

# Glens Falls Rotary Club

Two Haitian newspapers, *Le Matin*, and *Le Nouvelliste*, concluded 2008 with headlines like: Drinking water for about 60 thousand children and “Clean Water” in Disadvantaged Communities. These newspapers lauded the efforts of a campaign called “Pure Water for Haiti,” which was co-sponsored by the **Glens Falls Rotary Club, Rotary International**, Pure Water for the World (PWW), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

This project, which concludes this month, is where Water Filters bought by the funds raised for from the Glens Falls Rotary Club’s Second PWW went. The goal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual PWW was and is to improve the health of those living in Haiti’s disadvantaged communities by providing access to clean water and training people to practice hygiene, especially the washing of their hands. Hand washing has been scientifically proven to reduce the risk of diseases that are transmitted through “dirty” water by up to 50%!

Former Glens Falls resident and still member of our club, **Charles Adams**, serving as the ambassador of RI, stressed that “the school principals and teachers must teach students the importance of clean water for their health.” He concluded his remarks saying, “The future of Haiti is in our hands, together, today. We can decide to eradicate diseases transmitted by unclean water.”

The U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, **Janet A. Sanderson**, heard Charles’ remarks after they toured many of the sites that have benefitted from the project “Pure Water for Haiti” in Cité Soleil. She was delighted with the Water Filters and the far reaching effects that they have had in reducing water-borne illnesses. While echoing the importance of the Glens Falls Rotary Project, Ambassador Sanderson strongly commended Charles: “In lieu of a traditional speech, I must compliment Charles Adams for his unwavering commitment in the project. Even when he was kidnapped and taken to Cité Soleil, this dedication never left. He did not cease to explain his project to the captors. When he was released, he could have left the country and abandoned the project. But no, he chose to stay; and now that the project exists, more than 60,000 children are benefitting. I salute his courage and tenacity and, above all, his solidarity with the Haitian people,” applauded Janet Sanderson.

The **Fourth Annual Pure Water Walk** is taking place on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at Crandall Park in Glens Falls. Won’t you join us and participate in this worthy cause, which this year returns to complete its work in Guatemala. Further information is available at: [www.glensfallsrotary.org](http://www.glensfallsrotary.org).

Summated by Dr. Shelle K. Kelz