

# How YOU Can Get Involved in the Safe Water Mission!

by Seth Schneider

Interested in volunteering your time to help bring safe drinking water to a developing nation? Want to become active in a local chapter of a safe water-related organization? Interested in helping with the ongoing Hurricanes Katrina and Rita cleanup or the Southeast Asia tsunami recovery? Maybe you simply want to make charitable donations to organizations dedicated to this work? Compiled here is some information on organizations with a mission to help the world's clean water crisis.

## Organizations with New York Ties

*For those of you who would like to make a difference yet stay in New York, the following organizations have New York chapters that you can join.*

### Water For People

(<http://www.waterforpeople.com/>)

Water For People is an international nonprofit development organization committed to the long-term impact of increased access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation and health. Water For People finds that providing safe drinking water serves as a catalyst for greater community development. Water For People has over 45 local volunteer committees across North America, including a New York City chapter. Please read the article about this organization in this issue. To join a local committee or organize an activity on your own, please contact [jkraszewski@waterforpeople.org](mailto:jkraszewski@waterforpeople.org).

### Engineers Without Borders – USA

(<http://www.ewb-usa.org/>)

Engineers Without Borders-USA is a nonprofit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students. The activities of EWB-USA range from the construction of sustainable systems that developing communities can own and operate without external assistance, to empowering such communities by enhancing local, technical, managerial, and entrepreneurial skills. These projects are ini-

tiated by and completed with contributions from the host community working with their project teams. Engineers Without Borders has a New York City professionals chapter (<http://www.ewbnewyork.com/>). Locate other chapters at the "Membership and Getting Involved" link on the home page.

### Rotary International

(<http://www.rotary.org/>)

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. To find a club in your area, go to the club locator at <http://www.rotary.org/support/clubs/index.html> and search by zip code.

### WaterAid America

(<http://www.wateraid.org/usa/>)

WaterAid is an international charity dedicated to helping people escape the stranglehold of poverty and disease caused by living without safe water and sanitation. The WaterAid America office is based in central Manhattan and needs office support to help raise awareness and funds for WaterAid's work worldwide. For more information, you may contact: [inquiries@wateraid.org](mailto:inquiries@wateraid.org)

### Engineers for a Sustainable World

(<http://www.esustainableworld.org/>)

Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) is a nonprofit organization with a network of professionals and students working to reduce poverty and improve global sustainability. Through domestic and international development work, education, and public outreach, ESW mobilizes engineers to address global challenges. Its members and volunteers develop innovative technologies, shape policy, foster small-scale enterprise, improve lives and build a more sustainable world. ESW has local chapters at many college campuses and professional chapters are being formed in many areas. For information, click on "Chapters" from the ESW home page.

## Faith-Based Organizations

*In addition to the nondenominational organizations listed, there are a large number of faith-based organizations dedicated to bringing clean water to the developing world. Many of these organizations offer opportunities to work abroad, and a sampling of them appears here.*

### Living Waters for the World

(<http://livingwatersfortheworld.org/>)

Living Waters for the World is the global mission resource of the Synod of Living Waters (Presbyterian Church USA). Their mission is to serve as a resource to churches of all denominations, civic organizations and others in mission, enabling them to provide pure water to their partners in need. They provide training in partnership development, health, hygiene and spiritual education and water purification. Get involved through your local church (regardless of the denomination) or civic organization.

### Lifewater International

(<http://www.lifewater.org/>)

Lifewater International (LI) is a Christian training organization with water development goals, including solutions to safe water, hygiene, and sanitation problems through the development of local communities. Qualified Lifewater Volunteer Trainers (VTs) travel to developing countries to train nationals to improve local drinking water supplies and community health. In turn, national crews are able to continue training others after VTs leave. Lifewater has over 250 active VTs from many backgrounds - including teachers, small business owners, hydrogeologists, engineers, environmental scientists, to name a few - who have served on over 50 projects on five continents. Since 1979, Lifewater-trained crews have installed 2,500 water systems and helped serve an estimated one million people with safe water. Email [rebekahp@lifewater.org](mailto:rebekahp@lifewater.org) to become a volunteer.

### Water Missions, International

(<http://www.watermissions.org/>)

Water Missions International is a nonprofit, Christian engineering organization whose mission is to provide safe water to people in developing countries and disaster areas. One can volunteer to help in the production center, office, or in the field traveling to developing countries and disaster areas in order to implement WMI projects. Field volunteers are generally experienced production volunteers who have excellent technical

skills and are capable of traveling internationally, either alone or with another WMI volunteer or staff member. Less experienced people can volunteer in the office and with language translation.

#### **Waterlines** (<http://www.waterlines.org/>)

Waterlines is a publicly-funded, nonprofit organization. Its purpose is to aid US churches and other organizations in providing clean drinking water to communities in developing countries. Waterlines has provided funding and/or technical expertise for drinking water projects in over 200 communities in 12 countries. Waterlines works in small villages, usually with populations between 200 and 2,000 people, where existing water sources are contaminated or distant.

#### **Disaster Relief Organizations**

*Unfortunately, much help is still needed in the Gulf Coast and in Southeast Asia to help recover from hurricane and tsunami damage. The following are just a sample of organizations that are involved in disaster relief.*

#### **American Red Cross**

(<http://www.redcross.org/>)

Each year, the American Red Cross responds immediately to more than 70,000 disasters, including house or apartment fires (the majority of disaster responses), hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous materials spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and other natural and man-made disasters. Red Cross disaster relief focuses on meeting people's immediate emergency disaster-caused needs including shelter, food, and health and mental health services. The Red Cross also feeds emergency workers, handles inquiries from concerned family members, provides blood and blood products to disaster victims, and helps those affected by disaster to access other available resources. To get involved and to make a donation, go to "Disaster Service" from the Red Cross home page.

#### **Oxfam America**

(<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/>)

If interested in helping with cleanup from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, contact Oxfam America. Oxfam is helping communities address public health concerns as they clean up and recover from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Oxfam America is a nonprofit organization working to end global poverty through saving lives, strengthening com-

munities and campaigning for change.

#### **Volunteer Vacations**

*In addition to the already listed organizations, many others offer great opportunities to spend your vacation time making a difference. The following is a sample of such organizations.*

#### **Engineering Ministries International**

(<http://emiusa.org/>)

Engineering Ministries International (eMi) is a nonprofit Christian development organization made up of architects, engi-

neers and design professionals who donate their skills to help children and families around the world. Volunteer engineers make possible clean water, sanitation, adequate housing, schools, hospitals and other basic infrastructure. One can volunteer for a two-week trip, provide construction management services or help to set up funding partnerships with willing donors.

#### **Sierra Club**

(<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/service.asp>)

*continued on page 50*



# VOGELSANG

## Sludge Pump Division



## If your sludge stops flowing, we'll eat it!



Vogelsang HiFlo™  
Sludge Pump  
ISO9001 2000 Registered

### 2 years, 100% parts & labor including wear items

Vogelsang has the best standard warranty in the business, 2 years, 100% parts and labor including wear items, such as mechanical seals, lobes and wear plates. Contact us to see how you can reduce your sludge pumping operating costs by up to 50% over 5 years.

Contact your local distributor:

## Koester Associates, 315.697.3800

continued from page 49

The Sierra Club runs roughly 90 service trips each year. Its National Outings Program donates roughly 27,000 work hours to state and federal land agencies. Service trips range from helping with research projects at whale calving grounds in Maui, to assisting with archaeological site restoration in New Mexico. Usually, service trip participants team up with forest service rangers or park service personnel to restore wilderness areas, maintain trails, clean up trash and campsites, and remove non-native plants. Trips are generally one week in length. One can join the Atlantic (New York) Chapter at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org>.

**Global Service Corps**

(<http://www.globalservicecorps.org/>)

Global Service Corps (GSC) is a nonprofit international volunteer organization providing service-learning opportunities for people worldwide to live and work abroad in Thailand and Tanzania. Programs are offered year round from two weeks to six months. Enjoy a true cultural immersion by staying in a home-stay with local families while working hand-in-hand with local counterparts. Personalized service-learning programs, including HIV/AIDS Prevention,

Sustainable Agriculture, Healthcare, English Instruction, Buddhist Immersion, and the Seeds of Sustenance Fellowship, begin with in-depth training sessions and provide rewarding hands-on challenges for volunteers. Global Service Corps tailors its development programs to offer the most benefit to the community.

**El Porvenir** (<http://www.elporvenir.org/>)

El Porvenir's mission is to improve the standard of living of poor people in Nicaragua through sustainable self-help water, sanitation and reforestation projects. By joining a work trip with El Porvenir, it offers groups of 10 to 15 people the opportunity to work side-by-side with villagers on projects.

**Peace Corps**

For those of you who are very serious about donating your time, there is, of course, the Peace Corps: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/>.

*For other ideas look up, "Volunteer Vacations: Short-Term Adventures That Will Benefit You and Others," by Bill McMillon, Doug Cutchins, and Anne Geissinger.*

*The NYWEA makes no representation as to these organizations. If interested in giving your time or money, NYWEA urges you to do your own research into the organization of your choice. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of such organizations, so we urge you to research others that may meet your needs.*

*Seth Schneider is a senior project engineer with Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., in White Plains, NY. He is a member of the NYWEA's Metropolitan Chapter and serves on the Humanitarian Assistance Committee.*



Eccentric.



**VAL-MATIC®**

905 Riverside Drive, Elmhurst, IL 60126  
phone: 630-941-7600 / fax: 630-941-8042  
[www.valmatic.com](http://www.valmatic.com) [valves@valmatic.com](mailto:valves@valmatic.com)

You know that old saying...  
"It takes all kinds?"

It doesn't apply to Plug Valves.

Represented By:  
**Harper International**  
1010 Washington Blvd.  
Stamford, CT 06901  
800.551.2733p  
203.323.7100f  
[www.SolutionsByHarper.com](http://www.SolutionsByHarper.com)

Cam-Centric®.



There are many eccentrics on the market today, but the Val-Matic Cam-Centric® plug valve is the one that makes sense in wastewater applications. It's the only plug valve that includes Grit Guard™ seals to prevent grit from reaching the Type 316 permanently lubricated bearings and packing. It's the only plug valve on the market that not only provides adjustable/replaceable vee type packing but also includes our exclusive POP™ feature to prevent the packing from being over-tightened and leaking.



The Eccentric Plug Valve

The Val-Matic Cam-Centric® plug valve is the only valve on the market that provides thrust bearings in the upper and lower bearing journals to help assure easy operation. Smooth operation is further assured by our exclusive worm gear bearing package that includes 4 radial bearings and 2 roller thrust bearings.

Eccentrics make sense in wastewater, but only if they're Cam-Centric®.

®Packing Overload Protection