



WOMEN'S NEWS

Well of good works

BY IRVING DeJOHN
DAILY NEWS WRITER

A QUEENS-BASED humanitarian group is hoping a collaboration with a local culture magazine will pay epic dividends overseas.

Astoria residents Tennille Amor and Alexi Panos are the driving force behind EPIC (Everyday People Initiating Change), which focuses on combating water scarcity in developing countries.

"We started to recognize that a lot of larger organizations claim to be doing certain things that don't end up getting done," Amor said.

Amor, a singer, and Panos, a TV personality, said they've had six water wells installed in Tanzania so far. Each well costs on average \$12,000 and instantly improves the live of people in the village, Panos said.

The women are hoping a fundraiser tonight organized by the Queens publication Boro Magazine at The Foundry in Long Island City can get them to lucky No. 7.

The event was initially planned to raise money for the glossy monthly, but Boro founder Julian Lesser said he quickly realized EPIC was a worthier beneficiary after meeting Amor and Panos.

"We knew it had to do something positive if we were bringing all these people together, not to just drink and be merry," he said.

Lesser enlisted local businesses to cover many of the event's expenses, including getting the venue at no charge.

Foundry owner Allison Du Val said the two-room rental normally costs \$7,000 for four hours, but she was eager to provide it to a worthy cause. Small contributions, such as offering the space for free, she said, will have "tenfold" impact elsewhere.



Astoria residents Alexi Panos (l) and Tennille Amor carry water from a well they helped pay for in Tanzania.

"That's really so much more powerful and so much more impactful than one night," Du Val said.

The philanthropic pair have been visiting Tanzania yearly since forming EPIC in 2005. They originally met while bartending in Manhattan and hit it off instantly.

Amor said they weren't taken seriously at first because of their youthful appearance and lack of experience in the region.

"Then they realized we weren't messing around," Amor joked.

Panos said the two complement each other well — she focuses on the finances while Amor works on the creative aspects and builds relationships with the tribes.

"She's really the heart that drives it, while I'm the mind that gets it done," Panos said.

The toughest aspect, both agree, is juggling full-time jobs while running a charity. However, after they

walk through the rural areas and see how many people struggle to find clean water, they said, they remember why they leave the comfort of their apartments.

"You can affect someone's life by doing something so simple. It's amazing," Panos said.

Tonight's event is sold out. To make donations to the EPIC organization's efforts, go online and visit www.epicthemovement.org.