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Hello fellow jHUB couples and families,

I am humbled to have been asked to share a bit of my work and story with you. As Rosh HaShanah approaches, I'm always reminded to begin contemplating how I have interacted with the world and also how blessed I am. I have all of my basic needs met- I am truly rich.

Rosh HaShanah, to me, is about true, non-judgmental reflection, and gaining the courage to face our wrongs and move forward better. I want to share myself with you today, and also my work in the hope that it will inspire all of us to do more to support our fellow humans and earth.

My Story

I grew up in a Catholic home and remained in that space until I was 12. When my father passed on, it seemed that's when I was becoming a teen (aka having a lot of questions) and well, I started a new journey to find meaning in my life. I wanted to save the world, something I saw my third-shift, factory-working father do in small ways even through his sickness. I admired him so much.

I began helping the homeless by starting an organization called Covering Cleveland when I was 16 years old. I co-founded a rooftop garden at Cleveland State University to help the environment, started a farmers market downtown to bring fresh food to the city and then, I started Drink Local Drink Tap in 2010. Starting this organization changed my life and many others, *forever*.

Growing up, I cared about everything: water, human rights, the environment, environmental justice, people and more. I realized that by focusing on water issues, I could affect everything else around me and my heart was set. Water connects everything- it is life!

My Work

When I started DLDT, I was in grad school at CSU. I was concerned that our community was disconnected from our Great Lake Erie and the pollution plaguing it. I was equally concerned about **2.2 billion people** not having access to clean water globally. How could I connect these two seemingly unconnected issues and make a difference?



Education

Equity

Engagement



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I founded DLDT with this intention- connecting local and global water issues in a meaningful, approachable way so that people can feel empowered to impact them.

Drink Local Drink Tap (DLDT) improves water equity through partnerships, programming and projects because we believe clean water is a human right.

Everyday, I work with my teams in both Great Lakes Regions of the world (North America and East Africa) to improve water quality and equity. Locally, in Northeast Ohio, we offer curriculum and classroom visits to schools, host beach-cleanups and 4 Miles 4 Water annually to educate and empower people to make 'waves' to impact water issues. Globally, in East Africa, we design, build and monitor water, hygiene and sanitation facilities in Uganda alongside communities to help people survive and thrive.

In Uganda, we have helped over 32,000 people access clean, safe water and 15,000 now have safe toilets and hygiene facilities. In Northeast Ohio, over 15,000 students have experienced our Wavemaker Program, over 14,000 pounds of trash has been collected from our city beach and over 20,000 hours have been donated by volunteers supporting our clean water work.

Every year, I reflect on how we can help more people, make a bigger impact in our environment and I always come back to the same concept-

One focused step at a time is how this all started. We can all take one step to exist a little differently in the world and to make a positive impact.

That might mean saying 'no thanks' to single-use plastics, volunteering at a beach cleanup, or donating to a cause we care about.

My challenge to you in the new year:

Consider one small step that your family can take to impact the world in a positive way.
It all adds up!

Shana Tova to you and your family!

Erin Huber Rosen, Executive Director and Founder
DrinkLocalDrinkTap.org



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