



WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF TRAVEL TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

**Passports with Purpose Surpasses Fundraising Goal for Water.org
Travel Blogging Community Raised \$110,000 for Fifth Annual Online Fundraiser**

SEATTLE, WA – December 18, 2012 – In the fifth annual travel bloggers fundraiser, Passports with Purpose (PwP) raised over USD \$110,000 to build five wells in Haiti with Water.org. Thousands of donors bid on one or more of the 110 prizes on the PwP site from November 28 to December 11, 2012. Through donations in \$10 increments and the participation of more than 200 travel bloggers around the world, PwP surpassed its fundraising goal for the fourth year in a row.

“Congratulations and thank you so very much, on behalf of the entire Water.org team, for this amazing accomplishment! I know we’ve said it before, but we’re honored and humbled to be a part of this. You are doing an unspeakable kindness for the five communities in Haiti that will gain clean water for life – a whole new array of opportunities – as a result of this effort,” said Nicole Wickenhauser, senior development manager at Water.org. Each well will serve an average of 370 people in Boucan Carre and Mirebalais. Passports with Purpose’s goal to build five wells is part of Water.org’s 18-month program to build 20 wells, benefitting 20 communities.

“The statistic that always amazes me is that the majority of our funds come in in \$10 increments. This is a community fundraiser with hundreds of travel bloggers on board. It’s through their network of readers that we’re able to reach, and even exceed, our goals each year,” said Beth Whitman, PwP co-founder.

This year, Passports with Purpose raised over \$10,000 more than its original goal of \$100,000. The option to bid for a prize is closed, but donations for Water.org are still being accepted at www.passportswithpurpose.org/donate.

“I’m humbled by the support and enthusiasm of the travel bloggers from around the world who participate in Passports with Purpose,” said Michelle Duffy, PwP co-founder. “I’m awed by the list of incredible prizes donated by the hundred-plus travel and tourism companies who also participate.” These included vacation packages, electronics and gear and amazing travel experiences. Today, winners were randomly selected and notified for each prize.

PwP initiatives benefited Heifer International; the Passports School with American Assistance for Cambodia; a village in Tamil Nadu, India for 25 Dalit families with Land for Tillers’ Freedom and two libraries in Zambia with Room to Read.

“We started this organization because, as people lucky enough to travel the world, we’d received kindnesses from people with so much less than we have. We felt, collectively, that we wanted to do something to give back, to make the world a little bit better than it was yesterday. On the grand scale of things, our projects are small, but the changes we’ve helped make are personally big,” said Pam Mandel, PwP co-founder.

For more information about Passports with Purpose visit, www.PassportswithPurpose.org.

Passports with Purpose Media Contact:

Meg Paynor

meg@paynorpr.com

(206) 913-3848

###