



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—June 4, 2008**

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**NEED FOR CLEAN WATER IN AFRICA IS CATALYST FOR  
TEENS STAGING A JUNE “GIVE-WELL” TRIATHLON IN MONTEREY**

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** – An enthusiastic group of 20 students from the San Francisco Bay Area are headed to Monterey, Calif. June 19 to conduct a 25-mile triathlon benefiting the African Water Project.

The *GIVE-WELL Triathlon*, a three-sport endurance event consisting of open-water kayaking, bicycling, and hiking, will raise money to bring safe, clean water to the people of Africa. Student efforts are aimed at increasing awareness of the water crisis in Africa and to be a catalyst for change. “We have chosen an extreme event to highlight an extreme cause: water scarcity in sub-Saharan Africa,” April Hunt, spokesperson for African Water Project said.

According to the United Nations (UN), one person in six in the world lives without regular access to safe drinking water and over 2.6 billion lack access to adequate sanitation. Learning of these harsh facts in 2007 motivated X-Force Student Ministries, a youth group based here, to launch the African Water Project.

“Students were moved to action after learning that more than half of Africa's people lack access to safe drinking water, leaving them vulnerable to water-borne diseases like cholera, typhoid and infectious hepatitis,” said Hunt. “Health care is often inaccessible. So water-borne diseases often go untreated and millions, especially young children, die as a result each year.”

The public can support the African Water Project through the *GIVE-WELL Triathlon*. Pledges in any dollar amount per mile or making a donation in support of the entire effort are welcome. Individuals may make donations through the African Water Project website: [www.africanwaterproject.org](http://www.africanwaterproject.org).

All monies raised by the *GIVE-WELL Triathlon* will go directly to carefully-screened charitable organizations that have experience and current programs on the ground in Africa. “We’re doing the GIVE-WELL in order to ‘give wells’ to people who desperately need them in Africa,” Erin McKinley, a high school student said.

**About African Water Project**

African Water Project is a student-led initiative providing wells and clean water projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Since its founding by X-Force Student Ministries on World Water Day, March 22, 2007, the African Water Project has funded the drilling of three new wells in Western Kenya and the repairs of 12 wells in Zambia. Funding came from these students’ campaigns; including their “Badwater for Good Water Walk,” conducted at Badwater Basin in Death Valley last June. The African Water Project exists to focus on one achievable goal: providing access to clean water to everyone in Africa.