

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

THIS YEAR, YOU GAVE HEALTH & HOPE

There are over 700 million people worldwide living without access to clean water. That is about 1 in 10 people. Clean water access improves health, education, economic development, female empowerment and provides hope. Our vision is a world where we share generously to provide health and hope, through water, to those we serve. During a time when health and hope were threatened, you persevered and continued to give to ensure that people gained access to the clean water and sanitation and hygiene training they need. This year, when our 2020 operational funding was severely impacted because of COVID-19, you gave us hope for the future by coming together to raise over \$250,000 for the Water Can't Wait Operations Relief Fund—our most successful online fundraiser to-date.

As we enter our 12th year of service, you've funded 1,128 wells, bringing clean water to over 600,000 people. You, our supporters, continue to provide hope in more ways than one.

\$1,096,934*
RAISED
—AN INCREASE OF
OVER \$80,000
FROM THE
PREVIOUS YEAR

130 WELLS
FUNDED

76,700 PEOPLE
GAINED ACCESS
TO CLEAN
WATER FOR THE
FIRST TIME

*Total 2019 revenue—includes funds for water projects and operations.

2019 WATER PROJECTS

In sub-Saharan Africa, 88 percent of those without basic water access live in rural areas. That is why we focus on bringing clean water to the most rural communities.

Ethiopia



100 wells

51,585 people served

Uganda



20 wells

10,005 people served

Tanzania



10 wells

15,110 people served

FULL WELL SPONSORS

68 total donors

42 individuals

15 churches

7 foundations

4 businesses

Gave a total of \$914,288.68*

*Water project data and full well sponsors listed are from 2019.



WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER

Despite the challenges this year brought, you persevered and showed up to support our mission in new and even mightier ways. Wartburg College planned a traditional Ethiopian dinner early this year to raise funds for their 16th and 17th wells. It was cancelled due to COVID-19, but every person who bought a ticket to the event chose to donate the price of their ticket, instead of receiving a refund. Jamie M., owner of Jamison Soap Company, started donating \$1 for clean water for every bar of soap she sold. Concordia University Texas held a virtual walk for water to fundraise for their 14th well. Triumphant Love Lutheran Church funded their 54th well. Tech company Genesys started an international fundraising competition between employees.

The pandemic caused us to cancel Chef's Table Austin and launch a campaign to secure emergency operational funding. You joined forces and raised over \$250,000 for operations, including an \$80,000 match from our Board of Directors and Friends of the Board. You showed us that anything is possible when people come together to make change.



THE LEGACY OF WATER

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Iowa City has now funded nine wells. Last year, they funded a well in memory of their Pastor, Pastor Rob, who had recently passed away. Stephanie Dotzel, Pastor Rob's wife, along with other members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, then traveled to Ethiopia for a Vision Trip in October of 2019. The group visited the water project they funded in memory of Pastor Rob and held a special dedication ceremony for the well. The photos to the left show the group and Stephanie pumping water from this well, which is now serving hundreds of people in the Mai Kodo village.

“

Our 2019 trip to the Tigray region of Ethiopia was life-changing. There is not a day that goes by without thinking of these beautiful souls while drinking my Ethiopian coffee, running the tap to cleanse my hands, or while partaking in the daily ritual of a warm shower. The joy on the villagers' faces as they met us on the path to their village and showed us their new well was shared by the happiness we felt in contributing to the well-being of their precious families and livestock. **I felt such joy, peace, and comfort as we dedicated my dear husband Rob's well in Mai Kodo and in knowing that he is remembered and that his name is on a life-giving well in beautiful Ethiopia.**”

—Stephanie Dotzel

AN INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY OF GIVERS



This year, we launched the **Water Guardians**, a new monthly giving program benefitting the Drop by Drop Fund—our fund for operations. Water Guardians are giving whatever they can every month to sustain our work to provide clean water. Currently, there are 21 members of the Water Guardian community and the goal is to expand to 100 members within the next year. **Water Angels** also support our operations, giving a minimum of \$1,000 annually. In 2019, 84 Water Angels collectively gave \$70,149. The amazing generosity of these givers enables us to continue the work of bringing clean water to those in need.



"I became a Water Angel because it helps provide an essential life-sustaining element for people in need. This is a way for me to give back in the most basic way and really make a difference. Being a Water Angel also helps me remain appreciative and serves as a reminder that not everyone can take clean water for granted. As a Water Angel, I feel like I'm part of a great, dedicated team doing something significant for others. This is on-going and makes me feel good."

—Duane Mattson, Water Angel since 2019



"I have witnessed first-hand how Water To Thrive has transformed the lives of so many in the most impoverished regions of Africa. Water to Thrive's commitment to its mission, as well as its accountability and transparency to its donors is a testament to its continued success and is why I continue to donate to this amazing organization!"

—Suzanne Barrick, Water Angel since 2009



"I turn on my tap and fresh, clean water pours out. That is not true for many parts of the world. And people, usually women, must carry water for long distances, often through dangerous areas. I realized this organization needed support to thrive and help others thrive. And it would be helpful to have a predictable income source. My monthly contribution is a bit more than a dollar a day—and what a difference this can make to someone who walks miles a day to collect water. Water to Thrive manages their resources carefully so I am glad to be a Water Guardian."

—Margaret Hallau, Water Guardian since March 2020



"We became Water Angels after we returned from a Water to Thrive Vision trip to Ethiopia in 2015. We decided that instead of returning to Africa (which we would have enjoyed), our finances would support the cause of clean water if we supported the administration of the company on a regular basis. As Water Angels, we feel that we are continuing to support the success of Water to Thrive as a non-profit company. We personally know all the staff members in the Austin office. Our monthly contribution helps support the salaries and other administrative costs of these hard-working employees. Without them, Water to Thrive wouldn't exist."

—Mary and Homer Goering, Water Angels since 2015

CLEAN WATER IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER



The COVID-19 health crisis reinforced the urgency of the need for clean water. With no clean water to drink or wash their hands with, people in rural African communities are left especially vulnerable to this disease. Thankfully, this year, our partners worked harder than ever to make sure the work continued. Early on, local government deemed our in-country partners to be essential organizations, so they could continue to build new wells. In addition to building new wells, our partners delivered soap and sanitizer to families and health clinics, constructed tippy taps (hand-washing stations), provided fuel for health team vehicles to access sick patients in remote villages, brought mattresses to those quarantined at hospitals and educated rural communities about COVID-19 prevention techniques, implementing social distancing and hand-washing practices at Water to Thrive wells.

In September of this year, Water to Thrive partnered with Maternal Health Fund on a project to provide necessary COVID-19 relief supplies to essential healthcare workers in Sidama, Ethiopia. Maternal Health Fund generously gave \$25,000 for us to send to our in-country partner in Southern Ethiopia, Mekane Yesus-South Central Ethiopian Synod (MY-SCES). MY-SCES purchased and delivered the supplies, which included personal protection equipment, such as facial masks, gloves and protective gowns, hand soap and sanitizing solution. The supplies are benefitting healthcare workers in three quarantine and COVID-19 treatment centers in the Sidama Region Health Bureau, as well as COVID-19 patients in isolation in Daye, Bona and Yirgalem communities.





SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

The goal is for all water projects to benefit rural communities for over 20 years, which means implementing best practices to promote sustainability. Empowering communities to take ownership of their water source is a key part of our process. Communities are fully involved in the process of implementing a well, from location selection to construction of the project to long-term project maintenance.



We work with local partners with an established history in water project construction. Our partners have the ability to work with local government, and since they know the language and culture of the communities we serve, they can mobilize the communities and prepare them to receive their new well.



The work focuses in the three countries of Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania. These countries are politically stable and their geographical proximity allows for just one in-country Project Manager to oversee all projects, which maximizes efficiency.



Every beneficiary community receives comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training so they know how to prevent disease and contamination of their new water source. Then, each village elects a WASH committee to be primarily responsible for the maintenance of the well.



Each locally-elected WASH committee is made up of at least 50% women. Since women are the primary water collectors, our goal is to ensure that they are included in making decisions about the well. Plus, research shows that water projects implemented with the full support of women are more sustainable.



Well users pay a small fee each month towards management and maintenance of the water project, in order to build up a fund to pay for any future repairs. The community also establishes hours of operation for the water project to prevent damage from overuse.



Our Project Manager, Gashaw Simeneh, lives in Ethiopia, but travels to all three countries to oversee the work. He conducts regular site visits and sends us progress reports throughout the construction process, so that we can hold our partners accountable for the work of building wells.

YOUR IMPACT



Meet Tilinte and Geneti, a father-daughter duo who gained access to clean water for the first time this summer.

“ Before this well was constructed, our wives and daughters fetched water from an unprotected pond we shared with domestic animals in the day and scavengers at night. Giardia and typhoid were common in the village.

Depending on the seriousness of disease, our people traveled to Gedo (30 miles away) to the general hospital or to Ambo (75 miles away) to the larger hospital. The cost for transportation and medication is very high. Because of the seriousness of the water problem, we submitted an application letter to the district administration and water resource office, but we did not get any feedback or help. But now thanks to Water to Thrive and its donors, we are supplied by a clean water source from a protected spring. Now we are very happy. You see here all smiling faces, and no wasting time walking to fetch water, because of your gift. We love you so much and we also pray for you and your families to stay safe from the current Corona disease. We stand by you in prayer, for the Lord God be merciful to you during this hard time. ”

Mr. Tilinte is thirty-two years old and lives in Ethiopia. He is a farmer, father of five children, and the Secretary of the Laga Mosa water committee.



“ I had a serious stomach ache before using this new well. My father took me to the hospital several times. But now I am safe. I don't have to spend hours walking to collect water. I am excited that I have time to study and attend school properly now. ”

Geneti is twelve years old and is studying hard in the 6th grade.

Meet Namuddu! Since receiving clean water last year, Namuddu has learned a lot about hygiene and health. Now, she is leading the campaign for improved sanitation among her peers, as her school's health club president.

“ My name is Namuddu Immaculate. I am fourteen years old and I'm in Primary six. I am the health club president at my school. I am happy that we have a health club here at school because before PaCT (Water to Thrive's Ugandan partner) taught us about hygiene, we had problems as girls at school. There was a lack of safe changing rooms once we went into menstruation periods. Our latrines didn't have spare rooms for changing in and they were extremely dirty and stinking since there are very few rooms with a large number of children. This forced us to use the nearby bushes to change sanitary pads. With time, boys got to know about this and started laughing at us. This made many of us get shy and some resorted to not changing their sanitary pads, which made them very uncomfortable. Others decided to stop attending school once they started their periods. The coming of PaCT led to construction of a shallow well which benefits our school and community. They also built a latrine with a special girls changing room. This, with the education about menstruation at school, made our lives better and we feel safer than ever before. These days we have enough clean water. As the president of the health club, I teach my fellow pupils how to use pads, how to wash their hands and keep clean. ”



OUR 100 PERCENT PROMISE

Since our founding in 2008, we have honored our 100 Percent Promise, guaranteeing that every dollar donated for water projects will go entirely to water projects and not for operational overhead. We try to have as little overhead expenses as possible, as funding water projects is our primary focus.

*For more information on contributions and expenditures, visit <https://www.watertothrive.org/about-us/financial-information/>

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dick Moeller, Chairman | Ed Scharlau, Treasurer | Jim Sorensen, Secretary | Lynne Dobson | Joel Hinkhouse | Carol Kaemmerer | Ryan Sutton | Sally Mallowa

WHAT'S NEXT

With your support, we plan to keep building wells until everyone on the planet has access to safe, clean water. Today, we have served over 600,000 people—our next goal is to bring clean water to 1,000,000 people. Join us and visit [watertothrive.org](https://www.watertothrive.org) to learn more about how you can get involved to end the global water crisis. Don't want to miss any updates on our work? Scan the QR code below to subscribe to our emails!



Administrative
6.8%

Fundraising
12.9%

Water
Projects
80.3%

OUR MISSION

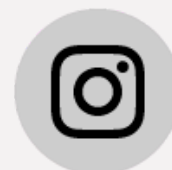
Water to Thrive transforms lives in rural Africa by working with partners and beneficiaries to bring the blessing of clean, safe water, connecting communities in need with supporters who have the heart and spirit to make a difference.

OUR VISION

A world where we share generously to provide health and hope, through water, to those we serve.

OUR VALUES

Stewardship Transparency Impact
Accountability Integrity Empowerment



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