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The year of 2009 brought unexpected sorrow to those of us who make up the small operating team at ClearWater Initiative. On October 2, our founder and president as well as our son and friend, Benjamin Sklaver, was killed in action in Afghanistan while serving as a Captain during his second tour of duty in the Army. The board briefly suspended activities as we recovered from the initial trauma of his loss.

Ben, 32, has left a legacy of hope. His sense of optimism and purpose has been an inspiration, not just to us, but also to the more than one thousand donors who have supported ClearWater since his death. Ben was named an NBC News Difference Maker by Brian Williams and was written about in the Los Angeles Times and Time Magazine. His efforts to improve the lives of others have been recognized by individuals, schools and universities, religious groups and corporate donors. The outpouring of support from these diverse donor groups has been tremendous.

The donations have allowed us to expand the scale of ClearWater’s operations. We remain small by international standards but we continue to make a positive impact in the regions we serve. We believe we can be the most successful water-focused NGO in northern Uganda, developing a water delivery model that can be replicated.

Ben’s death and ClearWater’s growth have necessitated organizational structural change. I continue in my role as General Counsel and have additionally taken the role of President; Gary Sklaver is now Secretary; and Beth Segaloff has joined the board and heads ClearWater’s nascent educational outreach efforts. David Abraham has taken over day-to-day responsibilities; Alyssa Sperber heads our marketing and outreach; and Jake Herrle oversees media and outreach efforts in Atlanta. Elaina Loizou joined the board in 2009 and brings expertise in social marketing and working in post-conflict regions. ClearWater continues to run as an all-volunteer organization thanks to the dedication of our board and volunteers.

In 2010, we started the year strong with numerous educational outreach programs, several fundraisers, and in Uganda, the hiring of staff and project planning with new program partners. We are excited about the future and remained inspired by Ben’s vision of compassion, empowerment and hope for a better life. I encourage you to help support our efforts and continue Ben’s legacy.

Laura Sklaver
INTRODUCTION

ClearWater Initiative is a U.S.-based 501(c)3 nongovernmental organization that executes clean water projects.

ClearWater Initiative promotes simple, sustainable solutions for the provision of clean water in post-conflict regions. ClearWater strives to achieve this mission through technical excellence, responsible use of donor funds, collaboration with local communities and compassion for the needs of individuals overwhelmed by circumstances beyond their control.

ClearWater Initiative funds both established and innovative clean water solutions, such as borehole repairs, protected springs and well drilling, with an emphasis on community mobilization and relevant training. This cost-effective approach provides the same clean water at a fraction of the cost of building new wells.

ClearWater Initiative was founded in 2007 by Benjamin Sklaver, an American soldier deployed to the Horn of Africa. He worked with refugees and internally displaced civilians returning to their homes after 20 years of civil war. Ben was disturbed by the lack of clean water in remote communities and was determined to help. He founded ClearWater to address this basic human need and in the process brought hope to villagers who praised his work. Ben was tragically killed in October 2009 while serving in Afghanistan, where he was creating sustainable infrastructure and bringing the same sense of hope he brought to Uganda.

The organization has been run entirely by volunteers in the United States who provide invaluable advice on messaging and marketing, capture powerful images and assist with strategy and outreach. In 2009, the organization has gone through a number of changes due to a board decision to reassess our programs as a result of political changes in Uganda.
VISION

By 2013, ClearWater’s vision is to provide access to clean drinking water to 50,000 people in remote areas. ClearWater strives to reduce the prevalence of waterborne disease in children and other vulnerable populations. We seek to be a leading innovator in the water/sanitation sector by implementing new methods and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our projects.

PHILOSOPHY

ClearWater operates on the principle of simplicity. We use locally-procured materials to ensure that repair parts are available. We rely on Ugandan engineers and labor from local communities to provide employment and skills training, empowering the community to take ownership of each water source.

ClearWater projects are guided by the counsel of local experts and are approved by relevant local water officials. All project costs are transparent and posted on our website. Building sustainable water projects is not a simple task which is why we seek innovative methods to train locals and develop funding techniques for the local communities to cover maintenance costs.

“So, now that the guns are silent, the meaning of peace must be about access to health, access to education, access to clean water… We must give our people access to those basic needs. That’s when we can say peace has returned.”

Gulu District Chairman Norbert Mao
Our fundraisers were in response to hearing the news about Ben Sklaver’s death...What we learned about his life, [and] his work in Uganda and with ClearWater, prompted us at GHS to learn more about the worldwide water problem. Rather than be deterred because of the enormity of the crisis, we decided to do something rather than nothing.

Dr. Tom Neagle
Assistant Principal,
Glastonbury High School

FUNDRASING

The majority of our donations come from individual donors; ClearWater received funding from over 1,000 donors this year, including foundations and matching gift programs. Private funding provides flexibility for us to target or fund underserved areas with innovative techniques.

We had several fundraising events this year that raised significant funds and increased the awareness of the organization:

- In Atlanta, ClearWater participated for the second year in a row in the annual Cabbagetown Chomp N’ Stomp festival and 5k run.
- Our first holiday card program, whereby individuals could “gift” clean water to friends and family and receive a ClearWater card to send to the recipient, raised $2,000.
- Several private fundraising functions on the East Coast and our education initiatives raised over $8,000.
- The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, hosted a dinner for ClearWater, donating over $5,000.
EDUCATION

We have partnered with various schools and organizations to forward our vision and teach the next generation about the benefits of clean water and the difficulties in living without access to potable supplies. Beth Segaloff, Director of Education, has developed hands-on activities, projects and discussions to empower students to be “all the change they can be.”

Through our programs, students also learn the positive impact they can achieve by being socially aware and pro-active, responsible citizens. We encourage students to value respect, compassion, and empathy, as well as develop a commitment to our community and ourselves. Recent examples of the types of outreach include:

In April 2009, Beth Segaloff represented ClearWater at Larchmont Temple’s annual “Mitzvah Market,” which raised close to $1,000. Beth engaged students in the nursery school in a water awareness project exploring the many ways they use water and the value of clean water.

In the fall, the student council at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut initiated the “Drop in the Bucket” fundraiser and education program, raising $1,800. Students built “water stations” around the school where donors gave $1 to receive a small cup of clean water. A paper “drop of water” was posted on a large water bucket signifying a donation was made.

In December, Beth led a portion of the “Breakfast with the Rabbi” program, followed by a water awareness project at Congregation Beth Shalom in Chester, Connecticut.

For 2010, our outreach is expanding to include colleges, such as Tufts University, as well as elementary and middle schools.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In October 2009, ClearWater launched a Facebook page that attracted 800 fans within three months. In addition, ClearWater began a blog to track our experiences in Uganda and used Twitter to interact with younger supporters. Our online presence provides us an outlet to interact more frequently with the general public, our donor base and potential partners, and has become an important source of fundraising.

“Ben’s thinking about water brought images to me of children crying to their mothers after spending the whole day in the field only to return to find no water because their mothers had no time to walk the several kilometers to get it...Keeping Ben’s dream alive is therefore very important to us.”

Rev. Fr. Joseph Okumu, Catechist Training Centre, Gulu, Uganda
Our area of operation in northern Uganda has improved markedly since 2007. At that time, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) continued its 20-year assault on communities, terrorizing villages and forcing people to live in camps for safety. For those who did not live in the security of camps, many were “night commuters,” going to cities in the evening for safety. In that context, ClearWater began providing humanitarian relief, installing water points (wells, protected springs and borehole repairs) to ensure camps or safe villages had access to clean water.

The LRA is now gone and the main cities in the north – Lira, Kitgum and Gulu – are beginning to develop. The government is shutting down camps; villagers are returning to traditional lands. After spending five, ten and up to twenty years in camps, people are now learning how to once again provide for themselves, after having their basic needs covered by humanitarian agencies. Those organizations are departing due to the peace, leaving vulnerable populations lacking clean water.

It was in this context, ClearWater felt the need to limit the number of projects to assess the changing circumstances and to ensure that our projects were meeting the needs of the locals. We suspended the implementation of projects in early spring as Ben began his deployment to Afghanistan, after a period where we installed projects in four villages.

In December 2009, an assessment team led by board members David Abraham and Jake Herrle spent two months in Uganda reviewing projects and developing a revised program outline. They aimed to:

- understand the drastic recent political and security changes in northern Uganda
- meet with old and identify future program partners; and
- develop a plan for future projects.

During the journey, ClearWater met with district government officials to understand the water coverage needs of the region, nongovernmental organizations to evaluate their water and sanitation programs, religious leaders to understand their perspective on water as a human right, as well as with international donor agencies and the UN to learn how they coordinate efforts. We spoke with over 60 people (plus countless villagers) from a prominent newspaper columnist to a presidential candidate and the head of the United States Agency for International Development in Uganda. The consensus of opinion is that water is a major issue for the resettlement of Northern Uganda and that the local government cannot alone meet these water needs.
OUTLOOK FOR 2010

We will expand our presence on the ground by staffing our Ugandan field office. This office manages site selection, oversees contractors and develops an educational program to ensure communities have the ability and knowledge to maintain the water point. To assist in the efficacy and speed of program implementation we have arrangements with program partners who work alongside our current staff. In addition to the partnerships, ClearWater will also continue to work independently, continuing to target regions in great need in northern Uganda.

ClearWater has always stressed the importance of community involvement as well as local technologies and is now devising innovative ways to ensure villages have the ability to maintain completed projects and to collect funds for their upkeep. By increasing our efforts to assure local buy-in, the installation of new water points may take longer, but they will ultimately be more sustainable. We seek to be one of the most innovative non-governmental organizations in the water sector, realizing that sustainability requires new approaches and that one program type will not be a global panacea.


VOLUNTEERS & ADVISORS

An all-volunteer staff has historically run ClearWater Initiative in the U.S. The following individuals have donated exceptional amounts of time, passion and skills to the organization in 2009:

Ben Sklaver, Founder
Laura Sklaver, President and Legal Counsel
Gary Sklaver, Secretary
David Abraham, Chief Executive Officer
Alyssa Sperber, Director and Marketing Advisor
Jake Herrle, Director and Creative Advisor
Elaina Loizou, Director and New Media Outreach Advisor
Beth Segaloff, Director and Education Advisor
Sandi Harari, Creative Director

We are truly indebted to the volunteers who joined our organization in 2009, including Brett Freedman ClearWater’s representative in DC; Alexandra Moeiler, government outreach; Miki Brown, administration; Cassel Kroll, social marketing; Chris Guthrie, webmaster; David Bell, technical advisor; Ian Moise, technical advisor; John Dance, media production. ClearWater is also pleased to note the contributions of our new corporate sponsor this year, Applause Printing.

The organization is also extremely thankful to those who offered technical skills, advised on political developments in Uganda or engaged in fundraising efforts. All the people listed below (and many others) made it possible to keep our costs low and our success rate high.

April Davies, Glenn Ettman, Daniel Fahey, Dan and Laurie Saft Ginsburg, Maureen Wafer and S. Waqar Hasib, Lacey Haussamen, Elizabeth Peterson, April Rinne, Yvonne Sheehan, Annie, Sam and Wendi Sklaver and Cathy Wise.

In addition, we are indebted to those who helped us on the ground in Uganda offering assistance in numerous capacities. Listed below are just a few.

Charles Abilu, Steven Arop-Job, Courtney Babcock, Bina and Drew Contreras, Dave Eckerson, Father Joseph, John Hatchard, Patric Katuramu, Robert Kizito, Gerald Komakech, Norbert Mao, Michael Mangano, Dismas Nkunda, Jack Norman and Steven Worrell. The Board also extends a special thanks to the generosity of Becca Schwartz.

“‘It does not matter if you come and build one borehole. You make a big difference in the lives of the people...I don’t believe that there is a reason to doubt that small efforts can make peace worth while for our people.’”

Gulu District Chairman Norbert Mao
OUR FOUNDER

On October 2, 2009 Ben Sklaver was killed in a suicide attack while serving in Afghanistan. Ben was working in a civil affairs unit, building basic infrastructure such as water points and schools – similar to the work he had done in Uganda. He was eternally optimistic and believed that his work would show Afghans they could create positive change and counter the influence of insurgents. Simply, he was bringing hope to a region sorely lacking it. It was an extension of his life mission and the work we do at ClearWater. Over the past two and a half years, his efforts had helped provide clean water to several thousand Ugandans and laid down the vision that we follow.

Before his service in Afghanistan, Ben had been hired by the New York Office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct disaster planning for the New York tri-state area. He had also announced his engagement to Beth Segaloff, of Mamaroneck, NY, and the couple was planning a June 2010 wedding. Previously, Ben served with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta in the agency’s International Emergency and Refugee Health Branch.

Ben received his bachelor’s degree at Tufts University and master’s degree at The Fletcher School, also at Tufts. He took a particular interest in assisting refugees and the poor in Africa. During his studies at the Fletcher School, he volunteered for the Army Reserve and following completion of his degree, he was commissioned.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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<th>2009</th>
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<td>**Total Revenue ***</td>
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<td>Projects – Borehole repairs</td>
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<td>Professional fees; contractors</td>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>Promotional, Publications, Fundraising</td>
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<td>Bank fees/ Dues subscriptions/Utilities</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Additions to Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<th>Balance Sheet</th>
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<td>Cash and short term investments</td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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* In 2009, 96% of donations were received after 9/31/2009

“When you start tracking one dollar from Washington, by the time it reaches the ground, probably it is thirteen cents. Because consultants run away with a bit of it, plus highly paid staff with huge overheads. So the actual result which is achieved is often much less than was anticipated. My own experience as the leader of the local govt in Gulu is that the support given by private individuals through not-for-profit organizations go a longer way than even government.”

Gulu District Chairman Norbert Mao