

## **NWC Commitment to Community Feature – October 2010**

Safe Water Plus Africa is a humanitarian effort lead by Rotary International and World Vision. The project addresses the need for safe water, adequate sanitation facilities, health and hygiene education and long-term operation and maintenance of water supply and sanitation systems in Northern Uganda.

### **We Care**

NWC cares about our international communities. From 1986-2006, the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) devastated Northern Uganda displacing over 650,000 citizens, subjecting men, women and children to murder, looting, torture, maiming, mutilation and abduction of children. Of great concern throughout the conflict was the mistreatment of children who were taken by the LRA and forced to perform acts of terrorism against their own communities including cutting off the hands, lips and ears of citizens suspected of sympathizing with the government.

The aftermath of the LRA's reign left the area of Northern Uganda torn to pieces, without safe drinking water, proper sanitation methods or access to health and education. Through a unique partnership between Rotary International and World Vision, the Safe Water Plus Africa project seeks to improve these conditions for citizens returning to their communities. By reducing the spread of disease, encouraging creation of new businesses and rebuilding social infrastructures, the Safe Water Plus Africa project hopes to re-establish safe living conditions in over 60 villages throughout the region over the next 2 years.

### **We Give**

In the spring of 2010, NWC learned of the need and opportunity to support the Safe Water Plus Africa project through Rotary District 5950 who had received a competitive grant from The Rotary Foundation to embark on a \$1.5 million water and sanitation project in Northern Uganda. The grant offered an opportunity for donors to leverage their contributions through the Rotary International Matching Grant Program. NWC's donation has gone directly to the construction of fresh water wells, building a public latrine (bathroom) and establishing a rain water collection and storage system in the villages of Paicho, Onyona Ongako and Koro.

With two schools in the areas reached, NWC's donation has had a direct impact on the immediate needs of over 1,200 children and families currently living in the area, as well as the long-term social infrastructure that will lead to positive growth and economic sustainability that come with access to water and educational resources. Please view the map to find the Paicho, Koro and Ongako locations.

### **We Serve**

The opportunity to give to Safe Water Plus Africa is a direct result of NWC CEO Josh Dirlam's involvement with Rotary International. Carrying the Rotary International mission of "Service Above Self," Dirlam has contributed to humanitarian efforts as an active member since 2005. In addition, Dirlam served as the Eden Prairie chapter president during the 2009-2010 term. If you are interested in learning more about the Safe Water Plus Africa project, contact Tim Murphy, Rotary District 5950 International Project Chair and GSE Team Leader to East Africa, at [Tim.murphy@murphyauto.net](mailto:Tim.murphy@murphyauto.net) or 612-719-9745.