



GROUNDWATER FOUNDATION

Protect. Connect. Inspire.

2021 Q2 Report



GROUNDWATER HAS A MISSION.

One woman's recent trip to Guatemala teaches the importance of clean water for better health and a better quality of life.

By: Michelle Morse

Our family lives a blessed life, a comfortable life. My husband and I want our children to see for themselves that not everyone is so comfortable in the life they are living. Our children are already kind individuals, but our hope is for them to see things through a new lens: one that is even more caring, compassionate, and loving. With that said, my son Nate and I recently traveled to Villa Nueva, Guatemala, to nourish the bodies and souls of the children and families in need in Guatemala.

In mid-June, we flew to Guatemala and stayed with the most loving, kind, and generous family who frequently host "missionaries."

Papa Luis and Mama Esme own a pharmacy in Villa Nueva, providing people in the community the medications they desperately need, many times at no cost. They, along with their children and grandchildren, also regularly travel far from their community to preach the word of God, and feed and clothe the hungry. By God's grace, and the generosity of our family and friends donations, we were able to travel along with this amazing family to many different communities throughout the country.

We learned that water, especially clean water, is a luxury in Guatemala. Many families do not have access to water, so they must use water from the river for drinking, cleaning clothes, and bathing. While some families live near the river, others are required to travel long distances to reach this basic necessity.

We saw many children carrying around little bags of "purified" water, like how American children carry juice boxes. We were told, however, that while these little baggies of water are inexpensive and handy, they are not truly purified. In fact, it is very common for the people of Guatemala to become ill from the parasites in the water, especially the children, then suffer the effects – diarrhea, vomiting, and infections.

During our time in Guatemala, we met with several groups of children, where we provided Vacation Bible School-type items (cross necklaces, crafts, etc.), served the lunch we had made for them, and handed out t-shirts from The Groundwater Foundation.

In a country where clean water is most precious, and difficult to come by, our trip provided an opportunity to talk about the importance of protecting our world's groundwater – that clean water equals better health and better quality of life. Mama Esme tied it into a Vacation Bible School lesson for the children, teaching them that God is the water of life. She told them that just as we

"In fact, it is very common for the people of Guatemala to become ill from the parasites in the water, especially the children, then suffer the effects."

need water to live, we need God to live – that both are essential.

One home we visited was fortunate enough to have a water well that was dug some 30 years ago, which they share with many families in the area. But even this is not easy. Once the water is collected, they must boil it before being able to consume it. And these families do not have regular stoves; they cook overtop of burning wood.

In addition, Nate and I visited with different elderly groups who continue to struggle due to the impact of COVID-19, which still runs rampant in the country. We had the pleasure of helping to put together giant, 60-pound baskets of food and other necessities to give to people in the area.

Through it all, the beautiful people of Guatemala are incredibly warm, welcoming, and grateful for anything they are given. They may not have a lot materialistically, but they are willing to share or outright hand you whatever it is they possess, which we experienced too many times to count on our journey. They are strong, hard-working, resilient people, and we are so blessed to call them our brothers and sisters in Christ. The memories made will be forever cherished, and the lessons learned will continue to be put into practice with grateful hearts now that we are back home.

We thank The Groundwater Foundation for providing t-shirts and other items for youth education. We look forward to working with The Groundwater Foundation on future projects to better ensure people across the world have access to safe and healthy water.



PROTECT.
CONNECT.
INSPIRE.





To celebrate National Drinking Water Week (May 2-8), The Vermont Drinking Water Week Committee (VTDWW), donated and distributed Awesome Aquifer Kits and other water activities, created by The Groundwater Foundation. VTDWW estimated they reached over 300 students at 10 schools throughout the state.

AWESOME AQUIFER KITS



**Approximately
1,000**

students have been
educated with the
Awesome Aquifer Kits
in Q2.

► Volunteers from Goulds Water Technology, a Xylem brand, presented Awesome Aquifer Kits to elementary students in Wisconsin to educate them on aquifers and groundwater science. We are thrilled to help inspire the next generation and instill in them the importance of protecting our most valuable resource.



April 23, 2021

Dear Mrs. Smith and Mrs. O'Grady,

Thank you for teaching so much. I loved when we got to do the kits. It was so much fun when I learned:

- Charcoal can help filter dirty H₂O
- Should be a filter at the end of your well pump.
- Wells should be in a good place.

Sincerely,
Raegan Perupell

April 23, 2021

Dear Mrs. Smith and Mrs. O'Grady,

Thank you for coming to our school and teaching us about water and for the snack, thank! I really enjoyed the hands-on lesson. I also enjoyed using the dye to mix the clean water and dirty water. I learned:

- some people use too much water
- wells can be very deep, or very shallow
- water is very important to us.

Sincerely,
Lafay Snale

Dear Mrs. Smith and Mrs. O'Grady,

Thank you for teaching us about Awesome Aquifers two days ago. It was very interesting learning we're around water came from. I'm also glad that we got to make a hill out of the folks that you brought. I learned:

- Wells can be over 1000 ft deep.
- Water goes through the ground easily.
- There should be a filter at the end of your well pump.

Sincerely,
Mason Guen

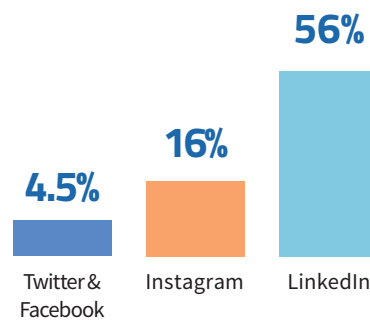


► Members of Goulds Water Technology, a Xylem brand, taught elementary students in Wisconsin about aquifers and groundwater with the Awesome Aquifer Kit.

We are thrilled to help inspire the next generation and help educate them about the importance of groundwater!



**SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS INCREASED
SINCE JANUARY 2021**



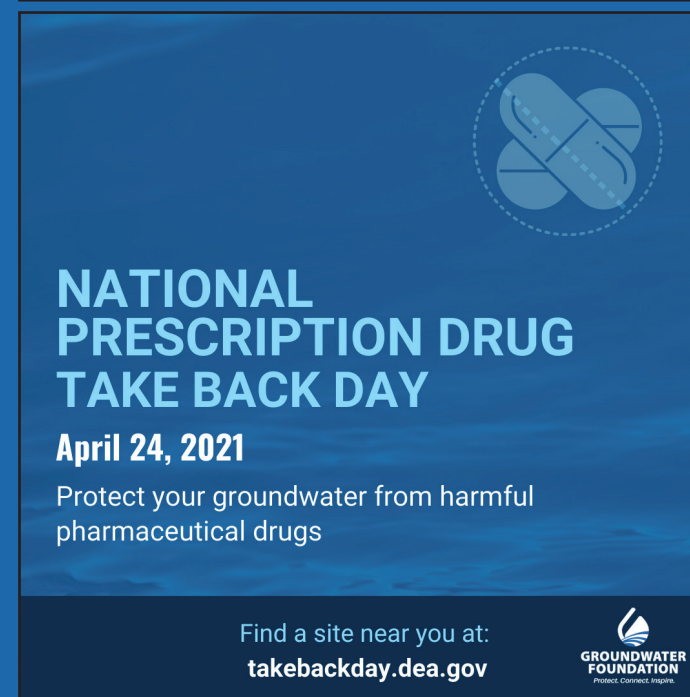
Total followers on all platforms;
18,789



62
GROUNDWATER
GUARDIANS

THIS QUARTER WE ACCOMPLISHED...

- On June 24, The Groundwater Foundation presented a webinar titled Groundwater and Public Health: The Fundamentals which covered the basics of groundwater and its connection to public health and drinking water. Potential educators hailed from a range of schools and universities, county and state government agencies, water well contracting firms, consulting firms, and private industry.
- On National Prescription Take Back Day, we promoted through advertising and social media the important role proper prescription drug disposal play in groundwater protection and safety. **Nearly 1 million pounds of prescription drugs and unused medicine was collected during the event.**
- We launched our new campaign to redesign The Groundwater Foundation mascot Frannie the Fish! The nationwide campaign asks educators, groundwater guardians, and parents to work with children and students to help us re-design our longtime mascot and bring Frannie the Fish into the future!

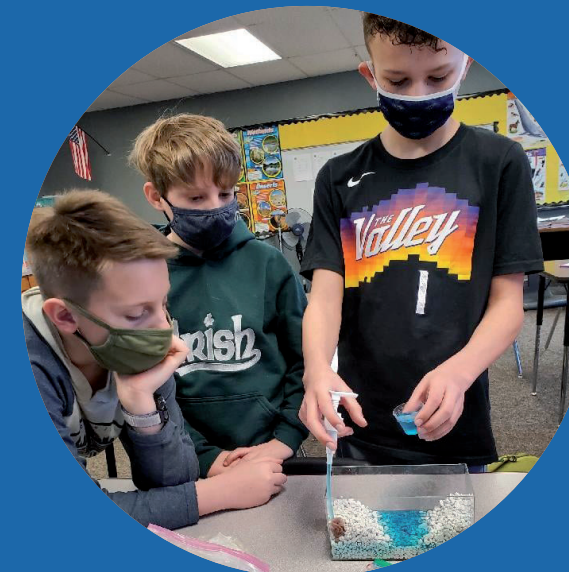


"We believe the Awesome Aquifer Kits will help educate our youth on the importance of proper groundwater management so that it can be protected and sustained for future generations."

NGWA CEO Terry S. Morse



106,146
VISITORS TO
GROUNDWATER.ORG



13.1M homes' water source is a private well

64M people in North America do not have access to clean, safe, affordable drinking water.

Through WellOwner.org, The Groundwater Foundation educates private home owners, whose source of water are private wells, the proper maintenance to Test, Tend, and Treat their private well source.

15% of the U.S. population relies on private water wells.
78% of the U.S. community water systems are sourced by groundwater.

AWESOME AQUIFER KIT SUCCESS

WE HAVE SOLD
1,300+ KITS IN
ONE YEAR

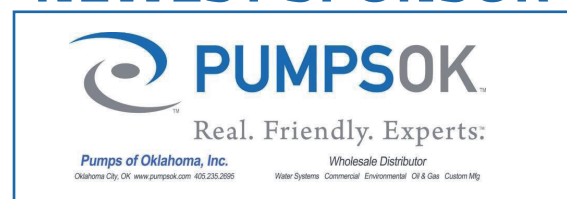


INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GROUNDWATER PROFESSIONALS

The Awesome Aquifer Kits are a one-of-a-kind educational tool that provides fun and hands-on investigations to help students understand and get excited about groundwater science.

To date,
210,000+
grade school children
were educated by The
Groundwater Foundation.

NEWEST SPONSOR



PROGRAM SPONSORS:



We would like to thank our sponsors for providing the much-needed resources to inspire the next generation of groundwater professionals. We look forward to expanding our sponsorship program this year and for years to come.

For more information on sponsorship, please contact NGWA CEO Terry S. Morse, tmorse@ngwa.org.
groundwater.org