

# ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL ARCHIVES

## Professor On Water Mission

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### **JIM BELSHAW of the Journal**

Before Sept. 11, 2001, Michael Campana would have brushed aside the cliché that has lemonade being made when life hands you lemons. Too trite and timeworn, it was the kind of adage to which he would have paid no attention.

But as with so many other things across America, Sept. 11 changed everything, the phrase itself something of a cliché now. But not in the Campana family.

His sister, Ann Campana Judge, a passenger on American Airlines Flight 77, died when it slammed into the Pentagon. She was 49, the travel director for National Geographic magazine.

Three months later, December 2001, her older brother, Michael, a hydrology professor at the University of New Mexico, searched for a way to honor her memory. He wanted something lasting, something that brought people together.

In December 2002, the Ann Campana Judge Foundation, a fledgling nonprofit aimed at bringing clean water to people around the world came into existence. It now seeks proposals for projects in developing countries.

The professor, an academic for 25 years who was accustomed to seeking money from everybody else, suddenly finds himself with an odd feeling. He's dispensing it. Not much, to be sure, but nonetheless, the Ann Campana Judge Foundation is a reality.

"I had the idea about starting a foundation before Ann was killed," he said. "I wanted to do something other than write checks to organizations and since I have a skill in demand by virtually everyone in the world, especially people who are less fortunate, I thought I should do something. I toyed with the idea, but didn't pursue it. After Ann was killed, it dawned on me that what better thing to do than put it in your sister's name and help people."

He hired an Albuquerque attorney to guide him through the thicket of IRS rules for nonprofits. Then he set out to raise funds.

"My fund-raising technique has been to badger friends and family," he said. "We've raised about \$7,000. I need to sit down and plan a better strategy. I hate to bother people to give money. We aren't ever going to be a huge organization. I don't ever see us having a grand \$1 million

endowment. If it happens, fine. But I see us being a flow-through organization. If we get \$10,000, we'll give out \$9,900."

The projects will be small, going to developing countries to repair water pumps, teach people to take care of their own health and water needs - the kinds of things in the kinds of places where a \$4,000 or \$5,000 grant can make a big difference.

"I want to teach people to take care of their own water needs, rather than just fixing the problem and going away," he said. "I want people to learn how to deal with their own water problems."

In June, Campana and his UNM students will work in Honduras.

"We'll build a little dam in the mountains, run a PVC pipeline to a village and into a concrete tank so water can be distributed to villagers," he said. "It's simple things like this that I have in mind."

The foundation has put out a request for proposals. For more information on the RFP or on the foundation itself, contact information follows:

**The Ann Campana Judge Foundation**

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"Someone asked me about the foundation a couple of weeks ago," Campana said. "I said, well, I guess I'm trying to make lemonade. I'm trying to take care of the grief. I'm not much of a moper anyway, but I wanted to do something positive. That's what Ann would have done."

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