

Good News Department

Water Program Brings Wave Of Support To Children

(NAPSA)—About 70 percent of the Earth's surface is water—but only a drop in the bucket is drinkable.

In fact, more than 1 billion people do not have access to clean water or adequate sanitation, and one in five is a child. But Americans are helping to change that.

They're taking steps to conserve water and participating in programs to help raise funds to improve access to clean water for people around the world. For instance, thousands of New Yorkers helped raise more than \$100,000 last year by simply donating \$1 for the tap water they normally got for free at participating restaurants.

They participated in the Tap Project, a national initiative that takes place during World Water Week. The program, which was launched in New York in 2007 and is now nationwide, partners with restaurants to help support the lifesaving work of UNICEF. UNICEF works in more than 90 countries to improve access to safe water and sanitation facilities in schools and communities, and to promote safe hygiene practices.

The group reports that 80 percent of all illness and infant mortality is due to waterborne disease. Every day, 5,000 children die of water-related diseases.

Making A Difference

"With \$1, we can provide 40 liters of safe drinking water, which is enough to give one child safe drinking water for 40 days, or 40 children



A national program is bringing clean water to children around the world.

safe drinking water for one day," says Caryl Stern, president and CEO of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

Indeed, the group has helped more than a billion people gain access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities in the past 15 years. Its goal is to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2015.

Saving Water

Of course, conserving water makes a difference, too, and experts say every bit helps. Try these tips:

- **Come Clean**—Wash dishes in a sink filled with water, rather than under running water.
- **Don't Dump It**—Rather than pouring old water down the drain, use it to water houseplants.
- **Fix It Up**—A small leak can waste hundreds of gallons of water a year. Look for leaks in your home and fix them.

Learning More

You can learn more at www.unicefusa.org or by calling (800) 4-UNICEF. You can also visit www.tapproject.org.