



**Ryan's Well partners with the World of Children in support of a clean water project for the Kavule Parents School for the Deaf in Eastern Uganda**

November 5, 2009 (KEMPTVILLE, Ont.) – At the World of Children Award's in New York City, Velma McColl, Chair of the Ryan's Well Foundation announced that the foundation will provide support for a clean water source and hygiene education activities for the Kavule Parents School for the Deaf. This partnership brings together two World of Children Honourees, Sam Kateu, founder of the school and recipient of the 2009 Humanitarian Award and Ryan Hreljac, the 2003 Founder's Youth Award.

Located in Eastern Uganda, the school has 65 hearing impaired students between the ages of 7 and 15 years old. Students have to walk daily to the spring in the nearest village; and they must then carry water back to school in heavy jerry cans. When water is needed, teaching at the school stops for one to two hours so water can be collected by the students.

The World of Children Awards program was created to recognize selfless individuals who make a difference in the lives of children across the globe. In 2003, at the age of 12, Ryan Hreljac, founder of Ryan's Well, was honoured to receive the World of Children's Founder's Youth Award.

The Ryan's Well Foundation was inspired to make a difference after reading Mr. Kateu's story. Set up in 1999, Mr. Kateu founded the only school for hearing impaired children in the whole eastern region of Uganda. It is hoped that with a clean water source, the school will continue to expand and allow more children to attend this school.

"A clean water source at this school will allow these students, whose families have extremely limited resources with no other education choices, to focus on their studies," said Velma McColl, Chair of Ryan's Well. "Students will not have to travel a great distance and they will learn about the benefits of safe water and the important contribution each person makes by following safe water practices."

To date, the Foundation has financed 518 water projects in 16 countries serving more than 640,000 people. Many of its projects have been completed in Uganda where the Foundation has a long history of assisting communities and schools, so it is only fitting for the Foundation to be involved in this worthwhile project.

**About Ryan's Well Foundation:** The Ryan's Well Foundation has three primary goals: **BUILD, EDUCATE** and **MOTIVATE** – building water and sanitation projects in developing countries; educating students about the need for clean water and the possibility of making a difference in their world; and motivating people, especially youth, to take action and make a positive change in our world. Founded in 2001, Ryan's Well is a registered Canadian charity.

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Ryan's Well Foundation ([www.ryanswell.ca](http://www.ryanswell.ca))

World of Children ([www.worldofchildren.org](http://www.worldofchildren.org))