

NEWS

Building wells, building futures

Voss Foundation's Women Helping Women luncheon raises over \$50,000 to bring water to villages in Africa

VOSS FOUNDATION

On Nov. 3, over 100 women gathered for an intimate lunch at New York's 3 West Club to support the Voss Foundation's Women Helping Women campaign. Women Helping Women, an international fundraising effort of the Voss Foundation, funds water projects and well development within villages in sub-Saharan Africa. This fundraiser, in conjunction with Voss Foundation's European Women Helping Women campaign, funded a water system for the village of Ndonyo Nasipa in Kenya, and a well at the Georges Malaika School for Girls in Kalebuka, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Founded by the directors of VOSS Water as an independent 501(c)(3) public charity, the Voss Foundation is dedicated to provid-



Photo: Patrick McMullan

L-R: Kara Gerson, Noella Coursaris, Cecilie Malm Brundtland and Anette Krosby.

ing sub-Saharan African communities with access to clean water. The Voss Foundation's primary targets are women and children with a special focus on adolescent girls – an often overlooked and under-serviced demographic that is particularly at risk.

At the luncheon, the Voss Foundation honored Noella Coursaris Musunka, renowned international fashion model and founder of the Georges Malaika Foundation, for her devotion to the concept of Women

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VOSS FOUNDATION...

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Helping Women.

Attendees and supporters, including Khaliah Ali, Marybeth Belsito, Paige Bluhdorn, European Representative Cecilie Malm Brundtland, MacDella Cooper, Abigail Disney, Executive Director Kara Gerson, Kim Heirston Evans, Kristin Holth, Ambassador Ritva Jolkkonen, Saran Kaba Jones, Belinda Kielland, Lauren Koppel, European Representative Anette Krosby, Trecia Laird, Kate Mahon, Charlot Malin, Francie Nagy, Caroline Palmer, Inger Tallaksen, Sophie Ann Terisse, Vibeke Steineger, and Stephanie Voquer, helped to raise an impressive sum

in the event's inaugural year. Thanks to the support of sponsors, the Voss Foundation was able to direct 100 percent of tickets sales to the water projects.

Forty billion working hours are spent carrying water each year in Africa. When removed from the water delivery cycle, women have the opportunity to fully participate in local economies, and girls have the change to attend school and contribute to their community's economy.

With offices in New York and Oslo, and projects underway in Kenya, Mali, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Voss Foundation has managed to complete 18 water access points since its inception in 2008.