



Leah Nasingoi shares her story about life before and after Water is Life Kenya installed a bore hole project in her community, Esukuta Community Borehole.

Photo: Jake Voorhees

“The problem we had for years was dirtiness of water. Every now and again people were suffering with stomach aches. So many times we go to the river and the water was dirty due to sharing with cows and goats.

But since the borehole was brought here, we have clean water that helps our children and helps the community, school, goats and cows. Now everyone is fetching clean water and we are living a paradise life.”

Transforming over 50,000 lives every day

WATER IS LIFE KENYA

Staying CONNECTED

SUMMER 2019

Letter from the Director

Staying Power



This work! Sometimes we are soaring and sometimes we are muddling!

Tough situations come up when we are doing our community water projects. I have come close to losing hope, giving up! In those moments I bring to my mind the faces of the MANY people enjoying the benefits of clean water... better health, a life without constant stomach pain, the dignity of being clean, time to rest.

It's called staying power. And it's fueled by compassion, faith.

Thanks for supporting this work. Please continue. We encourage you to increase your commitment to a proven team. The need is real. There are still many people in forgotten corners, praying for help to come. You will know you are saving the lives of people through clean water!

Thanks for your ongoing support,

Joyce Tannian

**LOVE THESE CUTE
EARRINGS YOU SEE
BELOW?**

Here's an easy way to
help us share our story!

You can easily display our Kenyan artisan's jewelry. Read the article on the last page to learn more about how you can help.



www.waterislifebeads.com

On Tap: Namelok

Our newest borehole will soon be drilled in Namelok. In Maasai, Namelok means sweet place: sweet, as in “Tasty, savory, attractive”. Namelok is located 25 miles from Amboseli National Park in southern Kenya, and is a growing community. People seeking to try their hand at farming move to the area, dig shallow wells and pump water out for irrigation. Currently, drinking water comes from surface water from the swamp or shallow wells. Water quality is poor. The medical officer at the clinic reports many cases of diarrhea, amoebic dysentery and digestive tract issues caused by dirty drinking water.



Boys swimming in the Namelok swamp, the current water supply for Namelok Community.



In addition to producing poor quality water, shallow wells dry up during drought times. In 2017, a drought year with only five inches of rain (the Delaware average is 45 inches), stagnant shallow wells caused the Namelok Secondary School principal and school board chairman to seek out

Water is Life Kenya to beg for a borehole. Students were sickened with dysentery at a high rate, which contributed to their poor school performance.

We did a hydrogeological survey to locate the well site last October and have been working with the water committee to do the prep work for the new well, like registration of borehole members and electing leaders. Check back for updates as together we solve the problem of dirty water for Namelok! The estimated budget is \$58,000, we have raised \$50,000 so far, but \$8000 is still needed.

Help us!



Two Generous Grants Received!

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded a 2nd grant from the **Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities**. It will support 6 livestock farmer groups in WILK’s highly success Livestock as a Business (LAB) Program. BUT \$10,000 of the \$40,000 grant is a matching gift. Without your support we won’t receive the final \$10,000!



So, support the members of a livestock farmer group to be more successful farmers, manage the drought cycle, improve their incomes and raise their families out of poverty. **Your donation of \$1000, \$500, \$250, \$50 or whatever you can afford will help us access these matching funds.**

In addition, the LAB program has received a \$23,000 grant from the **International Foundation**. This is the 4th grant from International Foundation for the Livestock as a Business Program.

Breakfast Event

Our Breakfast event was successful on many levels. We had a record number of attendees, many who were learning about **Water is Life Kenya** for the first time.

We celebrated WILK’s history and growth as we honored Brother Ronald Giannone, Cynthia Miller and Helen Laster for their outstanding contributions. (cont. P. 3)



Photo: Alessandra Nicole

Volunteer Visit



In other firsts this year, we had overlapping volunteer groups visit and serve in Kenya. Our strong and faithful partners, Engineers without Borders DE Professional Chapter, returned to complete Phase 2 of Imurtot Primary School Rainwater Catchment system. The school now has an additional 40,000 liters of storage! We had valuable extra hands from Neel Barua of Glocal Service Partners LLC and his team from Newark, DE. They jumped in and helped haul supplies and ask survey questions at the school. We popped in on Dorcas Muteru’s Preschool at Imisigiyo Primary School and helped draw educational charts for her classrooms. You may remember Dorcas from when she visited the US last year. We are so proud of her....she graduated with her certificate in Early Childhood Development teaching a month ago!

During the last week of Colleen Leithren’s visit, she was joined by videographer Jake Voorhees, who volunteered his time, skills and enthusiasm. We will soon have great video to show you.



(Breakfast Event cont.)

Bro. Ronald took us under the Ministry of Caring’s wing as we applied for non-profit status in 2008. Cynthia has supported WILK generously and will come to Kenya for a second visit to WILK projects this summer with her daughter. Helen Laster brought her organizational talents to the beads workshop, developed a project monitoring system and was good company all along the way.

We were blessed by the outpouring of love and generous donations from attendees and even those who couldn’t attend.

Colleen visits Kenya

“Enveloped in Love” that is the best way I can encapsulate what I experienced on my first trip to WILK’s projects in Kenya. While it was the first time meeting the WILK-KENYA team face to face, it felt like we had known each other for years. Culture shock sure, but it paled in comparison to the warmth and hospitality I felt during the month I was working with Joyce and the Kenyan team. I had heard stories about wildlife but it was another thing seeing what it really means for Maasai people to live side by side with wildlife. One woman shared how elephants, lions, and zebras stop at their livestock troughs daily for water as they pass by their community. One day as we were traveling from one location to another, I was able to witness a zeal of zebra traveling in front of some livestock and herders. It was an amazing site to behold.

Something else that was life changing for me was immediately on my arrival entering the field with Engineers without Borders DE Professional Chapter to work on a rainwater catchment system at Imurtot Primary School. I had the opportunity to interview the students at the school and learned how they went without lunch when there was no water to cook the rice and beans and would fall asleep in the classroom because they were thirsty and hungry.



Colleen Leithren, WILK’s US Director and Imurtot Primary School Children.

These problems are a thing of the past I am delighted to report, thanks to you, our donors, and our partners, Engineers without Borders.

— Colleen

Larasha visits the US

This year’s trip was better than last year’s in many ways. For one thing I knew my way around the area, and understood many things that were new to me last year. I know more people here now and it was great seeing my friends again. We met a lot of new people on this trip too through meetings and talks and I think that as we continue to share our story with others, we will find more people interested in supporting Water is Life Kenya.



WILK co-founder and project manager, Joseph Larasha, and WILK supporter, Jermaine Gibbs.

One person I met at our Breakfast event, Jermaine (pictured with me), hosted an event for us in Baltimore where I spoke about Maasai culture. We also were able to meet researchers from the Stroud Water Research Center and talk about the water issues we have at our newest project in Namelok. It was good to get ideas about how to teach the community to use less chemical fertilizers and the way to protect soil and water. I look forward to coming back again next year!

— Larasha



Women from Esukuta recreated for Jake and Colleen what it was like getting water everyday before Water is Life Kenya installed a bore hole system in their community.

Donation Corner

The need is real! When I visited our team in Kenya, I saw people every where carrying water—even in the developed towns outside of Nairobi. There is a water issue everywhere I went. It was then the reality of why we serve these communities hit home. We serve the forgotten; it is easy to ignore those who live so far away from the rest of the world.

Your donation counts. Especially to those that are invisible. Everywhere I went people were thanking you, our donors, and the **Water is Life Kenya** team for helping them have easy access to clean water.

\$8000 still needed for Namelok borehole – help us save children’s lives!



6 ways to donate today

Check

Checks made out to:
Water is Life Kenya

Online

waterislifekenya.com

Text—to—Give

(302)449-7349

Stocks

Contact us for steps

(302)894-7335

Digital Assets — XRP

Make WILK a beneficiary of your will



You can make a difference.

Join our Sustaining Donor Group.

The need is real, and every little bit helps. Becoming a sustaining donor has two-fold benefits: a revenue stream we can count on and lower fundraising costs. A Sustaining Donor makes automatic monthly donations through our website using a credit card. You choose the amount you want to give each month. You can increase, decrease, or stop your gift at any time. Visit our website, waterislifekenya.com, click on Donate and follow the steps. It's simple and fast.

Become a sustaining donor today!

Please
DONATE

Water Burst Bazaar!

Love our beaded handicrafts? Want to help **Water is Life Kenya** but life is too busy or you don't know how? We have the answer for you. We have created a mini market—a cute table top display that holds some of our artisans' beautiful jewelry and tells our story. It is easy for stores, churches, and community groups to display on a counter or sell at an event. You can even use it as a fundraiser!

Contact us today (302) 894-7335 to learn more.



New items!

Our designers have been busy! For the 2018 Christmas season we designed our first paper bead Christmas ornaments - the star and the angel. They were a huge hit in the US and in our shops in Kenya. These ornaments are available now. Look for our new ornament designs coming soon. A black cord bracelet with accent beads in the center is a great new item for men. We also have our new "Water Burst" bracelets, necklaces and gift bags with the signature water droplet charm. You can buy these and other beautiful handcrafted items online and in our office. www.waterislifebeads.com



Shop online today
www.waterislifebeads.com

**Water
is Life
Kenya**

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