

Save the Rain

SAVE A RAINDROP. SAVE A LIFE.

WOMEN, WATER AND THE WORLD

In the developed world, people do not have to carry the water they use on a daily basis. If we did, it's safe to assume we'd use a lot less than we do. The average American uses up to 100 gallons of water at home each day. The weight of that water is about 834 pounds, for a family of 5 that's 4,170 pounds a day! Imagine if your family had to work together every day to transport over 4000 pounds of water into your home!



For people living in many developing countries, distance to a clean water source is a critical factor. 200 millions classroom hours are lost each day to the search for water. Collecting water in developing countries is rarely a family activity. It is a task largely designated to women and young girls. Because women are also responsible for the care of young infants and children, girls begin

carrying a small water jug as early as 2 years old. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the average distance traveled to collect water takes 6 hours. In times of drought, it can sometimes take even longer. Access to clean water and good health are tightly linked, and the need to carry water very long distances limits the amount women can bring back to their families. The dangers are not over even once water has been brought back home to the family. Water is often contaminated with microorganisms that cause diarrhea, typhoid, and cholera. These diseases are responsible for approximately 80 percent of all illnesses and deaths in the developing world, many of them children. Women and female children who have to travel to collect water pay a high cost. Less time is available for caring for children, preparing food, receiving an education, or pursuing income-generating activities. In some regions women and girls must travel through unsafe areas and are vulnerable to attack. Families, in many cases, must forgo sending their daughters to school, perpetuating the vicious cycle of illiteracy and poverty.

HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS!

Save the Rain has been successfully harvesting the rain in water starved communities since 2005!

Save the Rain is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching water starved communities in East Africa to use rain as a sustainable water supply, stopping the needless deaths caused by the global water crisis. To achieve our mission we educate communities to harvest the rain through roof water collection and passive irrigation.

Why Harvest the Rain? Because..

- When school aged children get access to clean water, they continue their education into secondary school. Every extra year of secondary school increases earning potential by 15% to 25%.
- After 6 months of having clean water, on average there is a 45% decrease of kids suffering from water borne illnesses. After just 1 year of having access to clean water, 96% of children will show drastic improvements in their health.
- The 1st school system ever built by Save the Rain initiated latrine pit construction enabling girls to stay in school. Each additional year of female education reduces child mortality by 18per thousand births. Through Save the Rain's Women's Water Initiative, access to clean water is provided right at home. Empowering girls and women with the gift of time to flourish by removing the need for them to walk for water for their families.
- When rain water harvesting projects are complete, students no longer need to walk for water for their school's needs. Prior to clean water access, a small number of students were continuing school past 13 years old. Within the first year of access to clean water, Save the Rain saw 99% of students pass their national exam to be able to continue on to high school and more than 50% of them were girls!

Take a minute to imagine what the world would look like if we all worked together. Would there still be war? Hunger? A global water crisis? There is no doubt these problems can feel overwhelming, no matter how old you are. If governments are failing to solve a giant issue like the global water crisis, how can we be expected to make an impact? The answer is easy: stop imagining and make it happen. Choose to make a difference. We all have the power to help end one of the greatest crises facing humanity.

You have the power to change the life of another, and that changes the world because it changes their world. It is so easy to act on your compassion, to come together and solve problems. Most importantly, like raindrops, imagine how much we can do if we each do our small part. Like a storm of goodness, things will indeed get better for everyone.

TOGETHER ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

The women of Lositeti use to leave their homes at midnight. Babies tucked in but left alone in the dark. The women would meet each other along the road... They knew not to be late. Walking to the tap station at night was far too dangerous. More dangerous than leaving their children home alone for 8 hours. They stood in line huddled together. Protecting each other from the night and the predators that lie within it – both human and animal, insect and environmental. They pressed together to stay awake and to stay warm. They waited.

They waited for water that most of the time never came. Every 15 days or so, the tap that they devoted their nights to would provide them with water. When the night would leave them empty-handed, they walked 8 hours to a river to collect their water from. There weren't enough hours in the day. But they pressed on with strength in their hearts.

Can you imagine walking a day IN HER SHOES?

This is how the [In Her Shoes](#) Women's Empowerment Campaign came to be. The women of Lositeti came forward to tell their stories and we asked ourselves, "Could we walk a day in her shoes?". This campaign was designed to free women from the confines of their daily search for water. With your help, the women of Lositeti and so many other villages like it will never need to wait in line at night again. Their children can cry out in the night for their mothers and their mothers can now be there. These women battled against their circumstances and rarely saw victory. Now, victory is theirs for the taking. Through the work of our [Women's Water Initiative](#) children are attending school, are healthy, and are eating consistent meals. Women no longer forfeit their every hour in search of water. Water changes everything, especially for women and children. And change can easily arrive with your help.

We are looking for ambassadors like you to join us in sharing her story, and if possible, fundraising for her. By sharing her story you are opening a channel of love and support to lift her out of the perpetual life of scarcity she was born into. For every \$450 we raise, we can provide her with her very own rainwater harvesting system.

We have several ways to support you in your journey to raise funds and awareness. We encourage you to get creative and create an event that is impactful for you and your audience. We have a list of fundraising ideas from successful past events for you to seek inspiration from. They can be found on the [Get Involved](#) page of our website, here is a quick link: <https://www.savetherain.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Fundraising-Ideas.pdf>

Whether your audience is 1 or 100, or you are able to fund-raise \$4.50 or \$450, know there is no one action of compassion that is too small or too large not to change the world. You can make a difference. All you have to do is act on what you believe to be right, and give it your 100%. Together anything is possible. It won't change the shoes she wears, but it will change the way she walks through life.