



“Don't stand between a cow and fresh water! When the cows came in from grazing and smelled the fresh water being pumped from the new well, the cows ran so fast that adults and children had to run for safety as the cows barreled past them to quench their thirst.”

Joyce Tannian and Joseph Larasha
Founders, Water is Life Kenya

Cows at Olmapinu borehole.

Transforming over 55,000 lives every day

WATER IS LIFE KENYA

Staying CONNECTED

WINTER 2020

Letter from the Director

How proud we are of our Water is Life Kenya “children”! This year we celebrate achievements of the students that we sponsored. Jackson Nkoiash became Assistant Chief of Risa Location in September and Dennis John Dindi was ordained a Catholic Priest in Dar es Salaam on Oct. 1st. Both came from families with few financial resources, they succeeded in spite of many obstacles – lack of money, few role models. You, all our dear supporters, know that it is no small feat to raise good kids who grow into balanced, successful adults! So many things can happen along the way. Dennis and Jackson follow in the WILK family tradition of servant leaders!

Love, hard work, resources, and most importantly, the students’ gifts, initiative and determination make these great achievements possible.

In a nutshell: give love, support without ceasing and great things can happen.

This is true for our Livestock Farmers groups and people in our water project communities.

Helping Kenyans bloom with love and water.

*THANK YOU,
Joyce Tannian*



Joyce Tannian at Namelok Borehole Opening Ceremony

SUPPORT
Small business AND
International business
this holiday season!



**Water is Life Kenya
Beaded Handicrafts are
now on Amazon!**

Check out our new masks.



Namelok Opening Ceremony!



Joyce and Larasha celebrate with 500+ attendees.

On October 28th we celebrated the official opening of the Namelok community borehole, which began operating in April. At the celebration we heard testimony from the community elders who recalled how motivated they were to “hunt down **Water is Life Kenya** at all hours of the night” to ask for our help to get clean water. While all the residents of Namelok will benefit from the new well, students who are boarders at a nearby school will really benefit as they have suffered the effects of drinking dirty water for years. Many of them have made frequent stays in the Namelok hospital with stomach problems. Their repeated absences took its toll on their performance in the classroom.

Our Kenyan WILK Family was present — the field team (pictured below): myself, Joseph Larasha, Nelson Tinayo, Cate Olegei, Leonard Githui and Veronicah Simaloi, our beads workshop leaders: Stephen Musyoki and Rahel Mwau, along with some of our students; Tayiana, Fr. Dennis, Dorcas Mutero, were all there to celebrate the big day, including WILK Board of Director member Michael Warui, his wife Winnie, and friend.



Pastor leading prayers for the new borehole.



WILK family, from left: Dorcas, Tayiana, Cate, Nelson, Veronica, Dennis, Winnie, Michael, Joyce, Rahel, Musyoki, Leonard, out front: Joseph Larasha.

Olmapinu Community Borehole Drilling - October 23-27th, 2020

Nothing beats the thrill of the first sight of water during borehole drilling. A slow ooze turns into a gurgle, then a stream, bubbling out of the ground. You have to look close to be sure of what you're seeing. The water volume builds as the drilling continues, the water gushes, then shoots up like a geyser. It always takes one's breath away.

The earth releasing its rich secrets. Think what it means to the lives of the thousands of people who will now have a source of clean water. Before, there was suffering, disease, the daily burden of carrying water for miles. Now, hope for a better life gushes along with the water.

As we stand by and witness the birth of the well over two to three days, there is ample time to chat with people. Their description of life in semi-arid Kenya is troubling. When the water starts to reach the surface, hundreds of residents run to the borehole where once dry land is now covered in fresh, clean water. One resident of Olmapinu, Joyce Seyian said, “This morning I didn't even have a cup of water in the house. My hope was that it would rain so I could fetch from the puddles. Then I saw the water pouring out of the borehole and ran over to see. I will run home to get all my containers. This water will make our work much easier and also help us become healthy. The water we are taking is dirty and full of worms. We are always getting stomach problems. Sometimes the parasites stay with you for your whole life and you never really recover.” Thanks to our wonderful supporters the lives of the people of Olmapinu will soon be transformed forever.



(continued on next page)

Dec. 10 Webinar

Please mark your calendars for our year-end webinar on December 10 at 7 p.m. Joyce Tannian will report on WILK's highlights in 2020 and discuss our priorities in the coming year. A dark shadow has fallen across much of the world this year because of the Coronavirus, but a ray of sunshine has fallen upon Southern Kenya as WILK, thanks to its wonderful supporters, has done much this year to transform the lives of thousands of people. Look for an email in early December regarding how to join us for our webinar.



Joyce at Olmapinu as the well is drilled.

The worst of times and the best of times:

Livestock as a Business Program

In spite of what Kenyans call "CORONA" (the Covid-19 pandemic), it was the best year ever for our Livestock as a Business farmer groups. Good pasture and a sellers' market resulted in high profits for the cattle they sold. Ten groups made an average \$1300 net profit on a \$2000 loan. Each group chose to use their profits differently: to purchase goats, help with school tuition, or make down payments on house construction.

It is not just the members of current groups that are benefiting from the LAB Trainings, members of past groups continue to benefit as well. I recently met Mama Nelson, a member of the past Olepolos Livestock Keepers group, and the mother of our field officer, Nelson Tinayo. She shared that she has built her second improved grass silo. The first one she built is overflowing with grass, so she improved the design and built a second silo. She is known by her neighbors for always having milk, even when other homes do not, during the drought times.

Last week at the Livestock Loan signing ceremony in Namelok, Joseph Mepukore, a member of the past group Eramatare, told me that what he still puts into practice what he learned from WILK and is always sharing his knowledge with other people. Specifically, that it is important to have some cows as "business cows:" good animals-that you care for well and that you sell at the best time to make money for the other things in your life, like children going to school, buying land, and building.



Excited Members of first year group Inkaisotwak Womens Group, holding their signed Livestock Loan Agreement, with Joyce Tannian and Eselengei Chief.

Olmapinu Community Borehole (cont.)

Olmapinu Next steps: Install the pump and power source and construct tanks, toilets and troughs. If the weather holds, we will be well underway by the end of January.



Olmapinu women, who participated in the all night prayer held the night before, watch as water pours out of their new borehole – the answer to their prayers!

Women and children celebrate at Olmapinu as water runs clean and fresh from the newly drilled well. They will take advantage of the 24 hour pumping that must take place to ensure the well can sustain the community for a long time to come.



Donation Corner

Please consider making a generous tax-deductible donation to **Water is Life Kenya** before the end of the year. The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act passed by Congress earlier this year provides special incentives to tax payers who donate to charities. To learn more please visit www.irs.gov. Despite the challenges that have confronted us this year, WILK has made significant progress in our work to transform the lives of the Maasai people of Southern Kenya. We are very grateful for your generosity. Your support is vitally important to help us continue the life-changing work we are doing. Thank you!



6 ways to donate today

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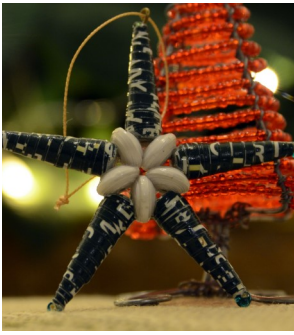
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You can make a difference.

Become a sustaining donor today!

We want to give a big shout out to our monthly donors. Over the past year, their generous giving totals over \$6,300. That provides ½ the cost of drilling for a new borehole. We invite you to join this team of donors by becoming a sustaining donor. It has a two-fold benefit: 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, waterislifekeny.com, click on Donate to follow the steps. It's simple and fast.



Heavenly angel made out of recycled paper.

Support Artisans and their families!
Water is Life Beads now available on Amazon!

Paper beads are made in our workshop in Kitengela about 31.4km (19.5m) south of Nairobi. Artisans recycle posters, magazines and flyers that would otherwise be thrown out. Great care is taken to cut the paper so the unique beauty of the paper is highlighted when they appear in the finished product. They are constantly creating new designs to share with their customers. Artisans are paid per bead and per jewelry item made. The more they make, the more they earn!

Traditional sources of money for women include: their husbands, the sale of family livestock (owned by the men), casual labor during the rainy season (in mixed farming areas only, like Mt. Kilimanjaro Highlands) or small businesses, like selling foodstuffs from their home. Fortunate women may get USD\$30/month (USD\$1/day). Otherwise most women consider 50 Kenyan shillings (USD\$.50/day) normal. A very small percent are employed. By creating and selling beaded handicrafts women have the opportunity to make much more in a day/month thus creating economic self sufficiency.