



Students at Kimana Girls' Secondary School enjoying test pumping at their new borehole this spring. This project was funded by our new partners at Anderson Foundation.

**WATER IS LIFE KENYA**



**Summer 2025**

# STAYING CONNECTED

**Water. Widows. Cows. Youth. It's the Summer of Water AND Life!**

## **Letter from the Director** **Hope is Here to Stay**

Dear Friends,

Our pilot group of women in Hope for Widows graduated last August. One year later, we interviewed them to know how they are doing. You are probably asking what we also wanted to know: Is the program sustainable? Did the changes stick?

The answer is a resounding "YES!"

So, practically speaking, what does that mean? One year after graduation, the widows are (1) still doing business, (2) still saving, (3) still adding more livestock to their herds, (4) still connected to each other through their widow's groups, and (5) becoming leaders, with some leading their own village's women's groups.

Is it perfect? No. We would have liked it if all those we started with graduated. However, a few dropped out before graduation for personal reasons. But for those who stayed the course, they have become resilient and confident. Their businesses are alive and generating income every day. We got reports of home improvements made like a new bed, a fence around a



*Joyce awarding a graduation certificate at the Livestock as a Business Graduation Ceremony on June 11, 2025.*

home, and a cupboard for dishes. All these are now possible because of stable incomes and good saving habits.

That's something for us all to be proud of. The change is sustainable. They are hopeful widows and grateful to all of you for making their transformation possible!

***With hope and gratitude,***

***Joyce Tannian***

**Director & Co-Founder**

# WILK's Youth Entrepreneur Program is 100% Funded!

## Honoring my Dad's Legacy through the Youth Entrepreneur Program.

We wanted to raise support for our new Youth Entrepreneur Program, and we are doing it **TOGETHER!**

My dad passed away in March. He was the original supporter of Water is Life Kenya and cared so deeply about the people we work with in Kenya. As his health declined, my dad's passion for our work burned fiercely.

Last year, Larasha and I shared a pressing concern with him: **the youth in Kenya are in trouble.**

The education system isn't preparing them for life after school. Many graduate, but others drop out, returning to rural areas with few prospects. Parents sacrifice for their children's education, expecting them to find office jobs, but high unemployment leaves youth listless. Some turn to drugs and alcohol.

**"We have to do something to help the YOUTH!"** my dad said, banging his fists on the table.

Inspired by our Hope for Widows program, where over 150 widows transformed their lives



*WILK Co-Founder Joseph Larasha leading a meeting for Kenyan Youth.*

through business training and microfinance, we envisioned a similar program for youth. In his final weeks, my dad asked impatiently, "What's happening with the youth program? Is it moving?"

**Well, thanks to over 100 WILK donors this summer, the Youth Program is MOVING!**

Our vision is for youth to come together to **Play, Pray, Serve, and Prosper.**

In this pilot program, young people will have access to business skills training and capital. We will train youth groups, involve them in service projects, and offer them seed capital to kickstart their own ventures.

**Dad, look what you made us do! - Joyce**

**\$40,649**  
raised of our  
**\$40,000**  
goal!



## WILK, Deerfield Wines turn Wine into Water

### A Night of Friendship & Hope

On May 1, 2025, WILK donors, partners, and friends met at Deerfield Wines in Newark for **Wine into Water**, a night of fellowship and friends! We gave Joyce a proper send-off before she returned to Kenya for a busy summer. Joyce provided a program update, and Dean from Deerfield donated 15% of all bottles sales to WILK.

We're so grateful to all our donors for showering our friends in Kenya with love and support! Some donors are new in 2025, while others have been with us since 2007. Together, we are one gracious bunch, doing our best to put love in action!



*Francis Karani (board member) & volunteers Neale, Susan, & Kathy!*



*U.S. Director Aaron with Mary & Stephen Tarnock.*



*Top: Joyce chatting with Angela Klemens, a St. Philip's traveler!*



*Right: Kilimanjaro Club Climbers John Hallinan & John Dawyot.*

# Radical Hope: How Hope for Widows is Transforming the Lives of Women, Families, & Goat Babies

**Our Second Annual Goats, Grants, & Graduation Ceremony was held on Friday, June 27, 2025.**

As we sat drinking tea in Lenkischem before the Hope for Widows (HFW) ceremony began, Esther Solonka said something that touched me so much. Esther has been teaching with us for years in our LAB program, was widowed four years ago, and helped design the HFW program.

"It is a miracle to see so many people gathered on behalf of widows," she said. "Our Maa community does not value them at all. They see them as useless. No one considers them. That they've come out to the ceremony in such numbers is only possible through God's grace and because they are seeing a change in these women. Hope for Widows is really doing something."



*Group 3 Widows receiving their second grants.*

What we have created together is lifting up the widows, their families, and the surrounding community. Women who were written off and cursed are now enlivened, empowered, and transformed. It's not only Hope for Widows, but **HOPE FOR ALL.**

Your generous support has allowed us to plunge into the fourth year of HFW. At the ceremony, 4 groups of widows were present:

- **Group 1** – the proud alumni;
- **Group 2** – the graduating class;
- **Group 3** – 34 recipients of the second \$150 grant and givers of goat babies to friends;
- **Group 4** – 40 widows who received their grants and 3 goats for the first time.

The distribution of 120 goats made quite a visual impact on all present. Everyone stayed until the very last goat was given out.

After the ceremony, HFW Program Officer Cate Olegei caught up with people in Lenkischem to



*Group 4 Widows being led in praise!*

ask what impact they're seeing. Lenkischem widows are part of Group 3 and started their businesses last September. The widows' children and their teachers had a lot to say.



*Group 2 Widows with their Graduation certificates.*

The 13-year-old son of Naiyio said, "We were not in school before because our mom had no money for fees. But now we are all at school like other kids. Our mom even gives us money for the offering at church. Before, we never had anything and we felt bad. Now, we are happy. Thank you so much."

Kindergarten Teacher Esther Maandei shared, "Before the widows had their businesses, their kids were not in school, but now they are. Also, the concentration of their kids became good since they came to school while they have eaten food, not like before. Thank you for helping those widows, because while you are helping them, you also helped us. Our work has become easier!"

As my dad said, the HFW program is a **WINNER!** More than that, the happiness of the widows because of our investment in them is obvious to the community.

It perplexes them. How can people sacrifice so much for widows who had been stigmatized, side-lined, and viewed as worthless? We are overturning those ideas.

Love in action is so powerful. Thank you for empowering us to pour love into a murky corner of neglect.



*Joyce hands Nasingoi her graduation certificate!*

# St. Philip's Lutheran Church Donates Well, Visits Kenya for Opening Ceremony, Cultural Exchange

**On July 21, 2025, the Nalepo Kanan Community Borehole was Opened!**



In November 2023, WILK Co-Founder Joyce Tannian gave a presentation to the OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) at St. Philip's on Limestone Road in Wilmington. The following January, Senior Pastor Rev. Patrick Downes gave WILK a call.

"We remember that Joyce said a well is about \$80,000. We want to fund one. How can we make it happen?" Rev. Downes said.

For the past 18 months, WILK and St. Philip's have been partners in bringing clean water to a place that used to be called Inkisanjani. This July, members from the church traveled to Kenya to visit the community that benefits from its new water source. The community has since changed its name to Nalepo Kanan, "The Promised Land," because of St. Philip's gift of clean, accessible water.



*During test pumping.*



*Community water point.*

## About the Project

The St. Philip's community funded the entire borehole project. The well, which was drilled in December 2024, is now complete and serves Inkisanjani Primary School, St. Luke's Secondary School, and the local community through pipeline connections.

The project consists of a pump house, solar panels, a 100,000 liter concrete water tank, animal drinking troughs, and latrines. Pipeline connections bring water from the tank to the schools as well as to the community water points. This project will improve lives and inspire residents – like the enterprising business lady who already built a vegetable stand at the well!



*WILK and the St. Philip's group in front of the water tank.*

## From Delaware, USA, to Kenya

23 travelers from St. Philip's Lutheran Church made the trip to Kenya for 5 days of festivities. Congregation members of all ages were part of the travel group.

This trip was planned by the St. Philip's Outreach Committee, WILK, and our travel partner, Glocal Service Partners.



*Susan planting a tree.*



*Chuck teaching students a thing or two!*

Altogether, 2,500 people attended the Opening Ceremony, including 1,000 students from St. Luke's Primary School, a Member of Parliament, and the surrounding community. Community leaders led prayers, messages of thanks, singing, dancing, and lots of celebrating.

As our team looked around, we saw smiling faces so overwhelmed by joy that they couldn't put into to words what was happening. These are memories that will last a lifetime!

In the days after the ceremony, travelers spent time with the community, presented to students, played games, held a talent show, visited homes, and made friends. We are so grateful for their partnership, and so is Nalepo Kanan!



*St. Philip's presenting a signed greeting banner.*

# Anderson Foundation Gifts \$100,000, Brings Clean Water to Kimana Girls'



## Meet the Partners

We're proud to share that WILK partnered with **Anderson Foundation**, the charitable arm of **Zinpro**, to bring a borehole to Kimana Girls' Secondary School. These incredibly generous partners have funded the complete cost of a borehole project with a **\$100,000 contribution!**

Anderson Foundation empowers impoverished women and girls through education with the goal to eliminate gender-based inequality and gaps. Meanwhile, Zinpro is a global leader in advancing animal performance through improved nutrition. Together, they make incredible partners for WILK.



## Kimana's Water Journey

Before this project, the water situation at Kimana Girls' was becoming dire. More than 1,000 girls live and study at Kimana but, before the borehole, there wasn't enough clean water to accommodate them. Water levels ran low during the dry season, so the school had to

pay for expensive water deliveries. Local streams, which were sometimes used for bathing, were full of agricultural pollutants from nearby farms.

**We're happy to share that, as of July 1, 2025, this project is fully operational!**

We drilled the borehole in February and finished construction in June. We built 90,000 liters of water storage, installed solar panels, and dug a pipeline to allow clean water to flow to the kitchen, dorms, classrooms, and showers.

Kimana Girls' new water supply will improve student health, increase test scores, and allow the school to grow more food on their farm, which will reduce school fees and make school more accessible for families with scarce resources.



*During test pumping!*



*WILK Field Officer Cate with Kimana Girls' students.*



*Joyce, Anderson Foundation Director LaToya Burrell, and Kimana Secondary School students showing off their project in the background.*

## Anderson, Zinpro Representatives Open the Borehole on July 23, 2025

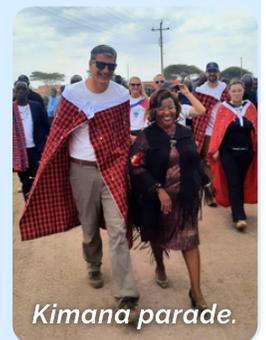
On July 23, members of Anderson Foundation and Zinpro got to visit this project at Kimana Girls' School! They landed on the Amboseli Airstrip early in the morning and hit the road.

From Amboseli, the group visited some Livestock as a Business (LAB) groups near the Olmoti Community Borehole. They also received beautiful gifts, including custom partnership bags made by our Beaded Handicrafts workshop team! After the brief visit, the team made its way to Kimana for the opening ceremony.



The ceremony was monumental. It began with a parade to the borehole led by Kimana Girls' very own color guard. Speeches were given by the school principal, senior class president, the local Member of Parliament, and Anderson Foundation's Executive Director LaToya Burrell, who led this project. The festivities continued with a serenade from the choir, tree planting, and lunch. All in one day!

At the ceremony, Anderson Foundation announced that it was donating an **additional \$50,000 gift** to Kimana Girls' School for the next high-priority project. What an eruption of joy that brought forth! We are so grateful to be partners!



*Kimana parade.*



## Plant a Tree, Build A Legacy in Olmoti, Kenya!

Global Linkages brought clean water to Olmoti. Now, we're helping them build a traditional medicine garden.

The **Global Linkages Legacy Garden** will be a lasting attraction near Olmoti's new borehole. You can support this effort by planting a medicinal tree to honor your loved ones and keep Olmoti's rich Maasai history alive.



<b>Giving Options:</b>	\$50 plants 1 tree	\$150 plants 5 trees
	\$100 plants 3 trees	\$250 plants 10 trees

# Global Linkages Borehole Complete, Legacy Garden Underway. WILK to MATCH all donations until October 31

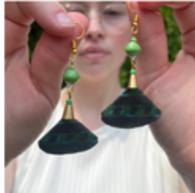
The Olmoti Community Borehole, implemented in partnership with **Global Linkages**, is complete, functioning, and serving the community and its livestock with delicious water from Mt. Kilimanjaro! When GL travelers arrive in October, we will open the project with a dedication ceremony.

Meanwhile, the community and GL-WILK coalition has been designing the next phase of the project: the **Global Linkages Legacy Garden**. You can donate a tree to be planted in honor of a loved one, living or deceased, at [waterislifekenyaa.org/trees](http://waterislifekenyaa.org/trees) or by sending us a check in the blue envelope. The garden will both honor your loved one(s) and keep local Maasai history, rich in indigenous wisdom, alive.

This is our vision for Olmoti: to be clean, green, and seen by travelers who visit Amboseli and find this legacy garden!



## Shop Beaded Handicrafts on Etsy!

			
Small Glass Beaded Bowl \$12.00	Paper Bead Sparkle Earrings \$12.00	Mini Paper Bead Earrings \$12.00	Neon Paper Bead Earrings \$15.00
			
Elephant Dangle Paper Bead Necklace \$30.00	Maasai Leather Snap Bracelet \$15.00	Paper Bead Kite Earrings \$15.00	Paper Bead Earrings \$10.00



Water is Life Kenya  
*Beaded Handicrafts*

We love to bring our Kenyan jewelry to you, but **our new Etsy shop** is always open! A sample of our Beaded Handicrafts, including paper-beaded earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and other beautiful items, is available for purchase online. Proceeds directly support artisans and fund our clean water projects!

[etsy.com/shop/waterislifebeads](https://etsy.com/shop/waterislifebeads)



# WILK BY THE NUMBERS

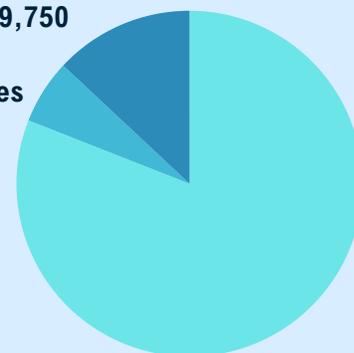
## 2024 Financials in Review

*WILK's Strongest Year To Date*

Total Revenue: **\$693,831**  
Total Expenses: **\$592,196**  
Net Income: **\$101,635**

## 2024 REVENUE

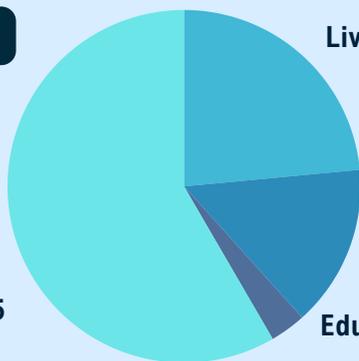
Grants 13% = \$89,750  
Beaded Handicraft Sales 6% = \$41,415  
Individual Donations 81% = \$557,971



## 2024 EXPENSES

### 2024 KENYAN PROGRAM EXPENSES

WASH Projects 58.4% = \$203,955

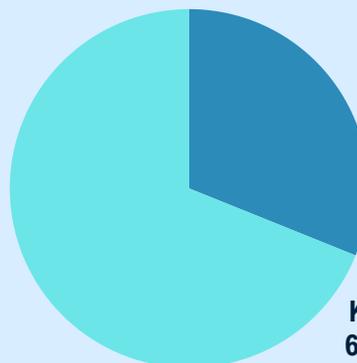


Livestock as a Business 23.5% = \$82,090

Hope for Widows 14.8% = \$51,874

Educational Sponsorships 3.3% = \$11,455

US Management & Fundraising 31.1% = \$184,160



Kenyan Programs 68.9% = \$408,035

## GRANTS CORNER

**3 Grants Earned so far in 2025.  
More on the Way!**

### Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation: \$10,000

Our long-time supporters at VWCF have awarded WILK the \$10,000 Jimmie Grant, which will go towards a borehole well later this year.

### Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church: \$7,000

We are happy to welcome Bryn Mawr Presbyterian to the WILK family! This generous church has agreed to fund part of borehole, which will be paired with VWCF. Welcome!

### St. Thomas of Villanova Church: \$4,000

St. Thomas of Villanova is an Augustinian parish, also in Bryn Mawr. Last year, they supported 4 widows in our Hope for Widows program, and this year they are continuing that contribution. Thank you, STV family!

## GIVING CORNER

**ALL GIFTS OF \$1,000 EARN AUTOMATIC ENTRANCE INTO THE KILIMANJARO CLUB, WILK'S GIVING SOCIETY.**

### 4 WAYS TO GIVE

**DONATE**

**1** Send a check payable to Water is Life Kenya. Use the self-addressed blue envelope.

**2** Donate online using this QR code or by visiting [waterislifekenyana.org](http://waterislifekenyana.org).

**3** Give monthly on our online giving platform. Just click "monthly" under donation frequency.

**4** Match your gift by asking your employer about its corporate matching program.





# Want to go to Kenya?

## Partner with WILK!

Contact us at [waterislifekenya.org](http://waterislifekenya.org)

Pictured: Members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church visit their sponsored community in July.



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



*Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.*

## Livestock as a Business Graduation

WILK's **Livestock as a Business** (LAB) Program builds on the most critical piece of Maasai culture (and economy): livestock. Livestock accounts for 85% of income for most Maasai families around Amboseli. Not only that, but Maasai people love their livestock! They see cows as beautiful and want to have as many cattle as possible. It is a sign of wealth and prosperity to have a sprawling herd.

LAB teaches groups how to take better care of their herds. Lessons on disease control and prevention, vaccinations, buying and selling, timing the market, managing the drought cycle, building hay reserves, and running successful livestock businesses are all a part of the training. After training, WILK provides loans for groups to go out, buy livestock, and use what they learned to turn a profit.

**On June 11, WILK congratulated 60 LAB graduates across 4 groups.** A bull was awarded to the two highest performing groups, and sheep were given to the others. This class of graduates is so successful that they've inspired others to join the program. 5 LAB groups joined last year, and 5 more joined this year. The gifts of LAB are here to stay!

