



# Sawyer Anderson

*Is Changing Lives Across the Globe*

Sawyer is a 10-year-old girl who enjoys acting, dancing, playing drums, drawing, basketball and volleyball. She sounds like a typical 10-year-old; however, she is anything but typical. At her young age, she is a published author, philanthropist and exceptional human being.

It all started when her father took a trip to Zambia in 2017, a poverty-stricken country about the size of Texas in south-central Africa, with Hope Lutheran Church (in conjunction with Wellspring for the World and World Vision). "My dad told me about kids my age who were injured or died trying to get clean

water," Sawyer said. "That's not fair. Every kid should have water." It was the story of a young Zambian boy Sawyer's age named Brian that sent Sawyer into action. His younger sister drowned in a shallow well on a trip to get water with Brian for the family, and he lost his arm a year later due to a snake bite while getting water from that same dirty source.

Sawyer began with a bake sale. Her goal was to raise \$50, which is water for one person for a lifetime. "However, I didn't raise \$50. I raised a whole lot more!" says Sawyer. Then, when she received a beautiful African bag from her dad after his return home, she had a bigger idea. Sawyer, in partnership with the children's ministry program at Hope Lutheran Church, designed bags from chitenge - African wax fabric that is commonly used to make dresses, bags, and infant carriers. About 100 volunteers cut and sewed them. Sawyer sold more

than 300 chitenge bags for \$50 each ... on her own! Alongside this massive chitenge bag project, Sawyer designed and sewed her very own bag to auction off at the Wellspring for the World Wine to Water charity event, bringing in an astounding \$6,250.

Sawyer's cookie sales and chitenge bag sales amounted to \$26,000 raised, but she was just getting started. One evening, Sawyer was asked to speak to all of the women at the Jeremiah Program Fargo-Moorhead in an effort to instill hope to all of the young mothers in the program. During that event, Sawyer met a woman named Coiya who worked for Jeremiah Program Fargo-Moorhead. Coiya was intrigued by Sawyer's work and suggested that Sawyer write a children's book. Sawyer asked "Can I draw the pictures? If so, then...yes!" The talented young artist set to work in December of 2018 and just recently finished and published her first book entitled *Water Works* -- written and illustrated by Sawyer. For every \$9.99 book sold, Wellspring for the World matches and World Vision then triples, making the final price donation \$50. Enough for one person to have a lifetime of clean water. Amazing!

*Water Works* is a semi-autobiographical children's book and is dedicated to Brian, the young Zambian boy who sparked her fire. There are so many stories of despair and tragedy based around the search for clean water. Thankfully, with Sawyer's help, clean, pure water will be easier to obtain.

Sawyer, by nature, has a giving heart. She believes that any action is making a difference and cannot be measured as big or small. Random acts of kindness, baking cookies for a fireman, offering a helping hand...those are all ways in which we can make a difference. Anyone at any age can bring change to the world. Wellspring for the World president Maureen Bartelt offered a few comments about Sawyer's efforts, stating, "While many children have

big, bright smiles and magnetic personalities, an empathetic drive to bring life's most basic necessity, clean water, to people in distant parts of the world is anything but common. Sawyer is a water warrior in every sense of the word. As she says in her 'elevator pitch,' 'buy a book, save a life; it's an offer you can't refuse, so buy a book!' She lives it and breathes it every day, bringing an inspirational message to all ages as she carries out her dream. Sawyer is leading the charge for all 'kids,' ages 6 to 106, to join in her quest of bringing clean water to all."

Sawyer has raised in excess of \$40,000, which becomes a great deal more after matches from Wellspring for the World and World Vision and funds 16 new clean water wells and impacts about 5,000 lives. When asked if she plans to write another book, Sawyer's response, "Do I get to illustrate it?"

Sawyer lives in West Fargo with her parents and 3-year-old sister.

Visit [www.WaterWorksSEA.com](http://www.WaterWorksSEA.com) to purchase your copy of *Water Works* today. *Water Works* is also currently available at Zandbroz Variety and at Melberg's Christian Book and Gift.

"Buy a book, save a life - it's an offer you can't refuse." -Sawyer Anderson, age 10.



Thanks to Sawyer for the dedication and passion...and for being an inspiration to us all! Do you work with a local nonprofit that you'd like your neighbors to learn about? Send an email [Jodie.Frankl@n2pub.com](mailto:Jodie.Frankl@n2pub.com).