

CLEAN WATER ACCESS HELPS LOCAL RESIDENT REMEMBER ETHIOPIA

Swim event will help build wells for local resident's home country of Ethiopia

(NEW YORK)- Dawit Asfeha, an Information Systems Manager at Ernst & Young, moved from Ethiopia to the United States with his parents as a young child in the early 1980s. Asfeha and his family had limited access to clean drinking water when they lived in Ethiopia.

Asfeha has donated \$2,000 to Clean Water Access and will participate in the organization's Take a Dive, Build a Well swim event hosted by Michael Phelps on July 21, 2012.

Take a Dive, Build a Well is a 1K swim across the East River. The event starts at 10 a.m. and cost \$50 to participate. The swim will start at the Brooklyn Bridge Park and end on Dover Street in Manhattan.

Michael Phelps will give a speech at the end of the swim. After the speech, Phelps will award the winner of each round.

Clean Water Access is a non-profit organization in New York City that builds wells for millions of people that do not have access to clean water. The donations are used to fund projects in African and Asian countries.

Clean Water Access will use the donations from the event to build wells in Asfeha's home country of Ethiopia.

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Asfeha, a graduate from Syracuse University, has been involved with several nonprofit organizations around the New York City area that provide aid to African countries. This is the first time Asfeha has been involved with Clean Water Access.

“I take pride in being from Ethiopia and try to give as much as I can to my home country,” Asfeha said. “I thank Clean Water Access for hosting an event that will use donations to build wells and provide clean water to thousands of Ethiopians who are in need.

Nick Morris, founder and president, started Clean Water Access in 2010. He started the nonprofit after volunteering for the Red Cross and visiting Africa.

“Clean water is a necessary to sustain human life,” Morris said. “I felt like I needed to do something to help the millions without clean water and give them a better opportunity to live a better life.

Clean Water Access has built 100 wells in five countries since the organization was started in 2010. Clean Water Access uses 85 percent of all donations to fund well building projects in Africa and Asia. The 2012 goal for the organization is to raise \$5,000,000.

“This year’s goal is much higher than the previous two years,” Morris said. “More people know about Clean Water Access and I feel there is a need to be more ambitious when setting fundraising goals.”

For more information on the event or Clean Water Access, contact Joe Blow at joeblow@cleanwateraccess.org or 917-117-7777.

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