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St. Matthew Church, School collect water for Flint residents

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The water emergency in Flint has people all across the country donating bottles of clean water, and the students and congregation at St. Matthew Church and School in Walled Lake are joining the efforts.

St. Matthew launched their water drive, "Showering Flint with God's Love", on Saturday, January 30. Since then, approximately 2,400 pounds of clean drinking water has been delivered to Flint.

As part of the water drive, water is delivered to St. Paul Lutheran School in Flint. The water is then distributed amongst students and staff as needed. A portion is also delivered to a nearby homeless shelter.

"Our principal and their principal know each other very well, I taught in that school for two years and our music director worked there for several years. It just made sense to partner with them," Matt Olsen, an administrator with St. Matthew School said.

"We send the water to them as they need it. I just received an email from their principal today and they're going through eight cases of water a day. That's even with parents sending in water for the kids themselves."

Since the water drive kicked off last week, two shipments of water have been delivered to St. Paul, but Olsen expects that several more shipments will be made before the drive concludes this Friday.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we're doing this every two days. Youth Director John Welte has volunteered to take up every load every time it needs to be done. He's cleared up his calendar to make sure he can do it on any day he needs to," he said. "We knew there'd be a big reaction. We do a lot of things all year long for



Top photo: Students stand in front of the approximately 2,000 pounds of water they, along with the congregation at St. Matthew Church, collected to deliver to Flint. The Walled Lake church and school delivered 2,400 pounds of clean drinking water to St. Paul Lutheran School in Flint.

Bottom photo: Students load water into a trailer to be taken to Flint. The church and school launched a two-week water drive to help Flint residents and school children. (Photos courtesy of Ray Riggs.)



different organizations as a school and we always have a great response to it."

Help for the people of Flint has been flooding in from all across the county. From media moguls, to rappers, to everyday citizens, it's all an effort to help people ravaged by the crisis. "How can this happen in this day and age? How can the ball be dropped along the path in so many places?" Olsen said. "This is third

world stuff, not having clean drinking water."

St. Matthew students and congregation members continue to collect cases of bottled water through Friday, February 12 and encourage the public to drop off cases of water.

For more information, call St. Matthew Lutheran Church at 248-624-7676.