Water for People runs deep with CH2M HILL



CH2M HILL recognizes and supports WFP as an excellent organization that provides critical water development project services to underserved people worldwide. The firm is investigating ways to make it convenient for employees to support WFP and will be providing additional information in the coming months. If you'd like to provide support today, please visit WFP's Web site at www.waterforpeople.com.

According to the World Health Organization, 2.2 million people, most of them children, die each year from diseases associated with unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

An international non-profit organization is trying to change that, with a commitment to long-term solutions that increase access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation and health.

Water for People began in 1991 when Ken Miller, a now-retired Senior Vice President at CH2M HILL, helped found the organization along with other professionals from the American Water Works Association. From simple hand washing practices, to installing wells and tapstands near homes, WFP projects give communities clean water and safe practices, and a sense of hope.

Miller served as the organization's first president. Last year, WFP established The Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award

to honor those continuing his example of outstanding volunteer service and international humanitarian effort.

Elisa Speranza of CH2M HILL's Boston office, now serves on Water for People's National Board of Directors. She joined WFP following her experience working in Egypt in the late 1980s. "Alexandria's a big, relatively modern city compared to most places Water for People works," said Speranza. "Even there, the lack of water and wastewater facilities had a devastating impact on public health and the environment. You could not drink the water without getting sick—even with water treatment plants. I came away from that experience with a whole new appreciation of how much we take safe water for granted in North America."

During his presidency of the Water Environment Federation, Joe Stowe, of CH2M HILL's Charlotte office, established a partnership between Water for People and WEF. He now serves on WFP's national board as their first WEF representative. Stowe has been involved with Water for People almost since the beginning, including traveling to Slovakia to help the newly independent state in transitioning its utilities from a state-owned operation to a regionally owned system. "If there is anything I can do, in any little way to help, I want to do it," Stowe said.

CH2M HILL now serves as regional sponsor of WFP through the CH2M HILL Foundation, and many offices around North America support local Water for People committees. To learn more about Water For People, please visit their Web site at www.waterforpeople.org















