for their steadfast endeavours in 2016/17 in heightening training and promoting the OK association created in Cameroon. *Beri Wo!* We welcome the new Board of Directors in Kumbo, and look forward to working with Edwin, Collins and Sr. Lucie. At this time, we wish to thank Sr. Cathy Molloy for her commitment and hard work with OK Clean Water Project since its

inception and we wish her blessings and all good things in her new responsibility. *Beri Wo!*

In the 2016–2017 school year, we were fortunate to have 22 schools support OK Clean Water Project through a variety of fundraising activities. These 22 elementary schools have donated an amazing total of \$25,723.03. *Beri Wo!* Thank you for your generosity! Other fundraising activities included the Annual Brunch held October 30th, 2016 at The Centurion Conference Centre with proceeds of \$6,400. Everyone enjoyed a video presentation prepared by a team in Kumbo, giving everyone images of the countryside, heartfelt testimonials from villagers, as well as water projects. Our FUNraiser Fashion Show at Shepherd's held on April 11th, 2017, brought in \$3,222, and provided an evening of fun for all in attendance.

The OK Clean Water *Rivers and Rainbows* Concert held at Stillwater Retirement Residence on June 21st was well attended and a real hit with everyone present. Poetry, dance and music featuring Warren Eckert, Marlene Bosch, John and Maureen McGovern, MaryAnn Dunn and Anne Galla were enjoyed by all. The evening brought in an amazing \$826.40 from generous supporters. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the poetry, dance and music provide d by the talented entertainers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL BRUNCH AT THE CENTURION CONFERENCE CENTRE

Sunday, October 22nd, 2017. Stay tuned.