**FAWCO, The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc. is an international network of over 70 independent organizations whose mission is:**

* To serve as a resource and channel of information among its members;
* To provide a voice for American women abroad and to support the rights of all Americans worldwide;
* To contribute actively to the global community with a specific focus on education, the natural and human environment, multicultural understanding and international goodwill

**The FAWCO Target Program** is a four year program to bring a critical global issue to the attention of FAWCO organizations, their members and to the world. It is a focused strategy of first education/awareness and then project fundraising that highlights an issue and look for ways to solve the problem and in doing so assists in attaining the UN Millennium Goals. The issue selected for the first Target program is access to safe clean drinking water, part of the UN Millennium Goal of environmental sustainability which is to, “*halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.*

**The FAWCO Target Water Project** is an important part of FAWCO´s commitment as a recognized NGO at the UN to support the UN Millennium Development Goals. **Tabitha, Cambodia - Wells for Clean Water** will b**e** the recipient of the FAWCO clubs’ fund raising efforts.

**The FAWCO Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of FAWCO, is supporting FAWCO Member organizations with the fundraising for the FAWCO Water Target Project. They have already begun to receive donations for the project and in June 2011 will launch **“Well” Deserved Desserts**, a web-based campaign to aid individual FAWCO Member organizations with fundraising for this project, assisting an international network of organizations large and small by providing guidelines and support. Our aim is to putting the “fun” back into fundraising. “**Well” Deserved Desserts** will run through December 2012. An update on the campaign will be made at the FAWCO Conference in Dublin in March 2012 and the final will be announced at the FAWCO Conference in March 2013.

**THE FAWCO TARGET WATER PROJECT**

 **TABITHA CAMBODIA-WELLS FOR CLEAN WATER**

Tabitha, Cambodia -Wells for Clean Water was one of 12 proposals submitted for the FAWCO Target Water Project. It was selected from the three finalists by a vote of FAWCO Member organizations.

Tabitha –Cambodia was started in 1994. Its activities are to help those people whose lives were decimated by a Pol Pot, a regime that promoted enforced starvation, mass executions, and slave labor and decimated the Cambodian population. It destroyed the social, moral and economic fiber of the country and most wells in the countryside.

The Tabitha Wells program runs in parallel to the “Family Development through Savings” program. The majority of families enrolled in the Savings Program have no access to clean water. Villagers and animals now use open ponds or rivers which are often polluted, resulting in diarrhea and other infectious diseases. The nearest source of clean water may be several kilometers away.

**FAWCO’s goal is to raise $80,000 to build family and field wells in Cambodia, allowing sustainable access to water to nearly 2000 Cambodian families which will help to lift them from poverty and despair, into lives of dignity and hope, and active participation in their communities.** Family wells can be constructed for as little as $150 and field wells or as little as $250.

The impact of access to clean water through the installation of wells on families is immediate and significant. There is a decrease in the incidence of diarrhea and skin infections in the families. Within weeks, they gain weight; their eyes lose that haunted, dry look and their ability to work increased by several hours a day.

Each well becomes the responsibility of the family after construction. They receive training in the proper maintenance of their well from the contractor. These families are required to grow vegetables and rice and to earn an income from the wells. **For more info, please go to:** [**www.fawcofoundation.org**](http://www.fawcofoundation.org)