

Rhoades Service Learning
Give the Gift of Clean Water
and Education
2019-2020



Water for South Sudan is a non-profit organization that provides clean water for villages in South Sudan. The organization was founded in 2003 by Salva Dut, a former “Lost Boy of Sudan.” Salva lived in Sudan, and was forced to flee his country during the Sudanese Civil War. He walked through Kenya, Ethiopia, and southern Sudan along with thousands of boys in search of safe haven. After living in the Kakuma refugee camp for many years, Salva came to the United States as a refugee and lived in Rochester, New York. He learned that his father was very ill due to a waterborne illness and Salva made it his mission to drill wells for people in South Sudan. He created WFSS, and drilled the first well in South Sudan in 2005. Now, WFSS drills wells that provide clean water for villages and schools, maintains and upgrades older wells that have broken down over time, hosts hygiene trainings and builds sustainable latrines. You can read more about Salva in the book [A Long Walk To Water](#).

WFSS has drilled over 400 wells, rehabilitated 119 wells, hosted 330 hygiene trainings, and served over 300,000 people. WFSS IS supported by donors from all 50 states and 51 countries, and has raised over \$10.2 million from individuals, schools, and faith-based and civic groups since 2004.

At the Rhoades School, 6th graders read [A Long Walk To Water](#) in literature class. For the middle school service learning project, we decided to help WFSS by raising awareness and donating money to their cause. [A Long Walk to Water](#) has inspired Rhoades students. Levi Katriel, an 8th grader, said, “This book taught me that when you persevere, you can really get things done. People around my age and even younger had to walk across deserts to provide water for their families.” Personally, I feel that the book perfectly describes the hardships that the Lost Boys had to go through as they walked across multiple countries to safety, and the hardships that young children still face when they must walk long distances to provide even a little bit a of water for their families.

We hope you will support our goal to raise awareness and funds for WFSS by reading this ebook and making a donation. If you would like to make a gift of your donation to a friend or family member, we will send you a card with artwork by a Rhoades student celebrating your gift. In the email you received with this ebook, there is a link to make a donation to our service learning project, Water for South Sudan.

Thank you for your support and happy holidays!

Griffin
8th Grade

Cover art by Zara and Kait, 8th Grade

7th Grade Reflections

A Long Walk to Water...

...was a deep, emotional story. It made me feel very sad, and it made me want to help the people living in South Sudan, who don't even have access to clean water. It made me feel lucky and fortunate to be here. Koe

... really put some things into perspective for me. I feel so grateful for my life now, after knowing what kids younger than I had to do to get water, something which I take for granted everyday. Divya

... gave me a sense of how hard life really is. Being Indian, I witnessed extreme poverty and bad living conditions on my trip to India. This book showed me the struggles of people that are not my own. Tejas

... made me feel a series of emotions. The dominant one being gratefulness. This book really made me appreciate the life I have and how I shouldn't take a single day for granted. This book enlightened me to stop complaining about little things and enjoy the life I have. Taylor



Art by Bhadra and Sonia, 8th Grade

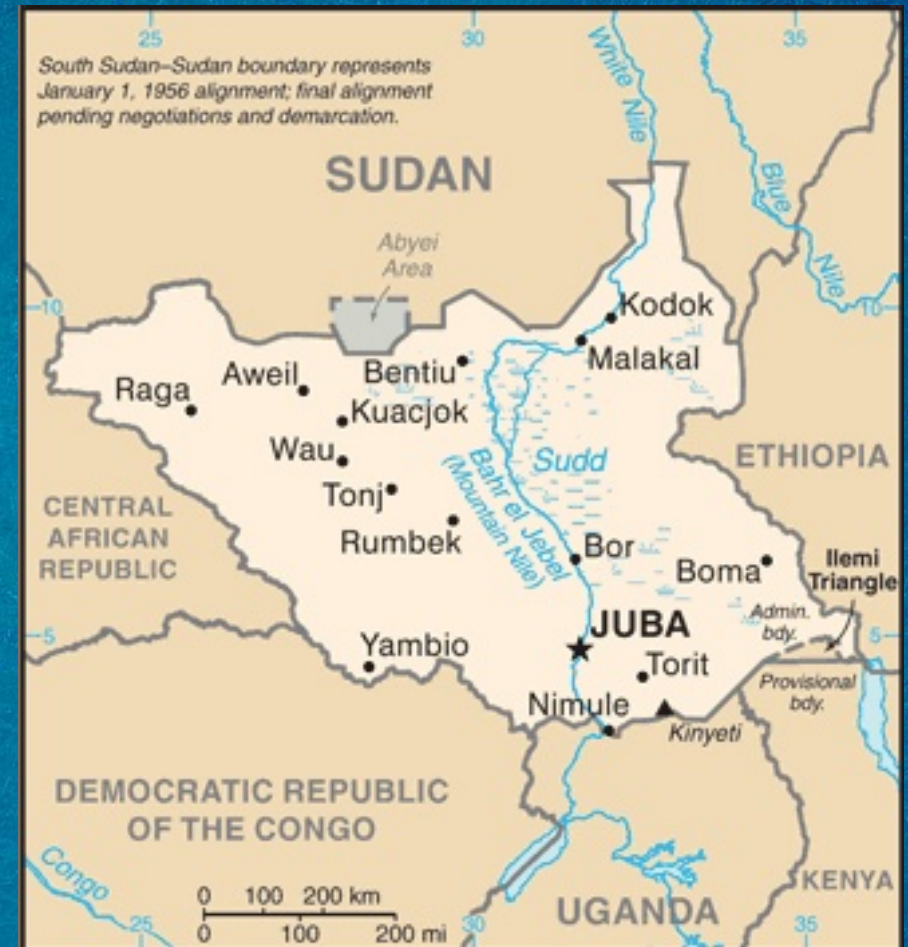
The Need

South Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world. Eighty percent of its 10 million people live in rural areas. Less than a third of the population is literate and the literacy rate is worse among women. More than half the population of South Sudan does not have access to clean water and the leading cause of death is waterborne diseases.

Women and girls spend 40,000 hours each year walking to collect clean water.

Villagers must relocate during the dry season to be near water sources. Only with the arrival of the next wet season can people return to their homes. This annual hunt for water prevents villages from building stable, basic infrastructure such as schools, markets, and medical clinics. Even when villages are able to build clinics or schools, the buildings can remain empty for up to six months year because the dry season forces villagers to find water.

Only 10% of the population of South Sudan has access to basic sanitation.



Water

The sun
seeking

seeing that all water on the surface
is no more
deep red soil
dry as bone
holding water
underground
cloudy with silt
needing to be purified

Building wells

to get water
that does not want to be found
at first the water is as red as soil
slowly clears
until
a river of glass
snakes across the thirsty ground

Adam

8th Grade



WATER FOR
SOUTH SUDAN

Art by Anusha, 8th Grade

7th Grade Reflections
A Long Walk to Water...

... was a moving book for me. One scene in particular that affected me was when Salva's friend was eaten by lions, but Salva did not give up and continued his journey. Jonah

... helped me realize hardships faced in other parts of the world. The part that had the biggest effect on me was when a nine year old girl, Nya, couldn't go to school because she had to walk eight hours a day to get water for her family. Sawyer

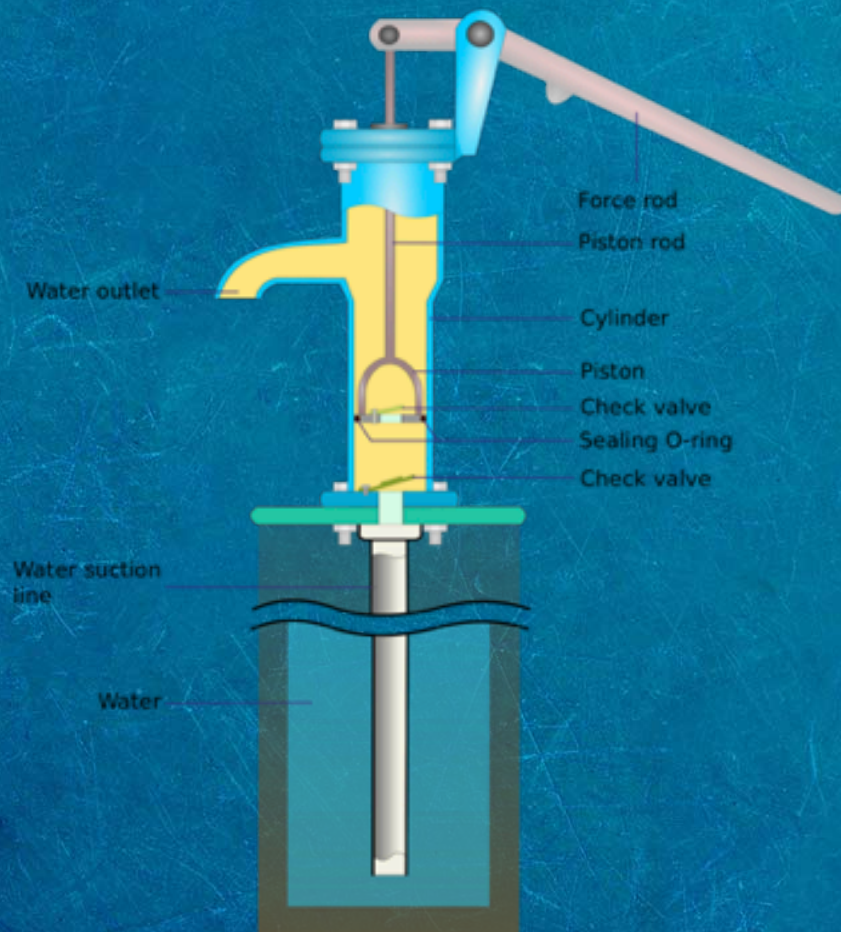
... made me realize how good we have it and how lucky we are to be able to get a good education. I learned what it might feel like to not get this opportunity. Lily

...showed me how privileged I am and what battles less privileged people face. Elias

... made me think about how truly lucky I am and inspired me to help those with less. Jake

How Does a Well Work?

- Manual wells, like the ones in South Sudan, operate by sucking water from underground aquifers by a one-way valve.



Slide by Adam, 8th grade

Water for South Sudan



Art by Neelan, 8th Grade

Water
Hauling a huge container
This job has been a muscle strainer
The closest thing we have to water
As the days repeat, it keeps getting hotter
A bead of sweat drips down my cheek
It seems as though we've been walking for weeks My sandals
are breaking
My feet are aching
My body is shaking
The world is quaking
Underneath my feet.

By Taylor and Grace
7th Grade



7th Grade Reflections

A Long Walk to Water...

... opened my eyes to the struggle for those in South Sudan. It was beautifully written, and reminded me not to take everything for granted. Audrey

... showed me life from a different perspective in a place I was unfamiliar with. I enjoyed the book because I realized how lucky I am. Rohan

... is a fascinating story that really made me feel grateful for all the incredible things I have and the opportunities I have that other's don't. To think that kids my age and younger would have to walk eight hours just for a little bit of dirty water when all we have to do is turn a faucet. It really made me think. Grace

... taught me about the situation in South Sudan. What really affected me was how Salva gave up his good life in America to go back to Sudan to help his people. This really showed me how the world can become a better place. Logan

The Costs of Building and Maintaining Wells



Building a well, particularly in places where surface water is scarce, is expensive because the well has to be dug deep to access water. Constructing a new well costs about \$15,000. Wells have to be maintained and repaired every few years. It costs about \$3,000 to rehabilitate a well.

Slide by Abigail, 8th Grade



Art by James and Tom, 8th Grade

Granted.
By Noa, Kait, Abigail, Bhadra
8th Grade

Granted.
Can you even define “granted”?
You always complain how our generation is so slanted
But you turn a blind eye to the world’s real crimes.

Granted.
Why is that such an easy word to say?
People are starving and dying of dehydration
And yet we barely know what “granted” means,
And the truth about the word granted?
Is kept hidden away oftentimes.

Granted.
People are suffering in the world somewhere,
And “granted” isn’t even in our vocabulary
And even though we know it’s there,
And while the treasures in the far away land
Cost a fortune and endless work
While we get goods so easily,
In these twisted modern times.

Granted.
We barely know what “granted” means
Even if we always take things for it
They’ve gotten fresh water maybe once or twice,
And us, a million times.

Granted.
Can you even define “granted”?
The world is lost and slanted
But we will not be blind to the world’s real crimes.
For we will not take “granted” for granted.
Granted.





Levi 8th grade

What can we do?

- * Raise awareness about the need for clean, accessible water in South Sudan.
- * Donate to support the construction of a well, so girls throughout South Sudan will be able to attend school and receive a proper education and people will have better access to clean water.



Slide by Willa and Bhadra, 8th Grade