2024 PROGRESS REPORT
Protecting Our Impact and Mission

water to thrive
BUILD WELLS CHANGE LIVES

Over 15 years
Over 2,000 wells
Over one million lives changed

WELL PROJECTS

Transforming Lives Through The Power of Clean Water

2023 Donors Gave $1,665,409 IN TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. Together, we have reached an incredible milestone—funding 2,000 wells and providing clean, safe water to more than one million individuals over the past 15 years. This achievement would not have been possible without your generosity, compassion, and belief in the life-changing impact of access to clean water.

While we celebrate this accomplishment, we remain focused on the future. Our vision is clear: sustainability and continued progress as we work toward bringing clean water to the next million people. With your ongoing partnership, we are excited to take on this challenge, ensuring that communities not only receive water but are empowered to maintain and manage these essential resources for years to come. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. We look forward to continuing this work together as we move toward our next milestone.

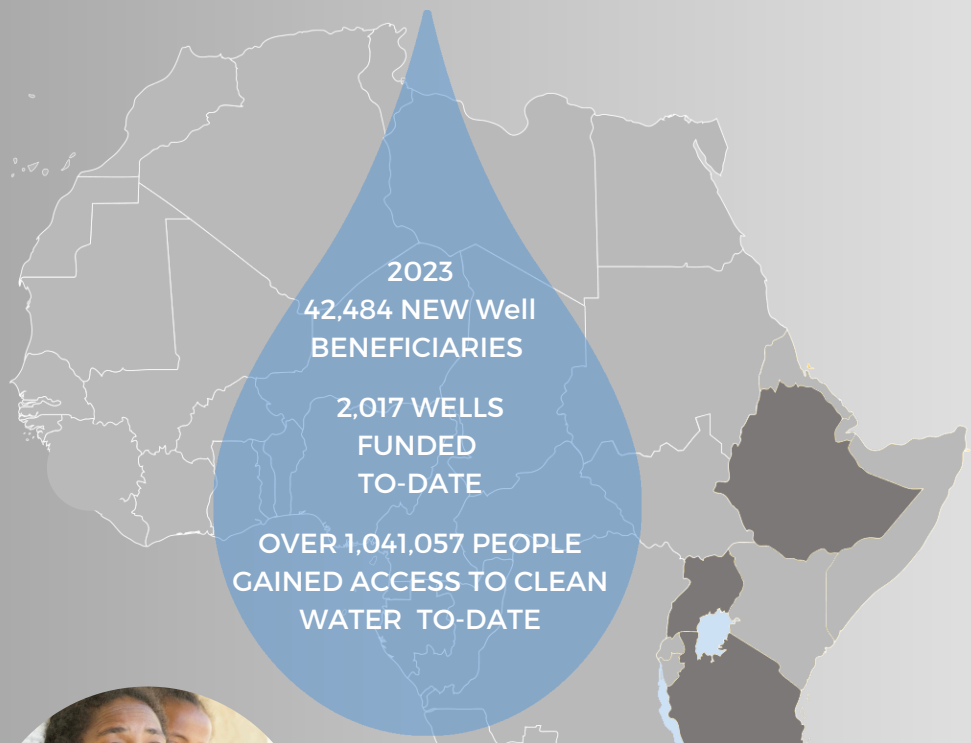
-Susanne Wilson

2023 DONORS GAVE $661,991 FOR WATER

Since 2008, clean water access in Ethiopia has increased by 50%

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Over **One Million** Lives Transformed



Hawassa, Ethiopia

Maternal Health Clinics

Generous grant funding supported clean water initiatives for 34 rural Maternal Health Clinics. These projects alone have benefited over **1,124,066 community members!**

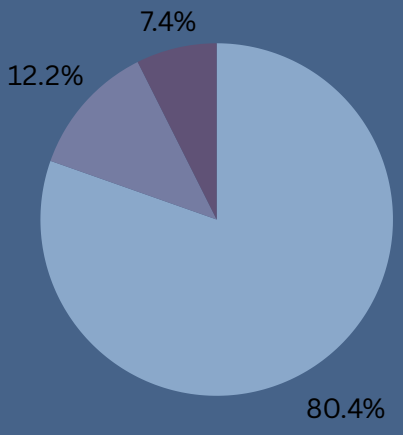
ETHIOPIA

102 wells in 2023
21,280 people served in 2023
1,612 total wells to-date
686,455 people served to-date

UGANDA

45 wells in 2023
12,764 people served in 2023
338 total wells to-date
140,620 people served to-date

WATER TO THRIVE EXPENDITURES



80.4% SPENT ON WATER PROJECTS

12.2% SPENT ON FUNDRAISING

7.4% SPENT ON OPERATIONS

TANZANIA

10 Wells in 2023
8,440 people served in 2023
102 total wells to-date
116,470 people served to-date

Water project totals include the number of wells implemented. Annual data, including total expenditures, is from 2023. To-date data is from 2008-2024.

MORE THAN WELLS

Maternal Clinic Projects

Partners: South Central Ethiopian Synod (SCES) Hawassa, Ethiopia

In 2022, Water to Thrive embarked on a journey to amplify its impact by providing sustainable water solutions to several rural Maternal Health Clinics through grant funding. The road to success has been a challenging one, but with the support of our dedicated partner, SCES, we have provided clean water to 34 maternal health clinics. These initiatives have forever changed the lives of the clinic staff and their surrounding communities. The ripple effect of the projects has spread like wild fire in ways we could have never imagined. With this vital resource on hand, the clinics have reported reduced sepsis cases, improved sanitation, reduced infant mortality rates and improved community health. In addition, water access has enabled many of the clinics to develop creative solutions to combat community malnutrition issues. Additionally, cash crop initiatives have provided funds to support their operations. This new income stream has enabled them to reduce healthcare costs for these local low-income families.

Tracking Progress:

"We have seen a 60% reduction in infant mortality rates and a huge decline in infectious diseases."

-Silesh

Creative Solutions:

"Crop production, made possible from recent water projects, has enabled the clinics to address malnutrition and food scarcity issues within their local communities."

-Susanne Wilson

REBUILDING AFTER WAR

Well Repair Projects

Partners: Relief Society of Tigray (REST) Tigray, Ethiopia

In Tigray, the war has ended, schools have reopened, and through our 665 rehab projects with REST, water has returned to many of these communities.

Rebuilding after the conflict will be a long and emotional journey for the people of Tigray, but during our vision trip in 2024, the progress made in just one year's time was inspiring...

Last year, Executive Director Susanne Wilson visited the rural communities in Tigray just a few months after the peace treaty there was issued, ending an over three-year civil war. Susanne visited the communities to assess the damage of the wells and secure a rehabilitation plan. Through her various visits with the communities it was clear that famine, drought, and emotional trauma were at the forefront of post-war daily life. Although communities were suffering with very little, they graciously offered what little they had to welcome her.

Fast-forward to February 2024

Community life was certainly improving. Susanne was greeted with traditional Ethiopian coffee, plenty of shiro, and injera. With over 500 rehabs in place at the time, women were now able to foster income-generating activities like basket weaving, rather than walking for miles or digging for hours to collect water. The children were once again in school, and the men could now graze the animals and tend to their farms. The vast improvement here proved that clean water access is directly linked to reduced poverty and disease, food availability, education, and overall quality of life. When you support clean water initiatives, you are indirectly supporting these causes as well.

LIVES CHANGED FOREVER

Partners:
Partners for Comunity Transformation (PaCT)
Ugandan Water Project (UWP)

Kayunga, Uganda

Community Cooperative

During our 2024 vision trip with PaCT we witnessed the community cooperative in action! Getting the community involved with the building of the protective fencing promotes a culture of unity and trust. This is a critical step in safeguarding the longevity of the project.

"Increased health equates to increased education."

Increased Education

One major concern within this region is the risk of protzoan parasitic infections. The abundance of stagnant water here makes these microscopic dangers difficult to avoid. It was clear that absenteeism is high amongst communities lacking clean water access as they are often collecting water from marshy areas prone to dangerous parasites.

"Over 4,500 children die every day from waterborn diseases."

Medina's Changed Life

We had the pleasure of meeting Medina and her mother, Miriam on our 2024 vision trip with UWP. Miriam explained how Medina suffered tremendously, battling Cholera on and off for several years. She worried endlessly that her four year old daughter would soon lose her life to a waterborne disease. Medina truly touched our hearts as she was such a sweet young girl. She curiously greeted us with a warm smile and was eager to hold our hands, it was as if she knew we were there to help her. We are excited to report that Medina now has clean water access and is Cholera free!

PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

Expanding Our Outreach and Supporting Our Growth

Water to Thrive and Aurora Plush

Collaborating for Clean Water

In 2022 John Blykart reached out to Water to Thrive Executive Director, Susanne Wilson, with an idea that would soon change the lives of thousands of individuals in need. John, passionate about giving back and always looking to do more, had the idea of giving back through an Aurora Plush toy line of African animals, made from recycled water bottles. His idea to donate proceeds from the toy sales toward wells for rural East Africa has proven to be beyond successful. John's Aurora toy initiatives have funded 15 wells, changing the lives of 8,400 individuals in just two years!

Ambassador Program

In 2023 our ambassador group successfully raised funds for 20 wells! These motivated individuals meet monthly to discuss our communication and outreach initiatives. Many of them host temple talks, and provide various presentations throughout the year to spread awareness of the water crisis while raising funds for sustainable water projects.

Congregation Support

When individuals unite through congregational support, mountains are moved! This year, both Shepherd of The Lake Lutheran and Gloria Dei Lutheran Well Campaigns reached a 20 well milestone! Their faithful support over the years has changed the lives of over 22,000 people! We aim to increase our congregational support in the coming years to further amplify our impact and outreach.

Combined Federal Campaign

This year we were approved by The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to join The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This workplace-giving campaign is overseen by OPM and offers the federal community the opportunity to donate and volunteer. Through this program, employees and retirees can generate local and global impact by supporting trustworthy, charitable organizations.

OUR LONGEVITY PLAN

The Well Cost Increase and Our 100 Percent Promise

We are joyous and grateful for your support during this critical time. Safeguarding our mission and continued global impact is our main priority. Witnessing the thousands of transformed lives each year on my vision trips has driven my passion and motivation to ensure we can continue this important, life-changing work for generations to come.

Through the impact of our various water projects over the past 15 years, we have completely transformed the lives of over one million people! This is far more than a drop in the bucket. I know the ripple effect generated by your support and these projects have played a tremendous role in shaping the future.

Your continued support means everything, for there are countless individuals who need our help. Please know that every day, I wake up beyond grateful to be on this life-changing journey with you!

-Susanne Wilson

TEAM MEMBERS

Susanne Wilson, Executive Director
Kellie Shellaby, Office Manager
Joyce Harmon, Accounting Manager
Claire Miller, Donor Relations
Jamie Morris, Marketing Director
Ann Flemings, Advancement Director
Jennifer Kondelis, Program Analyst
Elizabeth Wrona, Grant Writer
Gashaw Semeneh, Project Manager

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