

# A little water

# GOES A LONG WAY

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Wilmette sisters promote The Samburu Project in Kenya with upcoming walk, Page 19



New Trier graduates Olivia and Isabelle Hauser, of Wilmette, are part of a group raising money for The Samburu Project's Walk for Water Saturday, Aug. 10, at Elliot Park in Evanston. PHOTO SUBMITTED

COVER STORY

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# Wilmette natives help liberate women in Kenya with clean water

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Wilmette sisters Olivia and Isabelle Hauser are organizing the third annual Walk for Water on Saturday, Aug. 10.

The walk is hosted to benefit The Samburu Project

an organization committed to providing consistent access to clean water in the nomadic community of Samburu in Kenya. The Samburu Project believes that building water wells will liberate the Samburu women and girls who often walk 12 miles in search of clean water.

This constant search for water prevents girls from going to school and the water they find is of-

The Samburu Project



ten contaminated causing the spread of waterborne disease within the community. Access to clean, close water will give these girls more time for education and will promote the health and general well-being of the entire community.

The Samburu Project was founded in 2005. Since, they have raised enough money to build

**“We don’t really think about our access to water because we have such consistent access to clean water, but you have to remember that a lot of kids in these communities end up dying from water-borne diseases,”**

*Olivia Hauser — on The Samburu Project (donate.thesamburuproject.org/event/2019-chicago-walk-for-water/e239176) and its work in Kenya.*

over 100 wells, bringing clean drinking water to over 100,000 people.

To raise money for their cause, the Samburu Project started Walk for Water as an annual fundraising event 10 years ago in Hermosa Beach, Calif. The Walk for Water has now evolved into a national

movement with walks being held in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Detroit and Denver.

Olivia and Isabelle Hauser, both graduates of New Trier High School, and their mother, Jasmine Hauser, learned about the Samburu project from a family friend in 2016.

That same year, they were asked to host the first-ever Walk for Water event in Chicago.

Olivia Hauser believes strongly in the cause especially since water is critical to sustaining life. “Worldwide, approximately 884 million people lack access to safe water

## GIVE THE GIFT OF WATER

- A well costs \$22K and provides water to approximately 1,000 people for life
- 663 million lack access to clean water
- Every 90 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease
- Samburu women walk up to 12 miles each day for water
- From The Samburu Project

— that’s about 1 in every 8 people according to UNICEF/WHO,” Olivia Hauser said. *Full story at WilmetteBeacon.com.*