

# Walk for Water

By Sarah Dottor, AmeriCorps VISTA, and  
Heather Allstrom, UConn BRAVE Chapter President

The UConn chapter of BRAVE Girls Leadership is working on a semester-long, Service Learning project this Spring to support efforts to alleviate the global water crisis. The global water crisis refers to the lack of access to clean water and sanitation, which contributes to health, poverty, and even education. It disproportionately affects women and children, who are usually responsible for collecting the water. In addition, many young girls drop out of school once they reach puberty if they do not have access to proper sanitation. BRAVE wants to do something about this. The chapter will be fundraising for change and spreading awareness about the global water crisis throughout February, March, and April.

This semester, BRAVE is teaming up with H2O for Life to help defend against the crippling water crisis so many parts of the world are currently facing. H2O for Life provides a Service Learning opportunity for organizations to raise awareness about the global water crisis while taking action to provide funds for water, sanitation, and hygiene education for a partner school in a developing country. Currently, over 2.5 billion people in the world lack access to proper sanitation resources. Millions of women and children spend hours each day collecting water, walking an average of 3 miles for 3 gallons of water. Often, this water is collected from polluted sources. Through fundraising, it is possible to raise money to create a sustainable water source at a school or community center in a developing country.

Our event, Walk for Water, will challenge participants to walk (or run) 3 miles, during which they will carry 1 gallon of water. Participation costs \$10 and the goal is to have participants raise money through donors based on the numbers of laps they have completed. We have pledged \$2,000 in order to help Erasmus Crèche, a tribal community in South Africa. With these funds, the community will be able to install water tanks with taps for accessing water and a pipe to supply water to the kitchen for lunch, as well as improvements to their toilets. Additionally, the project will enable all staff and students to receive hygiene education training, and the larger community will be invited to participate too. None of this will be possible without your support! Please join us!

The tentative date for this event is Sunday, April 15th. Please contact [uconn@girlsarebrave.org](mailto:uconn@girlsarebrave.org) for information on how you can get involved! BRAVE Girls Leadership is a nonprofit based at UConn in partnership with the Office of Public Engagement through the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

To learn more visit [www.girlsarebrave.org/](http://www.girlsarebrave.org/)  
<https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/> - <https://www.h2oforlifeschools.org/>  
<https://www.h2oforlifeschools.org/projects/600>

