

# WATER IS LIFE - KENYA



"You mean we have been so close to clean water? We walk across this place every day, and never knew!"

- Statement made by the women in Kuku, Kenya the day we drilled for water.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary....looking Forward

*Dear friends and generous supporters of WILK,*

If you asked me in 2001, "Do you believe that in 2017 you will be celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of a non-profit founded by you, which brings clean water to rural Kenyan communities? I would have said, "no way!"

Preparing my recent TEDx talk compelled me to look at how I started down the WILK pathway. I asked myself questions like: What motivated me to start? How have we been able to succeed? What is it about me and our work that inspires people? Why does our work matter here in the US?

Through these questions I distilled some key truths:

1. I was motivated because I believe that one person's loving action ripples out and transforms. Each person can make the decision to use their life's energy to serve others. I made this decision and it has had a profound impact on my life and the lives of thousands of others.
2. Our work matters because it delivers hope – to Kenyans who benefit from our water and farmer training programs. And, it delivers hope to our supporters who see that their resources – either money or time (through volunteering or service as board members), are being used to directly bring solid solutions to fundamental problems of clean water and recurring drought.

We are proud to be facilitating development of individuals and communities – in Kenya AND here! Our community of Walkers and Water Walk supporters will be thrilled to hear of the birth of the Kuku well, drilled successfully, thanks to their walking / fundraising efforts.

In this newsletter you find how your support makes a huge difference. You will learn about the transformation unfolding in Kuku, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala celebration, and our Livestock Farmers, who went on the field trip of their lives, and more!

*Thanks for your ongoing support, Joyce*



**Happy Birthday  
Kuku Well!  
Happy New Life Kuku!**

On Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. the drillers struck first water in Kuku. As Kuku community members and WILK staff watched intently. “Could this be first water already at 30 meters (98 ft.),” our staff asked? Project manager, Joseph Larasha called with the news.

Then, as we dressed for WILK’s 10<sup>th</sup> Year Gala in Newark, Delaware, we received news from Kuku that the final depth of 175 meters (574 feet) had been reached. Abundant water was flowing. We announced the birth of the new well to our Gala guests - another reason to celebrate.

The women of Kuku were onsite from dawn to dusk watching the drilling. They enjoyed filling containers with water from the borehole as it poured out. “You mean we have been so close to clean water? We walk across this place every day (where the new borehole is), and never knew!” They can taste the changes that clean water will bring.

We developed a strong relationship with Kuku’s local MCA (Member of County Assembly), who took time off from his parliamentary duties in Kajiado County to be present for the entirety of the drilling work, including the development of the borehole and installation of casings and gravel pack. We are happy to see his level of commitment. Support from local leadership and a strong management committee are crucial for sustainability of this valuable new resource.



Your Donations will help us complete Kuku’s borehole!

## Joyce shares her heart at TEDx Wilmington Women’s Conference



WILK Founder, Joyce Tannian, delivered a talk as part of the historic TEDx Wilmington Women Conference on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Joyce was thrilled to be part of such an amazing and inspiring group of speakers. WILK as an organization should also benefit from exposure through this high visibility event. Look out for Joyce’s talk on the Ted Talks Youtube channel.

## Livestock as a Business and Hay Balers

KEFRI (Kenya Forestry Research Institute) selected 11 of WILK’s Livestock as a Business Groups to receive manual hay baling machines. This generous gift, worth \$4500, reinforces the “Grass Conservation” lessons in our training program and gives our groups a powerful tool. When the grass grows back in the upcoming short rainy season they will be able to cut grass to make and store hay bales for their livestock to eat in the dry season.



KEFRI Representative, Mr. Ngugi and WILK Director, Joyce Tannian, present hay balers to Oshumu LAB group.



# 10 Year Gala Highlights

Thanks to your ongoing support, we have accomplished so much in the past 10 years. Board Members and staff shared highlights, while attendees enjoyed food and drink. It was a wonderful time for old friends to meet up and new donors to learn about what we do, why we do it and how we do it. These pictures can not capture the fun and gratitude that flowed that night. For those of you who couldn't make it, we knew you were there in spirit.



Special thank you to.....

- the Gala Friends and Gala Patrons who purchased premium tickets,
- the donors and winning bidders of the 38 silent auction items,
- those who purchased "gifts from the heart,"
- everyone who purchased our jewelry and beaded handicrafts, and
- the Gala Planning Committee.

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors:



Jeffery P. Turner  
Land Surveying

Visit [www.waterislifekenya.com](http://www.waterislifekenya.com) to learn how your company can become a sponsor!





Livestock as a Business 2017 Field Trip attendees: WILK farmers, WILK staff and Livestock Extension Officers

## Livestock Farmers Field Trip

Thanks to a generous grant we were able to realize our dream of taking Livestock as a Business Program (LAB) farmers to visit ranches to see best practices in drought cycle management, good breeds, and grass conservation. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 25 LAB group members, WILK staff and livestock extension office boarded 2 rented vans and traveled from Amboseli to the Greater Nairobi area.

At Oletapes Ranch in Kiserian they saw good livestock breeds like Fleckvieh cattle, Dorper sheep, and Boer goats. There were farm structures for hay and rainwater storage, so that livestock always have sufficient food and water. The rancher, an older, successful Maasai, advised them to “use their livestock to educate their children and improve their lives, not just to keep them for status, in the traditional Maasai way.”



Jaws dropped again at Sam Njuguna’s Ranch in Karen. Mr. Njuguna purchased emaciated cows, too weak to stand. With good feeding and disease prevention control, they became strong, glossy coated, marketable cattle. Our farmers couldn’t believe the fast rate of improvement. What a difference 3 weeks of intensive care and feeding made!

Please donate today to support our livestock program!

On the final day individuals and groups recapped what was most interesting to them and they made plans to implement what they learned. We hope to have good results to report from our groups in future.



Fleckvieh cattle



Left to right: Nasei, Moses, Joseph Larasha (WILK staff), Dorcas, Lenkishon, Tayiana Nashipae, Everline, Charity Nkonin. Missing: Dennis, Veronicah (WILK staff)

## Students’ Field Trip

In August, eight Kenyan students sponsored through Water is Life Kenya traveled with WILK staff to Mtito Andei, 200 miles away from home. It was WILK’s first ever student trip and the first time most of the students had traveled that far south in Kenya!

While in Mtito Andei, they met students from the local Catholic parish youth group. They enjoyed interacting with their peers from a different region and tribe, who attend different schools.

Senior WILK sponsored student, Dennis, a student of theology, knew the parish priest in Mtito Andei and arranged the visit. It included a service project at a new school. Our WILK students dug holes in the ground so trees could be planted to provide shade. They loved using their energy and strength to create a pleasant school environment. Instead of eating lunch out they bought and cooked food for themselves in the school kitchen. WILK Project manager Joseph Larasha, cooked the Kenyan staple “ugali” (corn flour polenta) from scratch for the first time.



Dorcas teaching and counseling the other students.

During the afternoon session on Day 2, older students shared their experiences. Dorcas, who is now in her second year of college studying early childhood development, returned to school as an adult after teaching pre-school and having her own children. She can speak from both a student’s perspective, and as the mother of a teenaged daughter! She told them to be serious in school because it’s a blessing not everyone gets.

I was curious to know what their favorite part of the trip was. Nasei, 20, (right) said her favorite part was preparing the holes for tree planting. The students can’t wait to go back to the school and see their legacy: trees growing, creating nice shady school grounds for pupils to enjoy shade in the equatorial sun!



Dennis getting a selfie with the other students: Moses, Dorcas, Lenkishon, Nasei

## Water Walk 2018



We know it’s winter and you might not be thinking about our annual Water Walk, but we are too excited to keep the secret! This year we are having some very special guests join us..... Joseph Larasha and Dorcas Mutero. They will be here for two weeks in late April.

Joseph is WILK co-founder and Kenyan project manager. He is Joyce’s right hand man in the field for our water projects and Livestock as a Business. He also keeps things moving forward when Joyce is in the states.

You’ve read about Dorcas in our “Students’ Field Trip” section, perhaps online, and in our earlier newsletters. She is a beneficiary of Imisigiyo borehole and the secretary of Imisigiyo Livestock Keepers’ Group. This spring you will get to hear from her personally and learn how her life has been transformed by your loving kindness.

Please mark you calendar for our 2018 Water Walk and plan on attending Saturday, April 28. Larasha and Dorcas will walk with us. **If you are interested in having Larasha and Dorcas come share their lives with your group, community or school, please reach out to us and we will make it happen.**

## Development Corner

While “water is life,” money is critical to our mission. Our annual budget is about \$200,000. As you have read in this newsletter, we do so much with those funds.

Grants received in 2018:  
\$40,000 (over two years for Livestock as a Business)  
\$15,000 (two grants for Kuku water projects)

We need your help to spread the word about our mission. Please let us know if you can

- host a house party (Joyce or Colleen will come talk to your friends)
- host a jewelry party (where you can sell our jewelry directly to your friends)
- arrange for a talk at your business, service club, house of worship, or school.

**Please give what you can today.**

Use the enclosed donation card or make your gift directly online, [www.waterislifekenya.com](http://www.waterislifekenya.com). Your donation is fully tax-deductible as permitted by law.

We are a 501(c) 3 non-profit

Tax ID #26-3185829





## 2017 Holiday Sales

Warehouse Sale - Dec. 8/9 and 15/16 (314 E. Main St., Kelway Plaza, Suite 2., Newark, DE)

Water is Life Kenya beaded handicrafts are available this holiday season at our warehouse in Newark on Fridays, 10am-7pm and Saturdays, 10am-5pm. We have new designs and our classics all available in one place. Please share with your family and friends.

St. Thomas More Oratory - Dec. 2/3 - before/after mass (45 Lovett Ave., Newark, DE)

Glasgow Craft Fair - Dec. 9 from 9am - 3pm (Glasgow High School, Newark, DE)

Saint Margaret of Scotland RC Church- Dec. 9/10 - before/after mass (2451 Frazer Rd., Newark, DE)

Saint Mary Magdalene Community event - Dec. 3/10 - after 9 am service (Mc Burney Chapel, 600 Burmont Rd., Drexel Hill, PA)



We are now selling our Kenyan-made beaded handicrafts and sharing our mission **LIVE** on Facebook! Check us out at @wilkbeads

Follow WILK and WILKBeads:



You can buy online at [www.waterislifebeads.com](http://www.waterislifebeads.com)

Mark your calendar April 28th - Water Walk 2018



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