



## PROGRESS REPORT 2014

**water to thrive**  
BUILD WELLS CHANGE LIVES



# A word from W2T



In 2014, Water to Thrive and its passionate team of supporters, donors, volunteers, board, staff, and in-country partners celebrated six years of service in rural Africa. Together, we have funded more than 500 projects in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Sierra Leone – bringing the gift of clean water to more than 250,000 people for the first time in their history and transforming communities for generations.

This year, in addition to our growing number of ongoing water projects, new initiatives helped Water to Thrive spread awareness and strengthen support in the U.S. and in the countries we serve. Mission trips to the field furthered our work and fostered our motivated supporters. Our three signature programs – the annual 5K race, Chef’s Table Austin, and the Water Angels major donor group – have all grown and provided opportunities for engagement, commitment, and support. We also took part in national conferences that allowed us to share Water to Thrive’s story with new audiences.

Networking with others brought Water to Thrive more opportunities to connect people like you with communities still in need. Unrestricted operating funds raised through our signature programs let us keep our promise that 100 percent of all contributions designated for water projects are solely used for water projects.

You are an important part of our mission. Whether you make a donation, attend an event, host a talk, run our race, journey with us to Africa, or simply tell others about the work we do...your support is critical. You allow us to build wells and give entire communities the gift of clean water. You help us change lives, and we thank you.

Dick Moeller, CEO

Keep up with Water to Thrive throughout the year at [watertothrive.org/blog](http://watertothrive.org/blog)

# The need



*This Ugandan girl is one of the thousands of African children whose lives are adversely affected by the lack of clean, safe water.*

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, more than 75 million people lack daily access to clean water. In these communities without clean water, millions of women and children spend four to six hours a day walking to collect contaminated water. Children – especially girls – are at risk of physical harm when fetching water, and more communities perish from unsafe water than from any form of violence. As Water to Thrive builds wells, we are working to solve these water-related concerns.



*The Robit reservoir tower under construction.*



The community of Robit has been a long-term project for Water to Thrive, and is a shining example of how the blessing of clean, safe water can multiply to change the lives of nearly 7,000 people.

In good weather, it takes about two hours to reach Robit from the northern Ethiopian city of Gondar. Robit lies along the banks of the Megech River, on the edge of a wide river floodplain that is often impassable because of rain and floods. About three years ago, Water to Thrive and our implementing partners, A Glimmer of Hope and Organization for the Redevelopment of Amhara (ORDA), began work on a major deep borehole water project – including a large reservoir and water tower, almost five miles of pipeline, and eight water points to serve the community.

After many logistical and technical challenges along the way, the project was completed earlier in 2014 and Water to Thrive was able to celebrate its inauguration as part of our May journey. Some 2,000 primary and secondary students, along with many community members, clapped and sang as they greeted our group. Many waved signs of welcome, including seven-year-old Natnael Habtu whose placard proclaimed, “We are very much excited of getting clean and safe water!”

It was a message being conveyed by everyone, through signs and smiles and joyful celebration. At the first water point in the village, Water to Thrive cut a ribbon to officially open the water project, then visited each of the remaining water points – five distributed around the community, one at the primary school, one at the high school, and one at the health clinic.

A final community-wide celebration was held at the tower supporting the new reservoir. Children continued to sing and dance, and community elders and local leaders spoke of their gratitude for the clean water now flowing to Robit. And in the months since Water to Thrive’s visit, Natnael’s father Mengiste has kept in touch, providing updates on how his son and his community are doing, always sending a blessing.

## Reaching out to Robit



See the first gush of clean water in Robit at <https://www.watertothrive.org/hitting-water-robit>



## Working in-country



The Tigray region of Ethiopia is working hard to end its water crisis. Water to Thrive's partners work with the local water bureau, Ethiopian government, and community members to provide sustainable well projects.

Recently, the government hired a water technician for each area in Tigray. The water technicians are responsible for monitoring each community to solve problems that may occur with wells. Water technicians can also train community members to address issues like flushing out a well if it becomes dirty, repairing leaking wells, or correcting drainage issues.

On one trip to Ethiopia, Water to Thrive staff, volunteers, and donors had the privilege of meeting Letay, a water tech in Tigray. As a 21-year-old woman, Letay is not a typical Ethiopian water tech, but her energy, passion, and knowledge make her perfect for this important on-the-ground job.

## Committed to caring



There are many ways to engage and influence a school, congregation, or community, as Concordia University Texas demonstrates every day. Over the last five years, Concordia has funded 10 wells – three in the last year alone. These 10 wells will serve approximately 5,000 people for the next 20 years. The tenth well was dedicated to Concordia's immediate past president Dr. Tom Cedel and his wife Penny, who have been tireless champions for the mission.

How has Concordia managed it? Water to Thrive's supporters at the university promote awareness through online campaigns, fundraising events, and information tables. The group at Concordia is led by Ann Schwartz with the school's Service Learning Center. Students and faculty have gained a true awareness of the water crisis and have been acting on their strong desire to help. Water to Thrive can help any individual or group hoping to act as a catalyst for building wells and changing lives – just as Concordia has done by launching water campaigns, raising awareness, and engaging passionate leaders.



*On a W2T mission trip, students from Concordia University Texas shared energy and enthusiasm with more than 1200 students at the Sudi Primary School near Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia.*

You can start your own campaign like Concordia University Texas at [watertothrive.org/launch-campaign](https://watertothrive.org/launch-campaign)





## Start a well campaign

Individuals, congregations, schools, groups, and businesses have all worked to fund individual wells in Africa.

[watertothrive.org/launch-campaign](http://watertothrive.org/launch-campaign)



## Voluntourism

Our travel volunteers join us in Africa to visit well sites and take part in community activities.  
[watertothrive.org/mission-trips](http://watertothrive.org/mission-trips)

## How you help us help others

The solution to the water crisis is not simple, but Water to Thrive believes we can make a difference when we work together.

Do you have interest in getting more involved, spreading awareness, coming to an event, or going on a trip with us? Would your church, school, office, neighborhood, friends and family like to join hands to support a cause, but need fresh ideas for new engagement?

Water to Thrive has the resources and ideas you need to make an impact. Whether you attend an event or help put one together, run in our 5K or do a true walk for water with a villager in Africa, you can find exciting ways to work for change at [watertothrive.org/get-involved](http://watertothrive.org/get-involved). It could be something as simple as following our Facebook page and sharing our stories. Get more involved and write up your own well campaign for our blog, or go farther and step into the role of W2T ambassador, helping us take our mission to larger groups in your area.

At every level, we are grateful for your support. You help us help others. You make a difference.

## Give the gift of water

Our supporters have found many creative ways to raise money to fund wells.  
[watertothrive.org/donate](http://watertothrive.org/donate)



## Chef's Table

This signature event brings supporters and the best local chefs together to raise funds to build wells in Africa.  
[chefstableaustin.org](http://chefstableaustin.org)



## The Pump Run 5K/Kids K

Families in Africa walk miles each day to find clean water. Elite athletes and families here run miles to help them.  
[thepumprun.org](http://thepumprun.org)



## Volunteer

Volunteers help us manage programs, coordinate events, find funding, and speak to organizations & groups.  
[watertothrive.org/mission-engagement](http://watertothrive.org/mission-engagement)



## Ambassadors & advocates

W2T Ambassadors are friends across the nation who help others engage in our mission.  
[watertothrive.org/get-involved](http://watertothrive.org/get-involved)



## Water Angels

Members of our major donor group pledge \$1,000 each year to fund the mission of clean, safe water.  
[watertothrive.org/our-model](http://watertothrive.org/our-model)





# Our first local project officer



As part of our new program initiatives, Water to Thrive recently hired Gashaw Semeneh of Addis Ababa as our Ethiopia Project Officer. Gashaw will visit ongoing projects in the country and communicate with us directly on project conditions.

“I am grateful to be a part of the W2T family,” Gashaw writes. “Previously, I had a chance to work for a few companies and NGOs as a Project Manager in a number of rural water supply projects.”

“In the past 10-plus years, I had the chance to see the scarcity, challenge, inaccessibility, and inadequacy of clean water supply in different parts of rural Ethiopia,” he adds. “I believe that through Water to Thrive’s intervention, hundreds of communities will benefit. Eventually, the community’s well-being, edification, and economic development will be enhanced.”

In his spare time, Gashaw enjoys reading the Bible and spiritual books, fellowshiping with other believers, and spending time with his wife Lidiya and 16-month-old son Enoch.

# Working in partnership



## Water to Thrive in-country partners

A Glimmer of Hope, Ethiopia  
Mekane Yesus Central Gibe Synod, Ethiopia  
Relief Society of Tigray, Ethiopia  
Mekane Yesus South Central Ethiopia Synod, Ethiopia  
Organization for the Redevelopment of Amhara, Ethiopia

International Lifeline Fund, Uganda  
Oromia Development Association, Ethiopia  
St. Paul Partners, Tanzania

## Water to Thrive Board of Directors

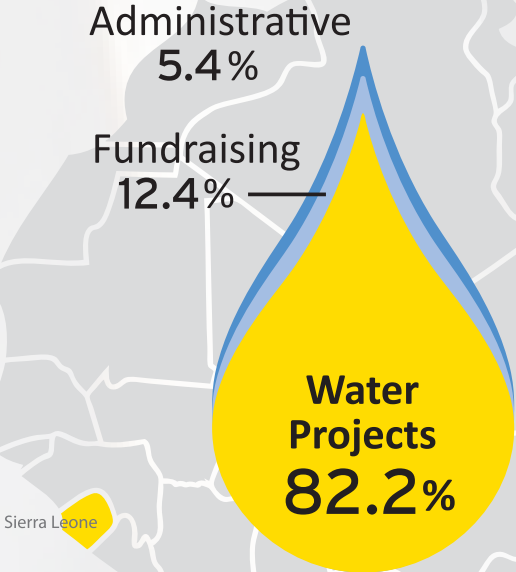
Dick Moeller, President  
Ed Scharlau, Treasurer  
Jim Sorensen, Secretary  
Carol Kaemmerer  
Lynne Dobson

## Follow our progress

To locate a specific project, visit [watertothrive.org/projects\\_map](http://watertothrive.org/projects_map)  
See current campaigns at [watertothrive.org/campaigns](http://watertothrive.org/campaigns)

Year	Region/ Country	Project Area	Community Beneficiaries	Water Points
2008-2013	Ethiopia, Sierra Leone	Various	184,637	393
2014	Iringa, Tanzania	Kiponzero	5,900	12
2014	West Shewa, Ethiopia	Midakeng	16,443	20
2014	Tigray, Ethiopia	Scharti	4,730	20
2014	Lira, Uganda	APAC	7,509	10
2014	Tigray, Ethiopia	Assa	4,740	20
2014	Oromia, Ethiopia	Barack	500	2
2014-2015	Hawassa, Ethiopia	Arbegona	13,100	20
2014-2015	Lira, Uganda	APAC	16,100	20
2014-2015	Tigray, Ethiopia	Ahferom/Hawizien	9,298	40
2014-2015	Magoye, Tanzania	Magoye	5,100	10

Total contributions through 2013  
\$3,402,567\*



\*Total contributions for W2T from inception to December 31, 2013, 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 are available at [watertothrive.org](http://watertothrive.org).

## Nations in need

Three simple statistics will tell you why we do what we do.

**Ethiopia:** Rural population 69 million; 46 million lack access to clean water.

**Tanzania:** Rural population 33 million; 19 million lack access to clean water.

**Uganda:** Rural population 30 million; 10 million lack access to clean water.

268,057 567

Learn more about working in partnership with Water to Thrive at [watertothrive.org/friends-water-thrive](http://watertothrive.org/friends-water-thrive)



### 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



[watertothrive.org](http://watertothrive.org)

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