



Rural Community  
Assistance Partnership

## RCAP Hosts Agua4All Event Celebrating Access to Safe Drinking Water in lead-impacted Michigan Schools

*RCAP, the Chris Long Foundation, and Liquid I.V. host event at Benton Harbor High School*

**Benton Harbor, Michigan (January 31, 2023)** – Students, teachers and administrators will gather on January 31st at Benton Harbor High School to celebrate the installation of ten filtered drinking water bottle filling stations in district schools and receive reusable water bottles which will help the district's 1,626 students have renewed access to lead-free drinking water and stay hydrated in the classroom and on the field.

The event is hosted by the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) and their Great Lakes partner, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP), as part of the Agua4All program. Funding for the bottles, filling stations and filtration was provided by the Chris Long Foundation's HometownH2O program and Liquid I.V. Two-time Super Bowl Champion and Walter Payton Man of the Year Chris Long will greet students via video, imparting to them that "clean water shouldn't be seen as a luxury. It's a basic human right." He also states that this "investment in your hydration is not only ensuring that you have access to clean water; it's also setting you up for success."

"We are excited to be part of providing clean and safe drinking water to the students of Benton Harbor so they can stay hydrated and healthy," said Jason Laney, Senior Rural Development Specialist at GLCAP, who has been working with the school district to set up the program.

Agua4All raises awareness about the importance of safe drinking water, funds water bottle filling stations and water fountain replacements, water treatment where necessary, reusable water bottles, and provides school and community education on local water quality issues and the importance of drinking water for improved health. It was launched in 2014 by the western RCAP, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), with support from The California Endowment. It has since grown to provide increased access to and consumption of safe drinking water to schools in ten states across the country. The program has included the installation of more than 500 bottle filling stations. Through partnerships with the Chris Long Foundation and CoBank, RCAP and its regional partners expanded the program in recent years to Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Texas, Alabama, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. More schools were brought into the program this year in Michigan, Texas, California and Pennsylvania thanks to the generous support of Liquid I.V.

RCAP looks forward to connecting with students, teachers, administrators, agencies, local government, and other non-profit partners to build greater awareness around the importance of safe drinking water and how Agua4All can help especially in communities impacted by lead.

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## Rural Community Assistance Partnership

### About RCAP

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) is a national network of non-profit partners working to provide technical assistance, training, resources, and support to rural communities across every state, the U.S. territories, and Tribal lands. Through RCAP's regional partners, more than 350 technical assistance providers (TAPs) build long-term, trusted relationships with thousands of communities across the country.

### About Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP):

Great Lakes Community Action Partnership has been serving the Great Lakes region for more than 50 years. We began in 1965 as WSOS Community Action Commission following the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which helped create hundreds of community action agencies throughout the United States. Our mission is "We create partnerships and opportunities to help individuals, families and communities thrive." Our vision is "To make hope, ability, and opportunity possible for all whom we serve." Our tagline is "Helping communities thrive, one neighbor at a time."

### About The Chris Long Foundation:

The Chris Long Foundation is a nonprofit, founded by two-time Super Bowl Champion and 2018 NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year Chris Long, dedicated to serving those most at risk, at home and abroad. Started in 2015, The Chris Long Foundation has engaged in both international and domestic programs focused around clean water and educational equity. The Foundation's programs strive to generate impactful results by creating opportunities and providing resources, financial support, and meaningful experiences to those it serves. Visit [www.chrislongfoundation.org](http://www.chrislongfoundation.org) to find out more.

### About Liquid I.V.:

Liquid I.V. is a wellness company based in Los Angeles, CA, created to fuel life's adventures. The product line features great-tasting, non-GMO electrolyte drink mixes made in the USA utilizing Cellular Transport Technology (CTT)<sup>®</sup> to enhance rapid absorption of water and other key ingredients into the bloodstream. As a purpose-driven brand, giving back is at the core of Liquid I.V.'s DNA, to date we've donated over 36 million servings to people in need around the globe. We are committed to donating a total of 150 million servings over the next 10 years.

Liquid I.V. is available online and in-store at retailers across the United States. The Hydration Multiplier, Liquid I.V.'s hero product, is available in a variety of core flavors including Lemon Lime, Strawberry, Concord Grape, Golden Cherry, Passion Fruit, and more. To learn more, visit [www.liquid-iv.com](http://www.liquid-iv.com) and follow @liquidiv on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and Twitter.

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