



WILK's Hope for Widows Program has been in operation since 2022. Here, participants from Group 1 (orange), Group 2 (green), Group 3 (blue), and Group 4 (red) stand proudly in February 2026.



Water is Life Kenya >>> Summer 2026 Newsletter

STAYING CONNECTED

Letter from the Director Letting Freedom Ring in Kenya

Dear Friends,

Happy 250th Birthday, USA! Let's clap for ourselves!

Growing up in a rich country with well-developed infrastructure, such as clean water piped into all the places I've ever visited, is something I've always been grateful for.

This blessing motivates me and the whole WILK team to continue to bring clean water to Kenyans in rural areas.

250 years old—in a way the US is still young, but we're 187 years older than Kenya, which declared its independence in 1963.

Where we work in rural southern Kenya, there are no public utilities and very few developed roads. It's still a frontier. There are few services because those require a commitment of resources, planning, and hard work to build and operate. You rarely get the government to make something good for people so that they can enjoy their right "to pursue happiness" and have a better life. It's every person for himself.

Our mission to bring water to the thirsty is noble. Thanks for trusting us. While you're being glorious, generous, and trusting us with your treasure to develop clean water solutions for tens of thousands of people, we sometimes have to get in the weeds.



Joyce and students from Kimana Girls' Secondary School at their Bus Handover Ceremony on June 15, 2026. The bus, which will help girls have more opportunities, was gifted by Anderson Foundation.

Right now, it's the weeds of land ownership. Since 2019, there has been a shift from communal to private land ownership which is affecting our water projects, both existing ones and those in development.

That is what your generous support allows us to do: untangle the weeds and find a new path forward so we can destroy obstacles, like lack of clean water, that block human development and allow women, men, and children to pursue a better life for themselves. Let freedom ring!

With love and appreciation,

Joyce Tannian

Director & Co-Founder

Dirty Water, Disbelief, and Delivering Hope: Orarait Borehole, WILK Donor Change History

Last year, we learned about the Orarait community in Kajiado South. Their water situation was disastrous. The only local water point was a nearby stream, which is infested with liver flukes. People and their livestock have had serious health issues because of these parasites.

Women trekked six hours daily to fetch water. They strapped their babies to their chests and slung 5-gallon water jugs (weighing 45 pounds when full) on their backs, all while herding the few livestock they had left.

This was no way to live.



Women from Orarait collect dirty water.

Last year, an incredible WILK donor committed to funding two borehole wells in 2026. With this support, we met with the Orarait community in early January to confirm their water needs. When we asked if they had people registered for their upcoming project (a requirement for all our community boreholes), they revealed that they hadn't registered anyone yet. They didn't believe we were serious. Other officials have come to them in the past, promised clean water, and never delivered. To them, we were just another empty promise.

When we told them we were serious and that drilling could happen as soon as the end of February, they perked up. They got the hint—we aren't like everybody else.

And we kept that promise. Before the end of February, we began drilling—even though it was the middle of the rainy season. On the way to Orarait, the heavy drilling rigs got stuck in the mud. Thankfully, the rain eased up and we were able to move the machines along.

Drilling in Orarait, February 25, 2026.



Clouds loomed over the drilling team. After a couple delays, the drill finally started making progress. And then—we reached water! It gushed out of the ground, right as the skies opened up. We were blessed with water from all directions.

Our prayers were answered!

Test pumping began in March and showed a flow rate of 36,000 liters/hour. More importantly, the water was clean and tasty. Construction followed after the rainy season. We used high-quality materials and hired skilled workers to complete this part of the project. Before the end of May, pipes and the solar-powered water pump were installed.



Test pumping day!

In June, the surrounding infrastructure was constructed to support the borehole and make it functional. This includes a pump house, solar panels, water point, water tank, latrines, and other features built around the borehole. We also built strong concrete structures and an electric fence to elephant-proof it.

In July, we are welcoming visitors from the US who will get to celebrate the Orarait Borehole Opening Ceremony. To say that people will be rejoicing is an understatement!

A new prosperous life awaits. There will be a day when kids no longer know there was a water problem in Orarait. Thanks to God and to you all for making a new future possible!



*Above: Orarait's new concrete tank.
Left: A woman and her children collect water at the new water point.*

Living Water 2026: Lenten Campaign in Wilmington Catholic Schools Launches Summer Mission Trip



Last summer, WILK's U.S. Director Aaron Lemma met Dr. Lou De Angelo, Superintendent of Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. After learning more about WILK, Dr. De Angelo asked, "How can we develop a meaningful program for students to engage with WILK's mission in Kenya?"

In response, we created **Living Water for Lent**, a program to engage students in giving alms, learning about Kenya, and living out their Christian faith. Aaron gave assemblies across the Delmarva region, teaching them about Kenya and singing Maasai songs.

Generous students and families raised **over \$10,000** through this program! We are so grateful to all who contributed.

This summer, two representatives from the diocese—Deacon Vince Pisano and Dr. Tyler Kulp—are traveling to Kenya with other WILK friends to put these donations to use. They'll be rehabilitating the **Orarait Early Childhood Center**, which is right next to the new borehole and in need of repairs.

In addition to funds raised through the program, both travelers have undertaken their own fundraising journeys! We are so grateful to the commitment of all these travelers.



Aaron giving an assembly.



The Orarait Early Childhood Center.



Our Kenya travelers...

with Aaron and Joyce!

Following 2025 Borehole, Anderson Foundation Gifts Bus to Kimana Girls, Opens Up New Opportunities

Kimana Girls' School has a new mode of transportation for its students! On June 17, a 65-seater bus arrived with fanfare at the school. The road was all but shut down as people crowded the street for its homecoming procession.

This incredible donation comes courtesy of our friends at **Anderson Foundation**. This relationship began in 2024 with the dream of establishing a clean water project. Anderson Foundation Executive Director LaToya Burrell contacted WILK about partnering, and six months later a borehole well was established at Kimana Girls' Secondary School.

When Anderson Foundation visitors were departing from the borehole Opening Ceremony, they heard the girls chanting: **"Bus! Bus! Bus!"** LaToya asked us if funding a bus was possible, and we agreed, ensuring the funds and bus were properly stewarded.

Now Kimana Girls' is reaping the benefits of this incredible generosity! They plan to use the bus for travel to extra-curriculars like academic competitions in Nairobi, field trips, and sporting events.



Left: The bus arriving at Kimana Girls'.

Bottom Left: Students running alongside their new bus!

Bottom Right: Students pose with their horns, whistles, and flags.



ANDERSON
FOUNDATION

**LIFTING UP GIRLS
LIFTS THE WHOLE
WORLD**



Partners and Donors Raise Over \$100,000 for Hope for Widows, 40 New Women Enter Program

WILK's Hope for Widows Program (HFW) supports marginalized widows through community building, small business skills training, and grants of goats and cash. This is the fifth year we're helping widows bloom in this program, which has now reached 190 women. We're so proud of how hard the first four groups worked to gain independence and self-esteem through their small businesses!

A Successful Campaign

From 2022 to 2024, **Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities** awarded WILK a 3-year, \$90,000 grant to pilot our Hope for Widows Program. We are thrilled to share that Raskob Foundation has renewed this grant for 2026 through 2028, awarding us \$30,000 each year!

With this seed capital, we launched our spring fundraising campaign which had two goals: (1) to fund remaining HFW program expenses for 2026, and (2) to establish our new REDCap Data system in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania.

Thanks to you, our incredible donors, by May 1 we met—and exceeded—our goal! With funding secured, we proceeded with building the data system and welcoming Group 5 Widows.



Group 5 Widows from Eselengei meet in June.

Improving HFW Data Collection

We love when friendships turn into partnerships. That's exactly what happened when Dr. Richard Landis, husband of our Board Member Linda, learned more about HFW last year.

During his career, Dr. Landis headed the **UPenn's Clinical Research Collaboration Unit (CRCU)**, part of the Perelman School of Medicine, for most of its 20-year history. He thought the department's offerings could support WILK's HFW data system, which collects participant data through questionnaires. This data helps us understand the effectiveness of our efforts, but it lacked a unified method of collection and analysis.



Marii Niliang, a Group 4 widow from Risa.

So far, the UPenn and WILK teams revitalized the HFW data forms, built the backend REDCap system, and collected Group 5's baseline survey.

We are grateful to Dr. Landis and our new partners at the CRCU for offering their expertise to help us better understand those we serve in Kenya. We hope to share these findings with you as they emerge and leverage this data into larger grants in the future.

Welcoming Group 5 Widows

This spring, we onboarded Group 5 women from two new regions: **Eselengei and Osoit**. At their orientation meetings, our Kenyan Team encouraged the women to open up to each other, a crucial step in building trust. Before the program, women were isolated, grieving the loss of their husbands and the challenges that followed. Through this program, they'll build community and confidence.

We couldn't run this program without the devotion of our Co-Founder Joseph Larasha, our Field Officers Cate Olegei and Nelson Tinayo, and our special instructor and mentor Esther. They ensure lessons get taught and women are supported each step of the way.

Later in July, these women will join other groups at the **Goats, Grants, and Graduation Ceremony**. Follow along on our Facebook page for more updates on these incredible women!



Group 5 Widows from Osoit at a training.



Youth Entrepreneur Program, Dr. Tannian's Dream, Underway as Young Men Chart New Paths

For many years, young people near Amboseli have struggled to find gainful employment in Kenya. Last year, we organized the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) to spark entrepreneurial spirit and create job opportunities for these young Kenyans.



YEP participants reporting for duty!

Investing in Kenyan Youth

On February 6, 80 YEP participants received a \$400 grant—and a t-shirt!—after completing the trainings and the service project. The grants were funded by last year's **\$45,000 fundraiser** in honor of Francis Tannian, whose dream to help youth was finally becoming reality.

Since then, these young men have been implementing their business plans. Some are doing livestock trading; they're buying low and selling high, trying to turn steady profits on livestock like goats, sheep, and cows. Others are thinking on their feet and running service businesses and shops. Moses, realizing his friends lacked a nearby source for veterinary medicines for their livestock, opened an agrovet shop.

Other young men like Risa have started small shops with ever-expanding product lines, which they are proud of. Risa's neighbor also has a shop where he cuts (and sells) hair. Women in the area are getting into extensions, so he has all the latest styles, including blue highlights!

We've been meeting with the men to check their records, see if they are responding to market needs, watching profit margins, and adapting their businesses accordingly.

Aside from their financial growth, many men have reported feeling happier, more confident, and less hopeless. This was the hope and prayer of the Youth Entrepreneur Program, and it is now becoming a reality!

We have high hopes for these budding entrepreneurs. We can't wait to see how far they reach and how Dr. Tannian's dream continues to come true, one small business at a time.

Left: Evans in his houseware shop.



The YEP group after its service project.

YEP Pilot in Full Swing

Joyce co-founded WILK with her parents, Francis and Beatrix Tannian, who both passed recently. **In his final year, Francis learned about the joblessness crisis affecting young men in Amboseli and wanted to help.** As a lifelong economist, he knew that helping these men run businesses would have a lasting impact.

Through trainings similar to what we offer in Hope for Widows, YEP participants learned the necessary skills for running businesses, like doing market research and keeping good records to monitor cash flow. Specifically, they learned that they can use whatever they have to get started, and that idle time is wasted time.

To receive the grants that would start their businesses, each participant attended a series of trainings and took part in a community service project: building a road which would become the major road leading to and from Olmoti. Youth groups spent two days removing trees so that, when the bulldozer was ready to come through, the lane was clear. Through this process, men not only learned how to run businesses but also how to work together.



Risa in his food shop.

WILK BY THE NUMBERS

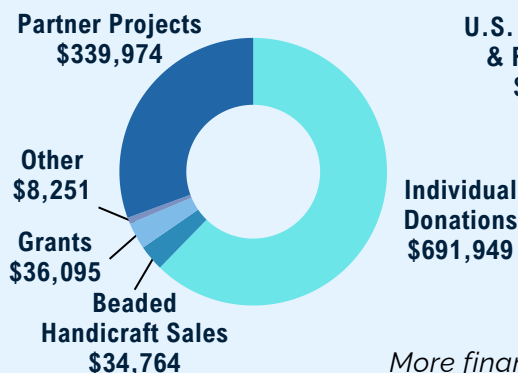
\$1.1 million raised in 2025!

Total Revenue: **\$1,111,033.45**
Total Expenses: **\$780,062.30**
Net Revenue: **\$298,389.67***

* Majority designated for 2026 projects

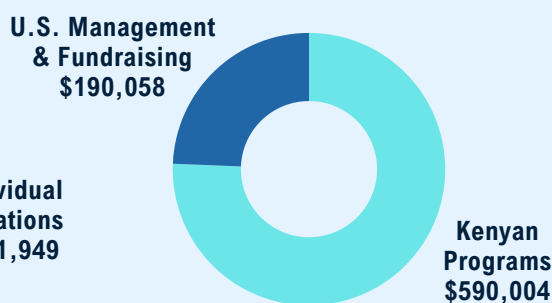
2025 Revenue

\$1,111,033



2025 Expenses

\$780,062



2025 Kenyan Program Expenses

WASH Projects	\$243,352
Special Projects	\$111,062
HFW Program	\$83,621
LAB Program	\$77,281
Kenyan Admin	\$31,230
YEP Program	\$16,911
EDU Sponsorships	\$15,340
Beads Expense	\$11,207
Total	\$590,004

More financial information at waterislifekenya.org/impact

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Shaul Grant Launches "Double-LAB," Our Latest Drought-Preparation Measure

Since 2011, WILK's Livestock as a Business (LAB) program has supported Maasai livestock farmers as they transition from cultural livestock keeping to running livestock businesses. A constant theme addressed in LAB trainings is managing the drought cycle. "Double LAB" will address this in an innovative way.

Last year, we received a **\$45,905.51** grant from Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church to support our new "Double LAB" Program! This grant will help us build a model farm so our Livestock as a Business (LAB) farmers and grass managers can grow nutritious livestock feed for their cows.

Our LAB livestock farmer group members observed that, although cattle had enough grass in the dry season to become full, they were still losing body condition, leading to lower selling prices in the market. This is because the grass was dry and of low nutritional content.

Through this model farm, the "Double LAB" program will empower Maasai farmers by demonstrating how highly nutritious fodder impacts cattle body condition. Through visits and on-site trainings, we will place decision-making, capital, and new knowledge squarely in their hands. For those farmers who are ready to try faster livestock fattening, they will see it done practically on this demonstration farm.

So far, we've irrigated land and cultivated specific highly nutritious fodder like napier grass, juncao grass, and desmodium. Our hope

is to shift the cultural perspective of letting cattle eat whatever is available and, instead, work to improve grass availability and quality.

This is a drought preparation technique, but it will also benefit livestock all year long and put money in farmers' pockets.

Soon, we'll invite 850 LAB graduates, the members of our 10 active LAB groups, YEP members who invested in livestock farming, and grass managers we trained in 2024 to learn about this new way of raising livestock.



WILK Field Officer Nelson Tinayo, himself a livestock farmer, enjoys the green grass on our model farm!



The Ilumpwa Naboishu LAB group with their healthy bulls purchased and fattened with a loan from WILK.

Multiply Your Giving with a Matching Monthly Gift!

Become a monthly donor by September 30th to have your gift matched for 1 calendar year!

Dear Faithful Supporters,

One of our donors just challenged us. He said, "If you add monthly donors to WILK, I'll personally match each donation for one year."

We need your help to unlock this extreme generosity!

Every donation helps us support Kenyans, but monthly donors provide us an undeniable base of support. These gifts help us bear the ups and downs of the annual giving cycle and give us flexibility on the ground in Kenya.

As a monthly giver, you can **automate your impact**. And, with this unique opportunity, each month your gift will be **doubled for one year!**

Think about it – your one decision today can turn into twice as much impact over the next year! Each monthly donor will receive a monthly update letter from me, as well as a year-end tax summary to simplify your taxes.

Will you help multiply our efforts by signing on today?



Thank you for considering,



Your Gift Will Become:

\$25 per month = \$50
\$50 per month = \$100
\$100 per month = \$200

Monthly Giving Options

Via Credit Card

- **ONLINE** → visit waterislifekenya.org/donate
- **MAIL IN** → fill out the blue envelope and select the monthly giving box.

Via PayPal → visit waterislifekenya.org/paypal

Via Retirement Account

- Contact your account manager and ask them for a monthly gift to WILK (Tax ID: 26-3185829).

Scan to Donate



Contact Us for More Info!

info@waterislifekenya.org
(302) 894-7335

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Become a Monthly Donor by September 30, have your gifts matched for 1 year!

Now is the perfect time to **Subscribe to WILK** and help Kenyans bloom all year long!



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

Global Linkages Legacy Garden Blooms in Olmoti, A Sign of Good Things to Come!



In 2024 and 2025, the Global Linkages travel community came together to raise \$100,000 for a borehole in Olmoti, Kenya. To reach their goal, they decided to also encourage donations to plant trees in honor of their loved ones. The **Global Linkages Legacy Garden** was planted in August 2025, and now it's blooming in the most beautiful way!

Our three hired caretakers have been working hard to beautify this space, protect the legacy trees (which include traditional Maasai medicinal plants), and welcome visitors. We can't wait for you to see it when you visit Kenya!



The garden at sundown.



The garden in October 2025.



The garden in June 2026.



A view of Mt. Kilimanjaro.