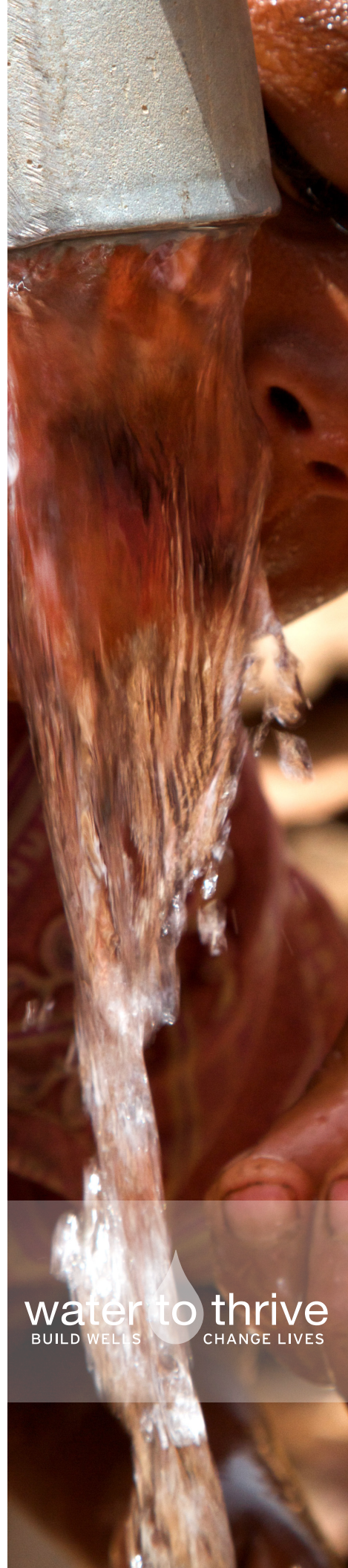




PROGRESS REPORT 2013



water to thrive
BUILD WELLS CHANGE LIVES

A word from W2T

In 2013, the blessed journey of Water to Thrive continues as we celebrate our fifth anniversary. As our "50 for 5" campaign concludes, we have funded more than 425 projects in four African countries and provided more than 210,000 people with clean water for the first time in their lives.

We give thanks for the W2T team, our supporters, staff, board, and especially our amazing in-country implementing partners, without whom we could not carry out our mission. In 2013, our new efforts are beginning to bear fruit in Tanzania and Uganda. With our partners there, we have completed our first group of projects and look forward to many more in 2014.

Our trips to Africa continue to be a major highlight, as we visit communities in need of water and communities inaugurating their first well. During 2013, we hosted four mission trips, including a hands-on working trip involving more than 30 travelers who were able to experience firsthand the transforming effects of our work. If you are interested in journeying with us, email team@watertothrive.org.

We have developed three signature programs – our annual 5K race, Chef's Table Austin, and the Water Angels major donor group. They provide unrestricted operating funds that allow us to keep our promise that 100 percent of all contributions designated for water projects are used only for water projects.

It is a privilege for W2T to work with so many passionate and caring supporters, who never cease to amaze us with their commitment to our mission of bringing the blessing of clean, sustainable water to those in need. Thank you for your support.



Dick Moeller
Founder & President





The Need

Throughout rural Africa, the lack of clean, sustainable water has a devastating impact on the physical and economic health of families and communities.

- In the countries we serve, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda, more than 75 million people lack daily access to clean water.
- The lack of access to clean water limits community development and economic growth.
- Millions of women and children are spending four to six hours each day walking to collect dirty, contaminated water for their families.
- For children – especially girls – time spent gathering water exposes them to the risk of physical harm, reduces the chance for education, and continues the cycle of poverty.
- A single jerry can, holding about five gallons of water, can weigh 40 to 60 pounds.
- Diseases from unsafe water and lack of sanitation kill more people every year than all forms of violence combined.

Water to Thrive's work is transforming lives in rural Africa by bringing the blessing of clean, sustainable water to communities that need it most.



A gift for her community

When Lucia Olia was 14, she packed up her meager belongings and walked nearly a day to reach the village of Angolenyang in northern Uganda. By the time she arrived, her childhood would be over. She would be a married woman with a household of her own to manage.

Today, Lucia is 70. She and her husband were happy together for 35 years, but were never able to have children. With no family to help with farming and chores, the couple relied on their neighbors. Lucia's dependence on her neighbors grew when her husband passed away in 1990. He was never seen by a doctor, but Lucia suspects the local water had something to do with his death.

"We only ever had water to drink from holes we dug in the swamp," she says. "Stomach pains and diarrhea were part of our way of life. Many people have died from drinking that water."

James Peter Orulu, another long-time Angolenyang resident, says three children from the village died from water-related diseases in 2012 alone. "It was the biggest problem we ever faced."

In early 2013, a viable site for a well was identified. The well, to be funded by Water to Thrive, would be capable of producing more than enough clean, safe drinking water for the entire village. There was just one obstacle - the site was on private property. Fortunately for the 500-plus inhabitants of Angolenyang, the owner of that property - Lucia - was willing to donate the land to the project. Dedicated fully to the project and her community, she contributes 2,000 Ugandan shillings (80 cents) a month to the maintenance fund, like every other household.

There has been no water-related disease reported since the well went into active service in mid-2013. "After everything these people have done for me, how could I not repay them donating my land?" Lucia says. **"I am happy to do it. And I am happy not to be sick anymore."**





A real life-changer

Fifteen-year-old Meskele lives in the isolated Ethiopian village of Bekafa. Married for two years, she has a one-year-old son named Kissa.

Before Water to Thrive funded the construction of a new well in Bekafa, Meskele's life was consumed with the task of gathering water. During the long dry season, water would become harder and harder to come by as the surface water left by the rains disappeared.

As a daily user of the new well in her village since it opened in September, Meskele is philosophical about such benefits as improved health, personal safety, and saved time. She answers every question about what it was like to find water before and how the well has now changed things for the better with a smile and a simple: "We don't have that problem anymore."

Then she is asked if the well has allowed her to hope for something that otherwise would have been out of the question. It's clear that this question gets to the heart of what matters to Meskele.

"As soon as he's old enough, Kissa will be able to go to school now," she says. "I never went because there wasn't time. But I want him to go, and I think it will be possible."

In fact, no one from Meskele's side of the family has ever been to school, at any level. Because his mother will have time for it now that she is not spending hours of every day walking for water, Kissa will be the first ever to sit in a classroom.

"I think it will help him to have a better life,"

Meskele adds. "He will learn many things."

She smiles again, secures Kissa on her back, picks up her jerry can, and starts her short walk for home.

Your work for water

At Water to Thrive, we are continually amazed by the caring and open hearts of those who are moved to help us transform lives with the blessed gift of clean, sustainable water. Hundreds of congregations, schools, community groups, families, and individual sponsors have all rallied resources to meet the needs of more than 210,000 people in rural Africa.

The Barrick family in Saratoga Springs, New York, shines as an example of this passion to transform lives with water. They began their first engagement with Water to Thrive more than three years ago with a family crawfish boil to kick off a successful campaign to sponsor a water project. Sponsoring the well became a true family affair, as their daughter Madison helped organize her friends into the "Lemonade Girls" to raise enough money to become Water Angels.

We were blessed to have Suzanne Barrick on our mission trip in June 2013. She was able to participate in a joyous celebration for the inauguration of their sponsored hand-dug well with the community at Enda Michael. Then, Suzanne gained firsthand experience of the walk for water as she accompanied Ababa back to her home, carrying one of her jerry cans filled with safe, clean water.

This walk for water, an echo of the labor performed by village women throughout rural Africa each and every day, was a powerful, moving experience for us all.

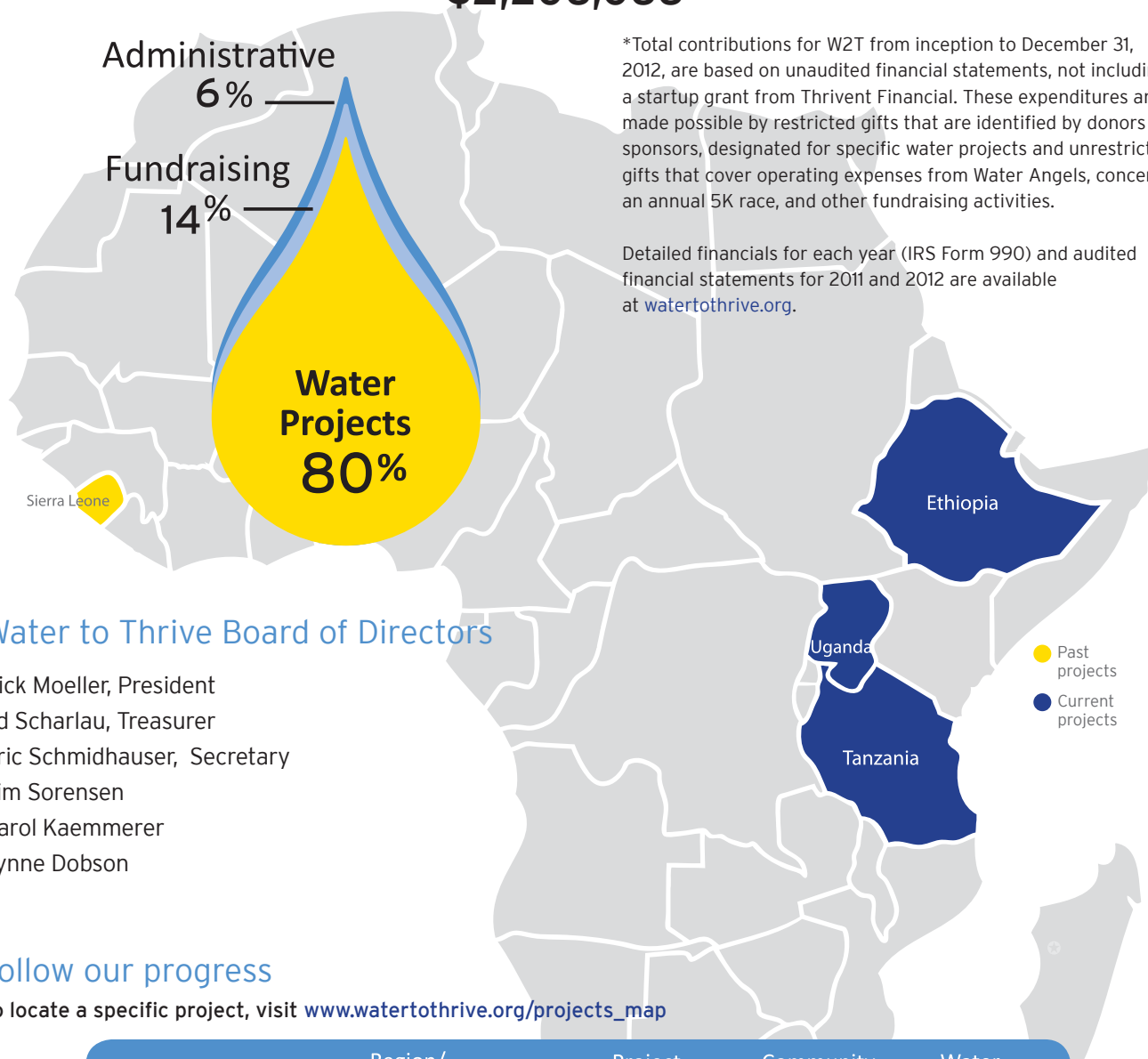
Your own support can come in whatever way you can imagine to lift up the need and involve others. You can take part in one of our three signature programs – our annual 5K race, Chef's Table Austin, and the Water Angels major donor group. And your efforts can now be supported by a personalized fundraising campaign on the Water to Thrive website at watertothrive.org. Join Water to Thrive in transforming lives!

To learn more about traveling to Africa with Water to Thrive, visit watertothrive.org/trips or contact us at team@watertothrive.org.



Total contributions through 2012

\$2,206,066*



*Total contributions for W2T from inception to December 31, 2012, are based on unaudited financial statements, not including a startup grant from Thrivent Financial. These expenditures are made possible by restricted gifts that are identified by donors and sponsors, designated for specific water projects and unrestricted gifts that cover operating expenses from Water Angels, concerts, an annual 5K race, and other fundraising activities.

Detailed financials for each year (IRS Form 990) and audited financial statements for 2011 and 2012 are available at watertothrive.org.

Water to Thrive Board of Directors

Dick Moeller, President
Ed Scharlau, Treasurer
Eric Schmidhauser, Secretary
Jim Sorensen
Carol Kaemmerer
Lynne Dobson

Follow our progress

To locate a specific project, visit www.watertothrive.org/projects_map

Year	Region/Country	Project Area	Community Beneficiaries	Water Points
2008-2012	Ethiopia, Sierra Leone	Various	123,912	267
2012-2013	Iringa, Tanzania	Lundanatwe	4,120	8
2013	Arsi, Ethiopia	Jeju	6,038	25
2013	Oromia, Ethiopia	Lencha	870	4
2013	Arsi, Ethiopia	Bele Gesgar	6,202	25
2013	West Shewa, Ethiopia	Midakeng	25,264	15
2013	Sidama, Ethiopia	Melga	5,421	10
2013	Tigray, Ethiopia	Senale	8,110	29
2013	Lira, Uganda	Apac	4,700	10
2013-2014	Iringa, Tanzania	Kiponzero	5,900	12
2013-2014	West Shewa, Ethiopia	Midakeng	15,851	18
2013-2014	Tigray, Ethiopia	Scharti	4,730	20

211,118

443

Vision

A world where we
share generously to
provide health, hope,
and water to all.

Mission

Water to Thrive
transforms lives
in rural Africa by
bringing the blessing
of sustainable,
clean water
to communities in need
by connecting them
to social investors,
congregations,
schools,
and community groups
with a heart
to make a difference.

Values

Stewardship
Transparency
Impact
Accountability
Integrity
Compassion



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WaterToThrive



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Main front cover photo
courtesy of Lynne Dobson.

