

Schools Helping Schools

U.S. schools are finding innovative ways to sponsor water, sanitation and hygiene education programs at partner schools in the developing world.

A good example is the project started by Highview Middle School in New Brighton, Minnesota, which is raising \$10,000 to help support a full WASH-in-Schools package for the Entonet School of 950 students in Kenya. This project, which will be implemented by the Kenya Rainwater Association, is coordinated by H₂O for Life, a nonprofit organization started by Minnesota schoolteacher Patty Hall. She began the organization in 2006 in response to a letter received from a Kenyan friend telling of the enormous need for safe water, sanitation and hygiene in his local community.

U.S. students are becoming increasingly interested in sponsoring WASH-in-Schools projects because they can see the difference that the funds they raise are making in the lives of others. They can also build one-on-one relationships with students in other parts of the world, enhancing their understanding of different cultures and enriching their learning. “Another outcome of our mission, as important as funding WASH projects, is for the youth in the U.S. schools to become knowledgeable and



Highview Middle School students sponsor a coin drive to collect funds.

invested in the global community and become activists for change. The sustainability of these and other service projects throughout the world depends on the next generation’s involvement,” says Patty Hall.

Responding to this growing enthusiasm to sponsor WASH-in-School projects, H₂O for Life helps match schools in the U.S. with counterparts in the developing world.

If you as a student, teacher or parent are interested in using this approach to make a difference in the lives of schoolchildren in the developing world, please go to [www.H₂Oforlifeshoolschool.org](http://www.H2Oforlifeshoolschool.org) to learn more.

Highview Middle School students and teacher Ben Pennings participate in a “Walk for Water” sponsored by H₂O for Life.

Minnesota’s Highview Middle School students spent an afternoon walking 10 miles around the Highview track—with some walking half that distance carrying large buckets of water—demonstrating what people all over the developing world must do every day to collect water for their families. Through this walk, they raised over \$4,500 in donations from friends, relatives and neighbors to support a WASH program at Entonet School in Kenya.

