

### ***Hydrophilanthropy***

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In recent years there has been unparalleled concern for the great numbers of people who lack access to clean water and sanitation --up to 1 billion and 2.5 billion, respectively, by some accounts. Water professionals, students, and others have answered the call by working or volunteering for organizations that seek to alleviate the suffering caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. The term ‘hydrophilanthropy’ was coined to describe these humanitarian activities, and this IMPACT issue explores some of the facets of hydrophilanthropy, including questions about the efficacy of these endeavors and controversy over the use and meaning of the term itself.

### ***Feature Articles***

#### **The Meaning of Hydrophilanthropy – David K. Kreamer**

Prompted by his experience chairing a session at a recent conference, the man who coined the term explains what it means to him. Does it signify the ineffective, unsustainable actions of ‘do-gooders’ seeking to assuage their guilt? Or is it a worthwhile activity?

#### **Hydrophilanthropy and Experiential Learning in Honduras --- Michael E. Campana**

Student trips to work on water and sanitation projects in developing countries are an increasing hydrophilanthropic activity. The author describes such a course and the benefits derived, lessons learned, and questions raised.

#### **Drinking Water Access in the Developing World: The Case for Escuela Técnica de Agua Potable, a Special Technical School – Gilles Corcos**

Building capacity among locals should be an essential component of hydrophilanthropy. The author, a former engineering professor and co-founder of the hydrophilanthropy Agua Para La Vida, provides an example of a remarkable technical school in Nicaragua that trains water technicians.

#### **Student Action to Bring Water to People -- Katie Mann and Arica Crotoof**

Students often take the initiative where hydrophilanthropy is concerned. A model for student involvement is SAIWI (‘say-we’) – Student Association for International Water Issues – founded by students at the University of Nevada, Reno. They authors fondly recount a recent trip to Kenya -- warts and all.

#### **Creating the Future in Nicaragua—Rob Bell and Anna Segur**

When it comes to WaSH (water, sanitation and hygiene) issues in developing countries the top-down, paternalistic approach of the ‘old days’ is *passé*. El Porvenir (“the future”), a hydrophilanthropy in Nicaragua, uses local people to empower rural Nicaraguans to address their water, sanitation, hygiene and related issues.

#### **Why Do You Care? --Stephanie J. Moore**

As a Water For People volunteer, the author evaluates completed water and sanitation projects. Her article’s title is one of the questions a Honduran posed to her as she assessed a water project. She provides answers, lists the attributes of effective volunteer groups, and explains how her volunteer work translates to and enhances her everyday work as a consulting hydrologist.

**Hydrophilanthropy: a Volunteer's Perspective -- Christine Casey Matute**

The author has worked on a student project and as a volunteer for Pure Water for the World in Honduras. She offers her unique perspective on her experience managing a project, what worked and what didn't work, and how to discern the good from the bad from the ugly.

**“Cosas Estan Cambiando” (Things Are Changing) – Stan Patryak**

Does hydrophilanthropy have gender implications? The author, Senior Director of Development for Living Water International, relates the story of Lucia, a *campesina* in El Salvador and the ability of water to empower women. Things *are* changing.