



# blood:water mission

By: Sierra Jenkins National HOSA President Elect

There are 37 million people worldwide that are infected with HIV/AIDS. Of the 37 million people suffering from HIV/AIDS, 2 million are children and 17 million are women. AIDS has already killed 22 million people in the world and threatens to kill millions more. The wide spread epidemic of AIDS not only causes grief and death, but it also decreases life expectancy, increases child mortality, orphans millions, poverty, powerlessness and social instability.

What is AIDS? AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and was first recognized in the 1980s. AIDS is caused by HIV, or Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus and can be passed from person to person through sexual contact, blood transfusion, and other bodily fluids. Mothers with HIV can pass the HIV to their babies during pregnancy, delivery, and by breast feeding. HIV weakens the immune system which prevents the fighting off of certain cancers. HIV eventually leads to AIDS that cause terminal illnesses. HIV/AIDS is treatable and preventable.

Sub-Saharan Africa makes up about 10% of the world's population with 60% (25 million) of its people infected with HIV. Sub-Saharan has the world's highest HIV rate and faces the greatest demographic impact. Other countries in Africa affected by the HIV virus include the following: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, and Swaziland.

## 4 children die every minute because of a lack of clean water

Why Blood? AIDS is carried in the blood and clean blood represents blood free HIV. Why Water? "Clean water is a basic human right and a foundational element in community health, and is in many ways the first step toward achieving overall community health. Unsafe water and poor

sanitation play a major role in the transmission of many diseases, including diarrhea, cholera, malaria, schistosomiasis and typhoid. Diarrhea alone is responsible for the deaths of 1.8 million people each year, 90% of whom are children under 5, and 88% of diarrhea is caused by unclean water and inadequate sanitation." (World Health Organization) For AIDS patients', clean water is a necessity because water helps prevent the aggravation of the disease and provides effective care for them.

"Blood: Water Mission, committed to clean blood and clean water to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to build clean wells in Africa, to support medical facilities caring for the sick, to make a lasting impact in the fight against poverty, injustice and oppression in Africa through the linking of needs, talents and continents, of people and resources."  
([www.bloodwatermission.com](http://www.bloodwatermission.com))

The 1,000 Wells Project is a project to help clean the water in various African communities. The goal is to build 1,000 wells that will provide clean and disease free water to the African communities. One simple dollar makes such a difference. It provides one year of clean water for an African. Think about it: Make water your only beverage for just two weeks. Save the money you would usually spend on beverages. After two weeks, send the money to Blood: Water Mission and it will be used to drill clean water wells where the need is great. For more information on this amazing project and on how you can make a difference go to [www.bloodwatermission.com](http://www.bloodwatermission.com).

