

East Middle School 6th graders install well for the Nsonzinga Village in Uganda

Farmington, MI – East Middle School (EMS) 6th graders spent the year raising money to install a well in Africa. After countless hours of fundraising, they were able to donate enough money to get a well drilled in the Nsonzinga Village in Kassanda, Uganda.

This project was inspired after the students did an interdisciplinary unit all about water. It resulted in learning about water scarcity and its impact on the people of that region. Without a clean water source near the Nsonzinga Village, it was especially hard on school-aged children who were hit hardest by their community's water crisis.

"Sometimes I missed school because I was sick with typhoid," said Grace Nakamatte, 14-year-old schoolgirl, who studies at St. Noah Nsonzinga Primary School. "But most days I came to class late because I used to delay at a distant pond that I fetched water from every morning, before walking to school."

Grace and her siblings were obliged to provide water for their family, against all odds like most children in their community. Staying in a community without a nearby clean water source forced the vulnerable children to walk for more than seven miles every day, to a distant pond to fetch water.

"In the mornings, I always started classes when already tired from walking and fetching water," Grace said. "It was difficult for me to concentrate on what the teacher was saying when I was dozing and sickly, at times."

A bit of relief came when East Middle School drilled the well, well #875. Besides the close proximity of the new well to more than 110 households in the community, well #875 also provides easy access to safe and clean water to thousands of school children from both St. Noah Nsonzinga Primary School and Community College Nsonzinga.

"The water from this new well is so clean and crystal clear, I feel safe drinking it and I do not have to worry about falling sick of typhoid any more," said Grace. "Studying makes me happy and now that I can easily fetch clean water without walking a long distance, it puts me in the



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best mood to concentrate in class with high energy to participate much more during the lessons."

Thank you East Middle School 6th graders for working so hard on this inspiring project and helping those in need.

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