



The Story of Wish Them Well

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Our
Wish
For
Africa



This is my mama. Her name is Amina, and she is a superhero.



Most of my friends think superheroes wear capes and have extraordinary powers.

If you meet my mama, she most likely will be wearing a dhuku rather than a cape. She may not be able to fly or have X-ray vision, but she has the incredible superpower of creating water where there was none!

This is her story.

My mama was born in Togo,
but most people look at me
funny when I say that. Togo is
a small country in Western
Africa, and it is really different
than where we live now in the
United States.





Most people in Togo live in small villages and have limited resources including clean water. During the rainy season, drinking water is taken from nearby rivers. Most of the water is contaminated with bacteria and debris which can make the villagers very sick.



During the dry season, many of the rivers dry up. When this happens, women and children must walk many miles and hours to find water.

Women carry very heavy buckets on their heads to bring back water to their families.

Can you imagine having to walk six hours in the extreme heat just to get a drink of water?



From the time I was just a little girl, my mama would tell me stories of her own childhood in Togo. She remembers the days when she had to search for water in 100-degree weather with no shoes on. She remembers what it felt like to carry water for miles with no food in her stomach.

She always wells up with tears when she thinks of her family in Togo who continue to struggle to find water.

My mama could not stop thinking of her friends in Togo. She knew if they could get wells built, they would never have to drink the brown, contaminated water ever again. This was her wish for her friends in Africa.

She started saving all of her money to have a well built in her hometown. She told some of her friends about her wish for Africa. They started saving their money too!





In May of 2013, my
mama and her friends
had saved enough
money to have their very
first well built.

My mama's first wish had
come true.



What a happy day it was when that first well was built. There was singing and dancing and endless smiles on everyone's faces!





My mama was happy, but she knew she had more work to do. She heard a voice in her heart telling her to dream big!

With the help of many friends, my mama started Wish Them Well.



My mama continues to dream big! With the help of friends, family, community members, schools, and businesses, Wish Them Well has been able to provide fresh drinking water to over 30,000 people in Togo over the last ten years.



Children in villages all over Togo can now enjoy glasses of fresh, clean water thanks to friends of Wish Them Well. They work tirelessly to build and repair wells and have no plans to stop until everyone has fresh water!



So, this is just a little bit of my
mama's story and her dream for
Africa. She created water where
there was none and saved many
lives. For that she is a superhero.

My superhero.

About the Author:



Tiffany Dillon graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communication from James Madison University and a Master of Education degree in curriculum, instruction, and technology from Temple University. She spent over two decades teaching elementary and middle school students in Bucks County, PA. Currently she is a coach, consultant, and curriculum writer for Franklin Covey Education. Her passion is helping all students see their limitless worth and potential and empower them to use their voice for positive change.