

2008 New England Water For People Gala at Fenway Park

Friday, August 1, 2008

Home Run!

The New England Water For People Committee knocked one out of the park when it hosted the 2008 New England Water For People Gala on May 10. The event, at Boston's historic Fenway Park, attracted more than 300 attendees and netted approximately \$65,000 for Water For People, enough to provide more than 1,300 people with a protected ongoing source of safe drinking water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education!

The New England Committee has hosted a major gala event every other year since 2004, with increasing success. This year's attendance was up by more than 100 over the 2004 and 2006 gala events. Co-chairs Larry Durkin, Dave VanHoven, and **Anne Moynihan** are to be credited for an outstanding job in planning and promoting a memorable event. Larry took the lead, bringing all the pieces together and working closely with Water For People staff in Denver. Dave made the dream of a strengthened New England Water Works Association and New England Water Environment Association partnership happen to the point that one attendee commented that it wasn't separate committees he saw, but one united New England Water For People Committee.



Anne was so instrumental to the event's success that the committee recognized her commitment and outstanding organizational abilities by surprising her with a Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award for volunteer service to Water For People. She has organized event logistics for the past three galas.

Water For People's vice president and Boston native Elisa Speranza attended and presented Anne with her Miller Award. Also in attendance was Water For People CEO Colleen Stiles, who gave a moving speech about the courage required to take on the world water crisis.

Dr. Larry Simon of Brandeis University gave an inspiring talk about the role of members of the water and wastewater communities in the global water crisis. In addition to enthusiastic support from New England's water and wastewater community, the event was sponsored by Poland Spring, The Boston Globe, Harpoon Brewery, and WCVB-TV (Boston's ABC affiliate). The gala was lots of work—and lots of fun. Thanks to all who pitched in and made it so successful. You made a real difference in the lives of many less fortunate people!

