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For immediate release

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### **Blue Planet Network Joins Forces with Sheryl Sandberg and Featured on LeanIn**

San Francisco Bay Area, CA, March 7, 2013 – [Blue Planet Network](#), an award-winning 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in the San Francisco Bay Area, is featured on [Sheryl Sandberg](#)'s new nonprofit foundation, [LeanIn](#), that has created a global community dedicated to supporting women "leaning in" to their professional ambitions.

We are proud to partner with Sandberg and join her online collaborative network of leaders in business, nonprofits, government and academia who have come together to showcase the stories of women. As an online network of corporations, foundations/nonprofits, academia and leaders in solving the global water crisis, Blue Planet Network understands the value of sharing access to inspirational ideas and people, conversations on important topics, and insights borne from real experience.

Blue Planet Network increases the impact of safe drinking water programs for people around the world. Sustainable clean water brings the chance for health, education and economic opportunity – especially for the girls and women who spend their days lugging water for their families. Worldwide, it is estimated that on a single day women can spend over 200 million collective hours fetching water. Three million girls will miss school this week – and 1 in 10 girls drop out of school per month – because they lack access to clean water and private sanitation. Hillary Rodham Clinton shared in her March 2012 remarks in honor of World Water Day, *"Something as simple as better access to water and sanitation can improve the quality of life and reduce the disease burden for billions of people. When women and girls don't have to spend 200 million hours a day ... seeking water, maybe they can go to school, maybe they can have more opportunities to help bring income in to the family. Reliable access to water is essential for feeding the hungry, running the industries that promote jobs..."*

We want to help women and girls realize their full potential in the community, in the home and in their countries through clean water for all. *"We hope women and men everywhere decide to lean in. When people come together around a common goal, it creates opportunities for real change,"* said Rachel Thomas, co-founder and president of Lean In. *"Our goal is to offer a growing library of free world-class education and support materials for individuals and organizations to use in ways that are valuable and meaningful to them."* Blue Planet Network shares LeanIn's passion for reversing the trends women face on a daily level in the workforce, in the marketplace, and anywhere women are prevented from making the most of their talent and wisdom. Together, we can change the trajectory of women in their communities in some of the poorest countries and give them new opportunities for advancement and prosperity.



Lisa Nash, CEO of Blue Planet Network, is determined that *“every moment of the day, I want to make sure I’m doing something absolutely critical.”* One of the ways she’s focused on the absolutely critical is through Blue Planet Network, where she is able to marry her passion for the environment with female empowerment, and help women everywhere transform their own lives with clean water.

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**About Blue Planet Network / [www.blueplanetnetwork.org](http://www.blueplanetnetwork.org)**

Founded in 2002, Blue Planet Network’s mission is to exponentially increase the impact of safe drinking water programs for people around the world. Blue Planet Network’s vision is a world in which all people have affordable access to sustainable safe drinking water and the chance for health, education and economic opportunity that it brings. Blue Planet Network’s collaborative online solution and technology services enable its members to plan, manage, monitor and analyze over 1,600 water projects totaling \$41MM. Blue Planet Network’s 97 global members have helped more than 1,000,000 people across 2,300 communities in 27 countries with safe drinking water and sanitation.

**About LeanIn**

Sparked by Sheryl Sandberg's book “Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead,” LeanIn.Org consists of three integrated programs. 1) Lean In Community brings women and men together to share stories and have daily conversations around topics that will help them achieve their goals. 2) Lean In Education offers access to free online lectures, produced in collaboration with the Clayman Institute for Gender Studies at Stanford University, on topics including creating successful teams, combating gender bias, negotiating, and advocating for your ideas. 3) Lean In Circles are small groups that meet monthly to learn together and share experiences in an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust. For more information, visit [www.LeanIn.Org](http://www.LeanIn.Org) <<http://www.LeanIn.Org>> <<http://www.leanin.org/>> or [facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/leaninorg)<<http://facebook.com/>> leaninorg.