

## Lake Hickory Chapter partners with Wine to Water for countries in desperate need of potable water

Chapter members assemble 28 water filtration kits during their annual charity event



*Wait, wine to water? Isn't it the other way around? You know the whole wedding at Canaan miracle. No, it's Wine to Water and the work they do around the world, bolstered by generous donations like those from here in Hickory, is nothing short of a miracle for the less fortunate.*



On Sunday, February 20, the Lake Hickory Chapter of American Wine Society (AWS) hosted one of its annual charity events at the Moore's Ferry Clubhouse. Partnering with Boone, NC, based nonprofit [Wine to Water](#) (W|W), chapter members assembled 28 water filtration kits to be delivered to various countries in desperate need of potable water. Lake Hickory Chapter Chairpersons Lorissa and David Vines organized the event with W|W Development Manager Darcy Carson. Donations were made through the Wine to Water online event portal. The number of kits to be assembled would be based on the threshold of giving by chapter members. The chapter also agreed to use some of its existing resources to match member donations.

Lorissa and David organized the event as a potluck/wine sharing event, and in lieu of the Lake Hickory Chapter's typical wine education event, attendees assembled W|W filtration systems. The filter build kicked off with a detailed briefing by W|W Director of Special Initiatives Shane Hillman. He was supported by W|W Stewardship Coordinator Maria Swords, and the two provided a detailed glimpse of the amazing work W|W does around the globe. The depth of their knowledge and passion towards their work is inspiring.

David and Lorissa noted that as chapter chairs, trying something new is always a bit of a gamble. "You never know how people will respond" David said. "We really didn't need to worry about that with the Wine to Water presentation. You could see



Shane's passion for Wine to Water and his real-life examples were enthralling. Everyone in attendance was happy that we partnered to raise money for this organization and many have discussed trying to make this an annual event." Lorissa said, "Wine to Water makes it easy to set up a fundraising event with them, and it is something that I would encourage every chapter to explore. This is something anyone can do, and it gives everyone the



feeling that they have a part in bringing clean water to those in need. I think everyone in attendance was proud of the money we raised, the kits we built, and that Wine to Water was sending these kits out with hands-on instruction to ensure these kits bring clean water to a family for the next ten years."

David observed, "One of the most interesting parts of the Wine to Water presentation was the parallel Shane drew between clean water and people's quality of life. Clean water allows for people, usually women, to have more time. That means less time going to the clinic with a sick child, less time gathering the materials necessary to boil water to make it safe to drink, and less time waiting for it

to cool. With that time, they are able to earn more money by focusing on their primary forms of income, for example, sewing/weaving. With that money they are able to better provide for their families and send their kids to school ... paving the way to a brighter future. All from something we take for granted ... clean water. Let that sink in. Access to clean water is life-changing.”

W|W’s Darcy Carson commented, “The group was amazing! They were very hospitable and wanted us to have just as great of a time as they were having.”

### **About Wine to Water**

Wine To Water’s (W|W) mission is to support life and dignity for all through the power of clean water. Its vision is to end the root cause of global poverty by providing sustainable water solutions in communities around the world. Since 2007, W|W has reached more than 1 million people with clean water across 46 countries, including disaster relief efforts in Sudan, Syria, Haiti, Nepal, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, USA, Mozambique, and the Bahamas. Its strength is rooted in partnership and deep community relationships developed through the implementation of water access, sanitation, and hygiene (wash) solutions. But the transformation of a community and its residents goes beyond clean water. W|W sees monumental improvements in critical areas like socio-economic, environmental, and health within communities years beyond getting access to clean water.



Its events are designed to engage participating volunteers in a meaningful team experience that leads to the empowerment of communities around the globe through the power of clean water.

### **About the Lake Hickory Chapter**

The Lake Hickory Chapter was established in 2012 by current member Betty Stone of Granite Falls. Starting with a mere handful of members, the chapter has swelled to more than 80 wine enthusiasts. It is one of 11 chapters in North Carolina. Its charter has been to foster wine education and the knowledge of winemaking and grape growing in the various wine regions of the world and to promote the appreciation and responsible enjoyment of wine. And, of course, to have fun!



The chapter’s members include wine enthusiasts from all age groups, with diverse backgrounds and wine knowledge and wine-making aptitude. Membership includes the past president of AWS, certified wine judges, wine makers and AWS regional representatives. Old and new, all members are treated to the same rich experiences at each of the chapter’s tasting-education events. As one past chapter chair put it, “The wine discovery journey never ends and being able to leverage the unique blend of experiences and perspectives of chapter members makes that journey quite fulfilling.”

The Lake Hickory Chapter has been blessed with remarkable chapter chair leadership over the years, each building upon the successes of previous chairs, providing original and fresh new ideas for their monthly tastings. Lorissa and David Vines are no exception. Perhaps the youngest leadership to grace the chapter, they are 5<sup>th</sup> in the line of chapter leadership since its inception. They brought a remarkably creative schedule of tastings and new ideas to the Lake Hickory Chapter. They introduced Wine-30, which is a once a month 30-minute Zoom class previewing new and exciting wine varietals from across the globe to include those discovered by way of their own extensive travels. They publish the Lake Hickory “Grapevine,” which is a monthly update of chapter events. And of course,

they brought us a thoughtful agenda of monthly wine event themes, to include this most recent W|W charity undertaking.



At the conclusion of the W|W charity event, the chapter raised approximately \$2,200 for W|W and the staff left the event with an additional check and water filtration kits that will support the production of potable water for 280 people for 10 years. The gratification felt by all members and the W|W staff was overwhelming.

The relationship between the Lake Hickory Chapter of the American Wine Society and Wine to Water is just beginning; it is anticipated that they will continue to contribute resources in order to conduct filter builds on a regular basis. Thanks to past and present leadership and loyal members of the chapter, there will continue to be new and exciting events that are enjoyable and educational for members as well as benefit the less fortunate.