



BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE



WORLD TEACHER AID



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EDUCATION
IS THE MOST
POWERFUL
WEAPON YOU
CAN USE TO
CHANGE THE
WORLD

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A NOTE FROM STU AND AMY

Dear Friends,

Wow, sooooo much has happened here at WTA that it is hard to know where to begin. First of all we would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your support. Your donations have helped build a total of 8 schools, helping over 4000 students in Kenya. We could not accomplish all we have done without the support of yourselves, our team and our Board of Directors.

This year alone WTA built four schools, spoke at three different events, published

thirteen Write To Give Books and bought on our first, and only paid full time employee, as well as hosted our first ever Board Retreat. This Board Retreat was a magical two days spent together, here in our home in Ontario, where we talked about everything from marketing to donor relations.

We are VERY excited about the next few years and can't wait to share more with you. We hope you enjoy this magazine, as it not only highlights our financials, but some of

the magical moments of what has been a truly epic year for WTA.

Thank you for your support,

Amy and Stu McLaren
Founders of World Teacher Aid

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WE MAY
BE SMALL, BUT
WE ARE MIGHTY





Q & A WITH WTA

How many people are on the WTA team?

WTA also has a book keeper, Nancy as well as one paid full time project manager Carey Leader, who is based in the USA.

Does WTA buy the land for each school that is constructed and pay the teachers?

WTA works as a team with the Kenyan Government. We strongly believe that projects such as this should be a partnership with the local community. For each school that WTA constructs, the land and the salary for the teachers are provided by the local Government.

How often do you go back to Kenya?

The founders of WTA travel back to Kenya once a year for the yearly Donor Experience, and once or twice a year by themselves to check on projects and scout new locations.

How are funds sent over to Kenya?

Funds for our projects are sent through bank wires to Irene at VICDA. Irene then accounts for all dollars that are sent over through regular communication with our office.

How many people are on the WTA team?

The WTA teams consists of it's founders, Stu and Amy McLaren. The WTA Ground Rep Sam, works part-time on the ground, checking in with the local communities and blogging about our projects. WTA also has a bookkeeper, Nancy and an Executive Assistant, Summer who helps handle the details.

Is World Teacher Aid a Canadian or US based charity?

WTA is a Canadian charity.

I want to come to Africa, how can I do that?

Each year, WTA does one Donor Group Trip where we take our large donors to see the school they have helped construct. This trip is designed for those who have donated a classroom or more (\$12,500.00). However, if some spots become available, we do open them up to all donors.

MY FIRST TRIP TO AFRICA

BY DAWN BARRON-BOMMARITO

Carm and I are truly blessed to be able to participate in the opening of the new Baraka Shalom Primary School.

We enjoyed meeting the community and working on the classroom that we dedicated to our sister Giovanna. We loved visiting and playing with all the beautiful children and meeting new friends. The children were often heard singing while sitting in their new desks. They are so excited to begin their studies in their new classrooms!

The transformation of this community in one year is remarkable. Without the dedication of the entire World Teacher Aid team, this would not be possible. It is inspiring to be able to spend time with individuals who put others' needs before their own and - with a single decision - are part of the solution and work tirelessly to make it happen.

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THE TRANSFORMATION OF
THIS COMMUNITY IN ONE
YEAR IS REMARKABLE



A LOOK AT OUR CONSTRUCTION TEAM

BY AMY MCLAREN & JACKSON MURITHI

For us, to build schools in Kenya with such a lean team, we rely on some key individuals. One of those is Jackson Murithi, who is our lead foreman on our construction team.

Since day one, he has been a critical part of our school development. Without his leadership of

the 30+ workers per site and knowledge, we would not have eight beautiful new schools.

On a day to day basis, you will find Jackson working hard within each of our community projects: assigning jobs, planning, managing sub-contractors, making sure our we meet

operational standards, solving problems, meeting the construction budget and collecting blue prints from the Government office are just some of his responsibilities.

We asked Jackson to provide some personal insight into his experiences with WTA.



CHILDREN WHO HAD
ONCE LOST HOPE...
NOW GET A SECOND
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THEIR DREAMS IN LIFE



MY PERSONAL VIEW ABOUT THE PROJECTS

WORLD TEACHER AID projects are a blue print to any society geared towards educational development. Education is a treasure that society can give back to its members and, as such, these developments are a welcome move. They target communities who are needy but cannot afford such initiatives.

In return, children who acquire knowledge in schools from such projects benefit greatly and, in so doing, the same children can then contribute to society. Despite challenges that might be experienced during the implementation process, the end result is a plus. Indeed these initiatives are worth noting and any effort to support the same is highly

welcomed. I support the VICDA initiative in partnering with World Teacher Aid to oversee construction of schools in different parts of Nakuru County. Children who had once lost hope after being affected by post-election violence or from being displaced (evictees from Mau forest) now get a second chance to realize their dreams in life.

I sincerely wish to thank the development partners, the county government of Nakuru, well-wishers and the community at large who have always overseen the success of the projects. It is not easy to realize such initiatives and I feel honored to have been part of this success.

May God always bless this noble task and as the Bible tells us, by working hard we help the weak, while knowing that it is better to give than to receive.



MY BIOGRAPHY

BY IRENE NGATIA WAIRIMU

I was born in a very poor family of 8 children and myself being the second born in the family.

I went through challenges of poverty as I was brought up in a marginalized area (Laikipia District) of Kenya where food, water and other basic needs were rare and my family was among the poorest in the area. During my time of attending primary school, I came to hate education as we used to walk for 5 kilometers from home to school without any meal the whole day. I used to be out of school now and then due to lack of uniforms, stationeries and \$2 US for other school activities per semester. At least I did survive although I used to be always last in all classes until I got to class 7, where I realized the importance of education. I started concentrating, although the problems were still the same. When I did my grade 8 exams in primary school, I passed with very good marks

and I was among the leading students in our area division. I then got admitted to one of the best government schools in Kenya. Luckily, when I joined the school, a family friend who was working in Nairobi volunteered to sponsor me for the first semester of high school (Ndurumo High School, Nyahururu).

After I completed my high school education, I came to Nairobi to look for a job as house help where I was earning \$10 US per month. I tried to save \$2 US per month, as I hoped one day I would be able to go to college. My friend's sister heard what I was doing and he came to visit me in my place of work. He asked me if I was ready to join college immediately and I responded to him; I was ready to go. I joined college midway into the term as other students had joined three months earlier. At six months, the other students were allowed to do exams

but the College Director decided she was not going to allow me to do my exam until the next semester because I joined late. She finally allowed me to do the exams with the rest of the students. Surprisingly, after the results were out, I was the only student who passed all the papers in the whole college and I thought I was ready to get things going and look for a real job.

I was very aggressive in looking for a job and would knock on one door to another in people's offices. It didn't matter whose office I was knocking but within a week, I got my first job as a typist and secretary. I worked there for one year but ended up quitting because of the challenges that still exist for women in the work place. I was now ready to do any job as long as it was not a man who I was reporting to. I immediately got the job as a cleaner at a guesthouse in Nairobi. I worked

here for one year, and when the manager went on maternity leave, my boss asked me to take charge of her work until she came back. I also started doing marketing work. The business picked up so much and my boss approved me to be the official manager for his business. After three years of working for him, he passed away in a tragic accident. During the period I worked in the guesthouse, I had acquired a contact with one of the orphanages in Ngong where I used to buy kids food from my monthly paycheque. I realized I had a lot of passion to work with kids. I resigned from my work, due to the new employer failing to pay all the workers continuously for three months. After one month, one morning I got a piece of paper and started drafting information of how I could bring volunteers to Kenya to work in our needy communities. After designing a plan, I had the challenge of no cash to pay a

web designer. One day I passed by my friend's office and I shared with her the idea. She suggested someone who could design a website for me and introduced me to one of her friends. I talked with the web designer who liked my idea and decided to do the work on a credit basis (it surprised me, as he had no knowledge about me). When he finished designing the website, I had to look for someone to host it for me on credit. The designer introduced me to his friend and I visited his office, and he also accepted to host it on credit. My website went live! I was also looking for a job at this time and had moved back to my sister's house. She used to give me half a dollar for transport from the house to the city center to go and look for a job. I decided to walk and used the money to browse on the Internet, and promote my website. Within less than one month, I got two different international organizations that were interested in partnering with my local organization to start a volunteer program in Kenya. They visited Kenya and from there we started working together and still do now.

I named my non-profit organization VICDA: Volunteer International Community

Development -Africa, as I not only wanted to focus on the voluntary aspects but also on what sustainable changes could be made in the communities that volunteers worked in. From the volunteer program, I started saving some of the donations to support children by paying their school fees and buying uniforms and stationery. I later got more involved in the community development aspects by fundraising for different orphanages, schools and medical clinics etc. We now have dozens of local projects that we sponsor and send our volunteers to work at. We have also secured funding from larger international partners which has allowed us to increase our capacity and help more people. I have never gone back to school, and spend my days working steadily to find new areas to expand to and start new programs.

The 2007-2008 Kenya Post-Election violence brought many new challenges to our organization and the communities we work in. We suddenly found ourselves with thousands of people in IDP camps where there is a great need for basic needs, housing, and education. ●



WTA CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT IRENE AND HER TEAM AT VICDA.

She has worked along side us now for six years. With her help and support, we have been able to build five complete schools: that's 40 classrooms, giving the opportunity for close to 3000 students to attend school each day.

The one thing that I have always loved about Irene is not only her loving personality but also her honesty. Without this we could not achieve our goals and keep our charity running lean. Each month her team sends me a report to show where the funds have been distributed.

Building a school takes a team, and we are honored to have Irene and her staff be a part of our team.

Together, we are making a difference.

DONOR TRIP SURPRISES

BY AMY MCLAREN



Every year as we gear up for the Donor Trip, everything is always planned out to the last detail, however, there are always surprises that come our way (in a good way). For the trip this year, we were blown away not just once, but twice, literally.

It was about five minutes before our opening ceremonies were about to commence, when all of a sudden you could hear a helicopter approaching. Within minutes, kids were running, parents were waving and excitement spread through the air like wild fire.

"He's here!" many children and mommas began to shout. "Who's here?" was the thought going through my mind.

It was the Governor of Nakuru arriving by helicopter, to ensure that he would not be late and miss the ceremony.

This is the FIRST time that the Government Representative has been on time, let alone arrived by helicopter.

We were all thankful and humbled that the President would allow him to take the helicopter to our opening. However, the story gets better.

After our opening ceremony, we were then invited back to his summer house, where we had the chance to talk to the Governor on a more personal level. He opened his home and served all of us, including the safari tent staff as well (34 in total). It was such a great opportunity to discuss our current and future projects with him.

Our last visitor came as a surprise as well, a Parliament official also flew in the second day we were on site to say hello and to visit the projects.

Needless to say, Kenya always surprises us and we are extremely thankful that our relationship with the Government continues to flourish.

A TEACHER'S NOTE

BY DEBBIE MCLEAN

As an elementary teacher of the largest French Immersion school in our Northern Ontario Community, I am always looking for new ways to engage student interest. Most teachers can relate when I say that we have a big competition these days with constant changes in technology.

Every year I ask myself what would "hook" my students into learning, at the same time focusing on curriculum links and teaching them to think beyond themselves. When I looked at the ETFO Voice Magazine, it read "Write to Give". It grabbed my attention immediately. I left it open and knew this was the perfect fit for me and my students. It has been three years now that I've been involved with the Write to Give Program and I can't imagine not being a part of this every year.

Even though my students are responsible for writing only one part of the story (of five), we make sure to discuss all elements of a story. They use the writing process to complete the story themselves and publish their own personal copy. Sharing all of the stories together is a lot of fun for them as they can see different perspectives and points of view.

Throughout our shared writing, read-alouds, and discussions, the students gain a solid understanding of what it takes to write a good story.

Some of the best highlights of being a part of the Write to Give Program were the webcasts, where students saw they were a part of something bigger than our classroom. They were connected with other classrooms around the world, illustrators, authors, scholastic editors and community members from Africa. This was when they realized the impact each one of them had and that they'd had a hand in helping students who didn't have access to schools and education like they did.

During one of the webcasts the students were surprised to hear that African students shared one book to four students. They all looked over at their classroom library and knew how fortunate they were. Students knew that selling our final published story would donate funds to the World Teacher Aid Organization. Last year our grade three classes wrote a school book titled, "The Warrior" as a dedication to a little boy who had lost his

fight to cancer in our community. The students learned how to demonstrate compassion and care towards others. We ended up selling 350 copies of the book! The day the published books arrive was the most exciting day of the year.

Students become good writers when they are motivated, interested and can make connections to their own life experiences. As teachers, we often learn from our students. Every year I watch with amazement.

This year a student gave her own money from her piggy bank towards the program and another said that helping the kids in Africa was the best part of his year. (He plans to go to Africa one day to help some more.) The Write to Give Program is a window of opportunity for teachers - all it takes is a classroom of thinkers, a paper, a pencil and a giving heart.

Debbie McLean

Grade 3 Teacher School: Francis H. Clergue,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario



EVENT SUCCESSSES

BY CAREY LEADER

Our event success continues to grow this past year, and we feel so fortunate to be able to share the stage with not only amazing entrepreneurs, but people we are very lucky to call good friends.

With the help of our dear friend, Russell Brunson and the Clickfunnels community, we raised over \$45,000 at the Funnel Hacking Live Event in San Diego, California. The Funnel Hacking Live Event has generously given over \$91,000 in the last two years. The Clickfunnels community has given funds to help our schools continue to flourish as we are in need of building additional classrooms for some

of our current schools that are outgrowing their current space. In fact, our very first school, Shalom Primary, has already outgrown its space. These funds will be used to build additional classrooms to help with the student population growth. Thank you Russell and the Clickfunnels community for helping us change lives in Kenya!

Another long-term friend of WTA, Jeff Walker and the Product Launch Formula community also helped us raise funds in May. At the PLF Live event in Phoenix, Arizona, the PLF community raised over \$148,000. This community continues to amaze us with their

big-hearted support of WTA. Through their efforts, they have now built three entire schools, with plans underway for number four.

Looking to add a Give Back element to your event?

For further information, please contact Carey@WorldTeacherAid.org.



MOLO STORIES

BY SAM WANGUNYU



JOSHUA OSERO

A father to four kids who are all in the local school - kindergarten, grades 2, 4 and 6. He is the school's board of management chairman and the community leader in charge of education projects. Joshua is a farmer working on his family land and owns a tailoring shop in the village. He has been the person mobilizing the community participation in the school project by organizing them to help fetch water needed for construction.



JAMES ELIJAH

Married and a father of six children, James is a farmer in the community, as are most members of Baraka Shalom. He farms mostly potatoes and peas and keeps a few farm animals for milk. Five of his six children attend Baraka Shalom Primary School - grades 2, 4, and 7 with a younger one attending kindergarten. His youngest child will join the school in the next few years so he is very positive about the impact education will have in his children's lives.

MARY MUTHONI

A mother to six children with two of them attending the primary school in grades 3 and 5. Mary is a farmer, working in the family plot, mainly growing potatoes, cabbages and peas for consumption in the nearby towns and cities.



NAOMI WANJIRU

Naomi is a mother to six children. Four of them are in school; two are in the high school nearest to the community and two are in the primary school (grades 4 and 6). She owns the local flour mill and also works alongside relatives on the family farm.

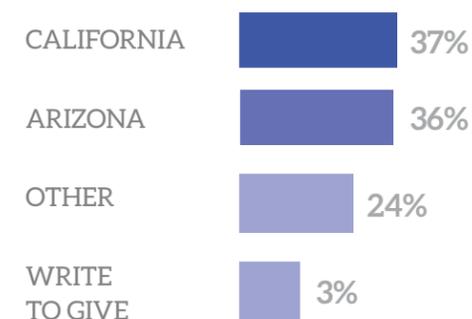


JOSEPH KAMAU

A father to three children: his oldest is a freshman in high school, his middle child is in grade 3 and the youngest child is still at home. He is also a farmer who earns his living growing potatoes, peas and cabbages for sale in the towns throughout Kenya.

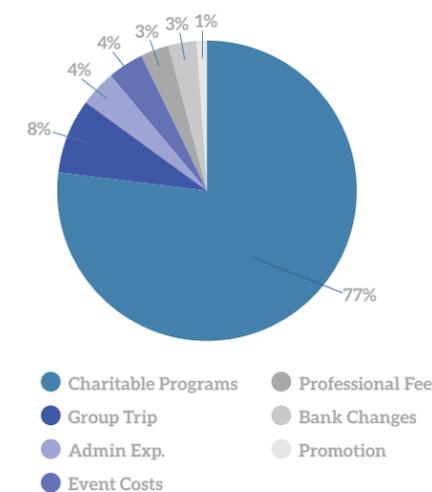
FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

2015 REVENUE

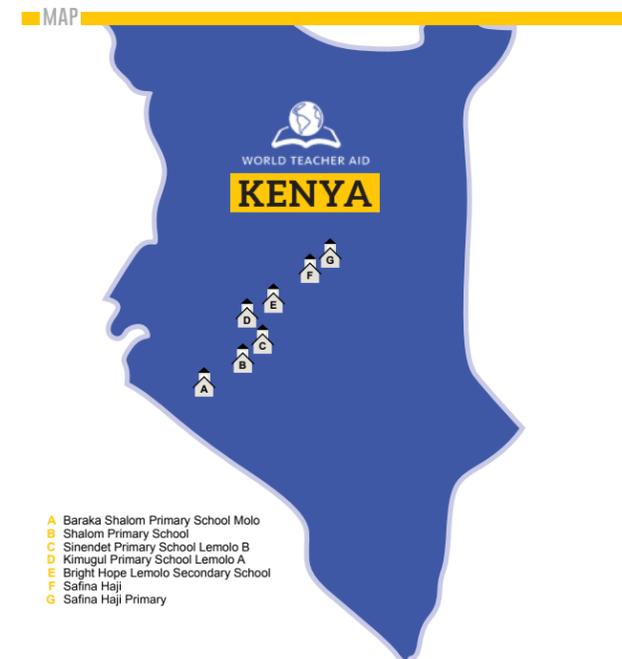


TOTAL \$624,565.16

2015 EXPENDITURE



SCHOOLS IN KENYA



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & WTA MEMBERS

World Teacher Aid would not be able to accomplish all it does without a world class team! We are so appreciative of our board members and our staff.

MEET SAM & CAREY

Sam Wangunyu is the ground representative for World Teacher Aid in Kenya. He loves working with communities to establish worthwhile and lasting projects. Sam has been working in this capacity since September 2013, joining World Teacher Aid soon after graduating from college. He studied at Egerton University in Njoro, Kenya, where he received a Bachelors of Science in Community Development. Sam lives in Nakuru where most of our projects are located. He is a hobbyist photographer currently honing his craft in nature and landscape photography.

Carey Leader is Operations Manager for the World Teacher Aid team, joining full time in July of 2016. She loves to help and support others and wants to have a greater impact on this world. For the last nine years, Carey worked in higher education, building and leading teams, planning and executing small/ large events and leading many overseas trips to help charities. She studied at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, receiving a Bachelors of Church Ministries & Social Work and a Masters in Ministerial Leadership. Carey currently lives in Ash Grove, Missouri. She's passionate about traveling, being creative and living a healthy lifestyle. Carey is looking forward to helping support and expand the vision of World Teacher Aid.

THE BOARD



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Jeremy Laidlaw



Braden Douglas



Ellyn Bader



David Frey



Nancy McKen

THE TEAM



Amy McLaren
Co-Founder



Stu McLaren
Co-Founder



Carey Leader
Operations Manager



Irene Ngatia Wairimu
NGO Partner - VICDA



Kelly Roloson
Gibb Widdis Accountant



Elizabeth Mackin
Accountant



Samuel Wangunyu
Ground Representative



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