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Marathoner Lends Effort for Clean Water for African Village



A world-class marathoner hopes to draw attention to an Ethiopian village where the lack of clean water could be easily solved with a well.

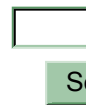
Eighty-two-year-old Helen Klein is known in the running world for her achievements as a marathoner. She has agreed to participate in a humanitarian effort to help get a clean water well built in the village of Kersa Illala. There, woman and children walk several miles each day to fetch river water that is polluted. Many of their health issues stem from the fact they drink and bath in unsanitized water.

The non-profit group Village of Hope has 50 Sacramento-area volunteers leaving on July 23 to bring some relief to Kersa Illala. They're seeking to raise funds not only for the well but health and nutritional needs for the villagers. With Klein as part of the contingent, there is hope more will respond to the need. "If we can go over there and make things a little easier for those children and those adults, it will be very rewarding," Klein said.

Naomi Harper is organizing the venture on this end. She recruited Klein while videotaping her run during the Sacramento Marathon. Her pitch couldn't be ignored. "This is an endurance event for women," she told Klein. "For women in Ethiopia, they have to do it on a regular basis."

Harper and Klein hope to raise \$6,000 for the well project. The volunteers will spend a week in the Ethiopian village also

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assisting with orphan care, family income and educational needs.

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