

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fifth Grade Heritage Oak Students learn about the need of the Rwandese people

Fifth graders were recently treated to an expert presentation about poverty by Mr. Phil De Rose. Mr. De Rose is part of the Clean Water Initiative (CWI), which works closely with the Saddleback Church Healthcare Division, and which has been focusing on Africa's Rwanda and other places in the world where accessible, clean water has been a challenge.

Students learned through a power point presentation what it is like to live at the poverty level in Rwanda, where almost 90% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day. Malaria and Respiratory diseases are the biggest killers in Rwanda, mainly due to the lack of available clean and non-contaminated water.

CWI has brought several water purifications systems to Rwanda and has trained locals to operate and service the equipment. The equipment, which consists of an economical, low maintenance chlorination system, using table salt and a car battery, provides drinking water to as many as 5,000 people and has drastically reduced sickness and death in Rwanda's cities and remote towns.

Students felt enlightened about a part of the world they barely knew anything about and learned how each person can make a change in the world.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.