

GOOD NEWS – P&G has LOST a customer

GOOD NEWS – P&G has LOST a customer. Now normally P&G losing a customer is not good news but in this case it most definitely is. This story starts back in August, 2016 when a group at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish in Cincinnati, OH led by Nick Boschert, a 30 year P&G employee currently in P&G Chemicals, got St. Peter Upendo Parish in Molo, Kenya named as a mission parish. St. Peter Upendo parish is situated in a resettlement area of 1,000 people created when the Diocese of Nakuru provided land for 100 families of different faiths fleeing Kenya's political violence in 2007. One immediate thing that the resettlement area could be helped with was their water situation. Currently they share a polluted stream as their main source of drinking water, laundry facilities, etc.



Nick knew about P&G's Childrens Safe Drinking Water program and reached out to some of his contacts in CSDW. They directed him to CSDW's Kenya distributor – SWAP Kenya – and through them (and after some fundraising) the first shipment of CSDW Purifier Of Water Packets were distributed to the community on **Christmas Day, 2016**. A native of Molo and current St. Ignatius Parishioner Daniel Odipo, who was visiting back home at the time, led the community training and distribution.





Throughout 2017 community needs other than water like textbooks and teachers for the school, community-wide deworming, child health checks and more were also addressed. But, while continuing to provide the packets through SWAP Kenya, the real vision was to find a water source and provide a well (known as boreholes in Africa), tank and distribution system. In fall 2017 a hydrogeologist was commissioned and it was announced on **Christmas Day 2017** in both parishes that an underground water source had been discovered on the Church grounds themselves.

After raising a cumulative total of over \$65,000, drilling recently began on the Monday before Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving morning water was struck at a depth of 200m. Subsequent testing has judged the water quality to be excellent and the yield to be a very productive 15,000 liters per hour. That means it will be more than able to provide safe drinking water to the residents of the resettlement area PLUS the other 2,000 residents of the village of Upendo. The only things left to do are to put in the pump, erect the tank and build the kiosk to dispense the water to the public. The goal that we're working feverishly towards is to have it all ready for use on **Christmas Day 2018**. After that, the next step will be to provide a direct line to the nearby school so that safe drinking water can be supplied to the students there at no charge. We also think that this asset may provide a money-making venture for the resettlement area while also enabling employment opportunities.





This project fulfills all of the goals of CSDW – the reduction of water-borne illnesses plus other benefits of access to clean water which include better time management, better productivity, education and economic growth. It also shows the power of what can happen when P&G employees (and retirees in the case of Tom Federle and Rob Rappaport) take the leap and get involved in their community. The unique twist in this case is that the community being helped ended up being on the other side of the world.

So, while P&G losing a customer is normally not good news, the fact that CSDW is losing a packet customer due to this well coming online is definitely something to be celebrated this holiday season. You can find out more about this project at www.ignatiusmen.org.