

Hannah's
dream was *More than a dream*
it was a **WORLD VISION!**



Hannah's Hundreds PO Box 367 Milaca MN 56353

We are Jim & Sylvia Kosloski, the parents of Hannah Elizabeth Kosloski, who died in a tragic horseback riding accident on September 13th 2007---at the tender age of 13. We are writing to you because your position of influence as a Pastor, Teacher, Coach, or Community Leader, is an effective way to reach many with our mission. We are hoping you will continue reading to see if there is a part of passing on Hannah's legacy that you and those you mentor can play.

After Hannah died, many people wanted to honor her memory by helping to fulfill a goal she had set for herself to inspire the sponsorship of 100 children in 3rd world countries through an organization called World Vision. Many church/youth groups and families sponsored children, but there were also many people who, though they wanted to be a part of Hannah's Dream, didn't feel they could carve \$35 out of their monthly budget to sponsor a child. They generously gave a one-time monetary gift to help fund the digging of a well of clean water for an African community—a community that who would never be able to climb out of their poverty without clean water. The drilling of these wells meets their need for safe drinking water, the growing of produce, the raising of farm animals, new industry, and self-sufficiency. As the months have gone by, with more people hearing of Hannah's Dream—the giving has continued—so we started Hannah's Hundreds to complete and multiply her humble goal.

Since Hannah's death, God has taken the gift of compassion that was hers, and done a work in our hearts. Our grief has been transformed to a purpose that can bring health, healing, hope, and happiness to the lives of many. While our grief is a nightmare no parent should have to bear, it has softened our hearts to the suffering other parents in many parts of the world are experiencing. These are areas where the only available water is from disease-ridden surface run-off ponds. Half of all children under 12 die of dehydration from diarrhea as their parents hold them helplessly in their arms—and the only water to try to re-hydrate them is from the same contaminated source of water that made them sick in the first place.

When we care for people physically, they are then ready to believe that our concern for all areas of their lives is genuine—to paraphrase Paul: "People don't care what you know, until they know that you care".

This has been the hardest year of our lives, but all the 'firsts' are not yet done. The 13 mile Bike-a-thon from Moose Lake to Willow River MN, on September 13th is actually falling on the 1st anniversary of Hannah's death. We hope that many people will join us in our efforts to honor Hannah's heart of compassion either by biking with us, or by helping us raise funds for a well of clean, life-giving water. There are 3 ways to help:

- 1) Visit us at: www.hannahshundreds.org/Resources.htm, and send the email forward on to those you know.
- 2) For online donations that go straight to WORLD VISION, use this link found on our site: www.firstgiving.org/hannahshundreds
- 3) Add the short film preview found on our site to an already existing website (it's free)

The full length (50min) video "TAG—you're IT !!!", along with its Preview, the WORLD VISION 3min "One Life" video, the Bike-a-thon 1min slide show, and a 10pak of WORLD VISION literature regarding the digging of wells and child sponsorship are available on www.hannahshundreds.org for a \$50 donation. Additional World Vision brochures for large groups are also available. (Pastors, in the full length "TAG—you're IT !!!", Sylvia mentions Hannah's habit of generosity, of tithing 10% to her home church, and setting aside \$ for use as 'offerings')

The '5min Preview' of "TAG—you're IT !!!" can also be viewed alone in it's own right, or used to give your congregation a taste of both the content & presentation style of the full length film. We would love to have the full

length version shown in your area. Would your church/school/or organization be willing to host a showing? Perhaps several churches, clubs, sports teams, and community groups could promote a showing hosted by a church or theater in your area.

We realize that with the energy prices the way they are, many families are feeling financial pressure—but we also know that even small donations of \$5 or more per family, multiplied by a enough families will achieve the digging of the \$18,000 well of clean water in a community in Africa where the only available water is the surface run-off ponds, polluted by animal & human waste. We continue to seek additional matching funds from businesses to increase the impact of even the smallest donations. Do you know a business owner you could share this letter with?

It has blessed our hearts to learn that the death rate of children under 12, drops by 1/2 as soon as an area has clean water, and that simply washing the face and eyes with clean water will prevent many children and adults from going blind.

When Hannah first died, the part of the following scripture that we couldn't understand was "but the world will rejoice". However, since the digging of our first well in Africa, we have learned of the impact on the health and hope for the future for the people of that area and their rejoicing. If the death of a child who loved Jesus as much as Hannah did, and the gift of compassion God gave her will bring about the plan God had for her life to accomplish, then our "sorrow shall be turned into joy".

John 16:20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament,
but the world shall rejoice; and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy"

We are asking you and those you have been entrusted to influence, to pray for our family's strength to complete this mission and not grow weary of well doing. All of the wonderful volunteers on our Hannah's Hundreds team would like to 'thank you in advance' for anything that you might do to help bring this cause that God has laid on our hearts to fruition.

May God bless you and all those in your care,

Sincerely, Jim & Sylvia Kosloski

