

Dear Peter Chasse,

Hi there, enclosed in this envelope is a check for \$156 that was raised for The Water Project. If you don't mind I'd just like to tell you how my friend and I became involved with the fundraising of these monies and tell you a little bit about what we did.

My friend (Jessica [REDACTED]) and I attend Toronto District Christian High School in Ontario. Every year the Grade 11's attend what we call the 'Conference Week' and the 'Service Trip'. Half of the grade spends a week doing service work in downtown Toronto, which includes working at homeless shelters and interacting with the people directly on the streets. The other half of the grade attends the conference, which is held back at the school. After attending the service trip in the Fall of this school year, it was our turn to attend the conference this Spring. The conference is also a week long and consists of watching a couple of movies such as 'Hotel Rwanda' and 'Shake Hands with the Devil' where our primary focus is on the Rwandan Genocide that occurred. We also learn about other disasters in the history of our world such as Stalin's Famine, the Holocaust, etc. Towards the middle of the week we are assigned a project where we must somehow convey what we have learned this week, spread awareness and, if at all possible, make a change. It was at this stage that Jessica and I came across your website and read of how for just \$1 a child can have water for a year! We started to think of ways that we could help with the Water Project. We were cautioned by teachers that straight fundraising may not go so well due to the fact that there were so many other projects going on also (Terry Fox Run, 30 Hour Famine, etc.) So we started to think of creative ways in which we could fundraise, spread awareness, and help people who are without water, something that we take for granted everyday. Basically, we stuck with the fundraising, but added a creative twist. We got hold of a fish tank and filled it with water that we had made adjustments to in order for it to resemble the water we had seen in pictures from impoverished countries. We then baked brownies to symbolize the 'mud cakes' that we discovered were meals for some people in extremely impoverished countries. We encouraged our school to drop \$0.50 in the 'dirty water' to contribute to the Water Project. Each donor would receive a 'mud cake' in return along with a sheet of paper that told of how every 15 seconds someone dies due to lack of water or contaminated water. We discovered that in the time it takes a student to walk from the front doors of our school to the nearest water fountain (15 seconds) someone will have died due to lack of water. This seemed to pull people in and donations kept coming. We kept this up for a week not knowing how much or how little we would raise, all we knew was that \$0.50 is basically nothing to us North Americans and can buy nothing more than a bag of chips in the school cafeteria. People's change started coming from everywhere. For every 6 quarters that were put into the tank (symbolizing the 6 months of water that will provide) we added a cup of clean water to the tank to show the difference they were making in the lives of others.

This project started with two girls just wanting to help but finished with a whole school contributing to what we feel is a very helpful, compassionate cause. Thank you for all your work and God bless you and The Water Project.



Shelby [REDACTED]