

## **WATER FOR PEOPLE COMMITTEE SETS FUNDRAISING RECORD**

**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., March 18, 2016** -- New Jersey water professionals gathered in Atlantic City March 15-17, 2016 for the American Water Works Association New Jersey (AWWA NJ) Section 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference. During the Conference AWWA-NJ Water For People Committee (Committee) presented a check in the amount of \$120,336 for funds raised for Water For People during 2015. The check was presented by Committee Chair Carmen Tierno of New Jersey American Water to AWWA-NJ Section Chair David Tanzi of CDM Smith. This is the largest check that the Water For People Committee has presented in the Committee's 15-year history.

The Committee raised money throughout the year through a variety of events including a February "Dine and Dance" dinner, an auction at the AWWA-NJ Annual Conference, the May "Water For People Golf Classic," a Trenton Thunder "Family Night at the Ballpark" in August, the September "Turning Wine Into Water" wine tasting, a charity partnership with the New York City Marathon, and, its newest event, the October "Sporting Clays Social". The funds generated by the Committee are used to help provide reliable and safe drinking water and sanitation to developing communities around the world.

During the Conference, **The Kenneth J. Miller Founders Award** was presented to Erika Vardaxis of New Jersey American Water for her volunteer work and dedication to Water For People. Vardaxis has been active in the committee since 2010 and is currently serving as Vice Chair. She has organized the "Turning Wine into Water" event for the past three (3) years, helping raise more than \$75,000 for Water For People.

The AWWA Section and Committee also recognized the hard work and dedication of outgoing Chair Carmen Tierno, Director of Operations at New Jersey American Water. During Tierno's two year leadership role, more than \$220,000 was raised for Water For People. With his tenure over, Tierno passes the Chairmanship to Nicholas DeVecchis, also of New Jersey American Water, who has set a goal for the Committee to raise \$250,000 in the next two years.

### **About Water For People**

Water For People (WFP) is a nonprofit organization that exists to promote the development of high quality drinking water and sanitation services, accessible to all, and sustained by strong communities, businesses, and governments. Water For People has provided safe water and sanitation for 4 million people in 9 countries since its establishment in 1991.

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For more information about the AWWA NJ Section, please visit our website: [www.njawwa.org](http://www.njawwa.org) or call Mona Cavalcoli, Section Manager, at (866) 436-1120.