



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RYAN HRELJAC, FOUNDER OF RYAN'S WELL, ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER FOR CHOLERA-STRICKEN HAITI

Also announces new projects to provide clean water, hygiene education and sanitation for over 22,000 people in Africa.



Ottawa, ON – October 16, 2013

Ryan Hreljac, who, as a six-year-old, received international acclaim by raising funds to build a well in Africa, today announced an international project for students.

[The School Challenge for Haiti](#) encourages students at schools worldwide to develop and implement an imaginative fundraiser; the proceeds of which will go directly to build wells, hand-washing stations and sanitation facilities in three of the poorest Haitian schools. Over 1,400 children will have healthier lives and a better chance of survival by the time the initiative wraps up on World Water Day (March 22, 2014).

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, Haiti now faces the worst cholera outbreak in recent history, killing over 8,000 people since it began in 2010.

“This is our fifth School Challenge and one of our most urgent,” Hreljac, now 22, stated. “We chose Haiti as this year’s project to make a significant impact on the suffering of these children who are dying needlessly. This year we’re helping three schools, and we’re sure school kids everywhere will rise to the challenge.”

Following his recent keynote speech at Germany’s One World Family Conference where he received an award from the sister of President Barack Obama, Hreljac said students who take part in the Challenge will receive first-hand updates and photos at every stage of the building process.

“This makes kids feel closer to the children in Haiti; it makes them feel as though they really own these projects. Kids have the best hearts, and we all need to think like a six-year-old,” Hreljac said.

In the past five years, students and teachers from over 118 schools around the globe have provided safe, clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene education to over 6,900 children in developing countries worldwide.

Last year's project in Ghana raised a record \$42,456. As one enthusiastic Sudbury, Ontario student stated, "We chose this project because two of our students recently arrived from Ghana. Building a well near the school means that kids can go to school, rather than spending time walking to get water."

Hreljac, an Order of Ontario recipient who has been featured on international media including *the Oprah Winfrey Show*, also announced new Ryan's Well projects which will provide clean water, hygiene education and sanitation to over 22,000 children and families in Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Burkina Faso and Togo.

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About the Ryan's Well Foundation: The Ryan's Well Foundation grew out of the commitment of six-year-old Ryan Hreljac, who learned of the great need for safe water in developing countries. The Ryan's Well Foundation is a family of people committed to delivering access to safe water and sanitation as an essential way to improve the lives of people in the developing world. We empower citizens of all ages to take action and effect change in the world. Founded in 2001, Ryan's Well is a registered Canadian charity (www.ryanswell.ca).

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