



www.MadagascarMission.org



www.MadagascarDevelopment.org

Overview of the LIVING WATER — "Thanks a Million!" Program by Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development

Thank you for your interest in the Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development
LIVING WATER — "Thanks a Million!" Program!

Below is a list of resources available to guide discussion to implement this program. You may pick and choose which materials you wish to use to implement this program to make the program yours. Our hope is that you design the event in a way that will be the most effective for your congregation.

1. Attached is a document entitled: Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development Explanation of the LIVING WATER — "Thanks a Million!" Program (a basic overview)
2. Attached is a document entitled: Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development LIVING WATER — Walk for Water (W4W) 2026 Information Packet for Organizers.
(You can get creative! The walk may also include people in your community carrying a container of water with their hands or on their heads!)
3. Other resource materials (videos).
 - A. FOMM produced videos.
 - B. The link below is to a video from ABC News regarding the drought conditions in south west Madagascar, the region where most of our programs are located.
<https://tinyurl.com/abcvideo21>
This video of the condition in southwest Madagascar is not exaggerated. It is even worse in many places than this video shows.
 - C. Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development photos for use in promotion of the "Thanks a Million!" Program. (permission granted for promoting this program only)
 - D. The "Thanks a Million!" song to be used in promoting the program.
(permission granted for promoting this program only)
4. Please contact us for any further resources and please send us a brief description about how you organized your LIVING WATER — "Thanks a Million!" Program!

Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development Explanation of the LIVING WATER – “Thanks a Million!” Program

1. Describe the project for which you are requesting funding

Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development is a volunteer mission organization with no paid employees and the guarantee that 100% of a donor’s gift will go towards the designated project. The vision of the current program is to dig and/or repair 300 wells in southern Madagascar, a region that is in severe drought with major rivers having dried up and the United Nations declaring a looming humanitarian crisis if clean drinking water is not provided.

Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development has conducted research in the field over the past several years and deployed a professional hydrological investigative team to the region in 2020 to determine the extent of the need and prioritize areas for the location of wells. Some of the information has been provided by the local communities. Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development also has local project partners with advanced exploration technology and drilling rigs who have prepared the region for developing wells and identified specific locations where the project can begin. Our partner in this program is *The Madagascar Water Project*.

2. Why is the project necessary to your organization and how will it further your mission?

Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development has a documented community development strategy called “Village Redemption” as part of its vision. This document is available at <https://tinyurl.com/fommvrs>. Recognizing that water is the source of life, growth, health, and community resilience; this strategy includes:

- ✓ exploration of sites for well locations,
- ✓ digging wells,
- ✓ installing pumps,
- ✓ building water towers,
- ✓ digging in pipelines to distribute water to the community,
- ✓ supplying drip irrigation kits,
- ✓ training villagers,
- ✓ providing seeds for farmers,
- ✓ building seed banks where farmers can store seed for the following growing season.

This program supports Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development’s goal of sustainability, where each well is driven by empowerment of local communities with decreasing dependence on outside support as community-based expertise and capacity increases.

3. What is the reason for seeking \$1,000,000?

In 2023 Friends of Madagascar Mission had a program called “Living Water” to seek funding for digging deep wells through the solid granite beneath the southwest part of Madagascar. These types of wells that were not being dug. Most wells are shallow and when a severe drought happens the shallow wells also dry up. So, we raised nearly \$100,000 and were able to drill numerous wells. Some of the wells were single hand-pumped “Water Stations” where anyone could come and receive clean, healthy water. Other wells used submersible pumps powered by solar panels. Water towers were built to supply several institutions. Local workers hand-dug water lines. Bathrooms along with shower facilities were provided. This program was life-changing for thousands of people.

So, this program being very successful, we believed we needed to expand the program to continue to dig deep wells in the more rural areas. One million dollars seems like an over-the-top goal for a small non-profit organization, but we believe that God has set before us a vision of providing life-giving water to people who suffer so very much.

4. What is the timetable for this program?

It would be wonderful if we could raise the \$1,000,000 in a short amount of time. But we believe this is a marathon and not a sprint. Large, corporate or government, grants help the project grow quickly. Yet we anticipate a faithful stream of dedicated donors who will continue to provide the support needed. We are open to surprises and pray those will happen as well!

5. We are an organization that is faithful to our goals and promises!

Sadly, the southwest region of Madagascar has been described as “a cemetery of aid projects,” with low levels of success and many abandoned projects and millions of dollars wasted on attempts to make an impact on the region. However, Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development has shown through a strong vision, outstanding administration, and financial accountability, that projects can be successfully implemented and owned by drawing alongside local people and empowering them to achieve their visions.

Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development does not seek to have control of the projects but operates on lines of responsibility and accountability that build the capacity of local people to manage projects. Friends of Madagascar Mission is known for its faithful, regular support and in its 17 years of existence we have provided all the support we have promised.

The Malagasy leaders describe us in this way,

***“Supporting organizations and programs come and go,
but Friends of Madagascar Mission is faithful and delivers what they promise.”***



www.MadagascarMission.org



www.MadagascarDevelopment.org

Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development LIVING WATER – Walk for Water (W4W) 2026 Information Packet for Organizers

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in organizing a sponsored Walk for Water (W4W) event in your community for Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development.

**100% of the money raised will go to digging or repairing wells in southern Madagascar.
It is our guarantee!**

Whether you represent a church, workplace, youth group, school, class, college, or holiday club, a Walk for Water event can be an exciting, shared, fun event that brings water to villages in drought-stricken southern Madagascar. A W4W event can be as short as an hour, or as long as a day – or why not give participants the opportunity to set their own distance? No matter the length of the event, the whole community can be involved in your W4W event.

This information packet has two main sections. Please read all the information.

Preparing your congregation and/or community for the event with information about the “Thanks a Million!” Program, your goal, how to raise sponsorship, motivational materials to use, and social media marketing.

Preparation for the event

1. Select your leadership team, discuss the proposal to stage a W4W event with them, identify skills and capabilities of team members and assign (or ask for volunteers) to do specific duties.
2. Propose dates for your W4W event, check with your congregation and/or community if this is a suitable date and then set the date on the calendar.
3. Set a location and distance for the “Walk for Water”. Various distances help all walkers find a comfortable walk. For example, “1 kilometer”(a shorter distance), “3.5 kilometers” (a medium distance) and “10 kilometers” (a longer distance).
4. You can make it more interesting by having the participants carry a bucket or pail of water. The size of course is dependent upon the grouping described in Step 3.
5. Prepare a signup sheet for those who intend to participate. And ask each participant to ask family and friends to pledge an offering to pay a dollar or more per block, mile, etc. This way each participant will have an opportunity to know they have been a part of raising funds for the “Thanks a Million!” Program.
6. Select a person/team to gather the commitment sheets and receive the funds from each walker.

7. Plan for the safety of the walkers, whether a block or several miles.
8. Check if liability insurance is required for the event.
9. Publicity can be submitted to:
 - a. congregation newsletters and bulletins
 - b. local newspapers
 - c. other community announcement venues (community TV announcements, etc.)
10. Include a short motivational talk at a worship service to create a desire for people to participate and make it a fun, educational, and purposeful event.
11. Propose other ideas like themes, everyone wears a red or green t-shirt - colors of the flag of Madagascar. (Thrivent offers funding for local events and T-shirts, etc. through Action Teams)
12. Decide how you will celebrate the event when it is complete – such as a picnic and celebration with music, etc. Non-walking volunteers can organize this and donate additional funds to FOMM for the W4W project.

Follow up

1. Write a story about your “Walk for Water” event and include some photos for posting on our website and sharing in our newsletters.
2. Send the story, event photos, and funds raised to:

**Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development
PO Box 46381
Eden Prairie MN 55344**

3. Be sure to thank all those who participated.
4. Share the total amount raised in church publicity and community news outlets.

THANK YOU from Friends of Madagascar Mission and Development!