



2015 Annual Report



Growing the Circle of Care and Support to Empower Songea's Orphans

Songea's Kids collaborates with Tanzanian partners to bring life and hope to orphans by establishing self-sustaining programs and building infrastructure such as Hope Village.

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Songea's Kids is a tax-deductible 501(c)3, EIN 51-0649064



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Songea's Kids's programs and plans, first articulated in 2009, have faced and overcome many obstacles and challenges. We never gave up hope. In 2015 our projects gained amazing momentum toward full implementation to better the lives of people in much-underserved southern Tanzania.

ORPHAN CARE AND EDUCATION

We continue collaboration with our NGO partner **Jirani Mwema** to provide exemplary daily care and educational opportunities for up to 65 orphans in Mshangano Village, part of Songea town. In 2015 all children were generally healthy and thriving. A few afflicted with malaria and other ailments, or needing eye/ear care, were transported by the matron for immediate treatment, resulting in full recovery. Your donor sponsorship supported four babies, 25 male students and 30 female students. 23 students attended primary school, including one in a boarding school for dear/mute children and one in boarding school for safety because she is albino. Five students attend private secondary school, and 16 attend government secondary school. Nine students were in vocational school—one in carpentry, three in mechanics, two in tailoring, two in masonry, and one in hotel management (she graduated end of year and is now employed). These students **never gave up hope** for a happy life, and have worked hard to learn skills so they can support themselves and future families. Education/Scholarship Fund donors make this possible.

Ruhila primary school and Chandarua secondary school, where book shelves are mostly empty, received the books donated by friends in Dar es Salaam. The donors promised to continue book donations in 2016. For the

first time, students had the joy of holding and reading a real book.

PARTNERS WORKING TOWARD SELF SUPPORT

Jirani Mwema (JM) continued taking steps on the road to self-support. Chicken project reserve funds grew and helped pay some education costs of orphans, in addition to covering chicken project expenses. From the start Songea's Kids and Jirani Mwema agreed Songea's Kids would mentor and provide seed money to help JM become self-sustaining. At the beginning of 2016, a ten-year exit strategy took effect. When Songea's Kids first began work in Tanzania, we were advised to expect a loss of 40% of funds due to corruption. The integrity of our NGO partners, and the diligence of volunteer accountants in the USA and staff accountants in Tanzania, show that ALL funds have been tracked and used for the benefit of the children.

HOPE VILLAGE

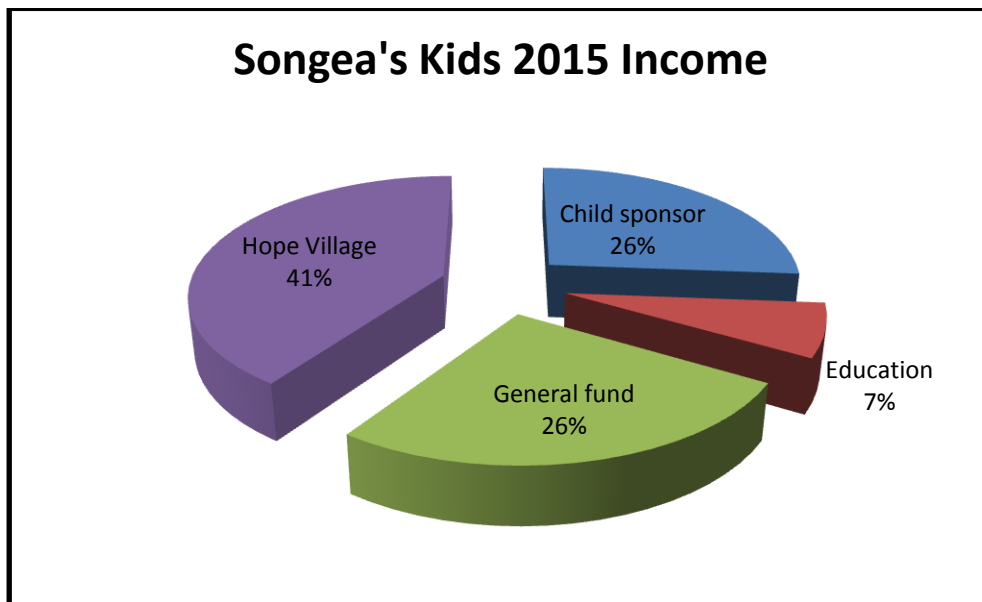
Since 2009, we have been aware of the urgent need in the Songea area for residential housing for orphans. The overwhelmed foster care system has no place for many, especially babies. To meet this need, over the years we investigated five possible sites to build such housing, and sought a trustworthy, reliable NGO partner who also recognized this great need.. USA architects and engineers, in collaboration with Tanzanian colleagues, provided pro bono, invaluable professional services to design Hope Village. In 2014 we signed a partnership agreement with the NGO **Hope Village Organization** (HVO), which grew and thrived in 2015. Hydrogeologist Russ Prior traveled to Tanzania in 2015 to assess the water situation in a possible new location and oversee well drilling on a parcel of land acquired by HVO near Lutukira Village in remote Madaba District. (See more page 7)

Linda Hines, President

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

Songea's Kids is 100% supported by private donors. Over 90% of our funding supports the work of caring for 65 orphans in foster homes in Mshangano Village, Songea, and laying groundwork for Hope Village, our planned residential complex in Lutukira that will include duplexes for 160 of the area's most vulnerable children, including babies we are unable to help at this time. **We are committed to keeping our United States administration**

and fundraising expenses low so you will know that 93 cents of every dollar you give goes to the children's welfare. We treat your donations as though the money is coming from our own pockets. The Board takes fiscal management, governance and transparency very seriously. We strive for a high level of accountability with all our volunteers, donors and partner organizations.

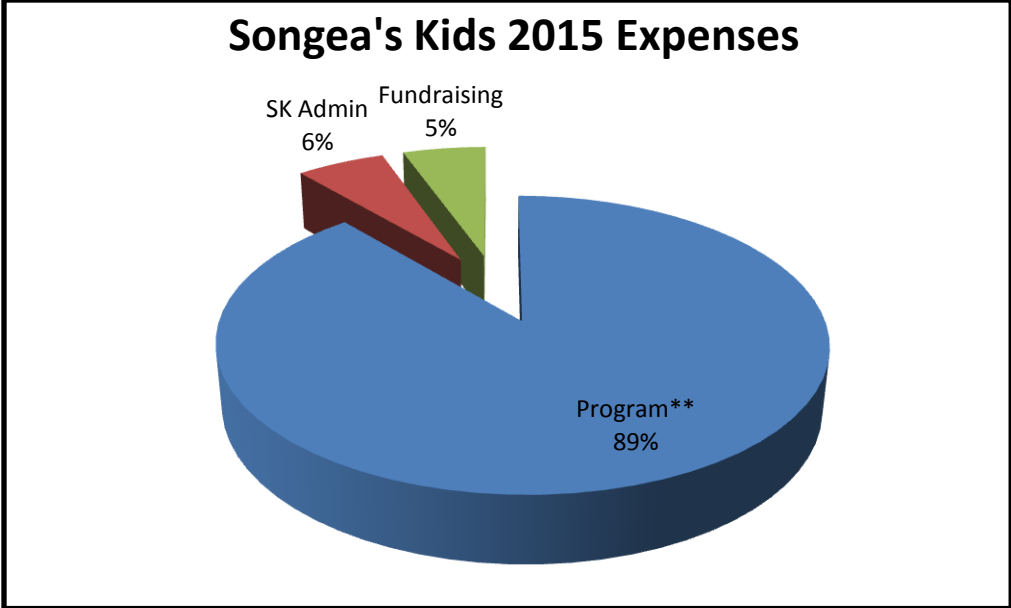


Songea's Kids Income: 2015

| | Total Income | Donated Svcs/Items | Total Income* | % of Total Income |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Child sponsor | 33,548.83 | | 33,548.83 | 26% |
| Education | 9,060.74 | | 9,060.74 | 7% |
| General Fund | 44,700.25 | 11,030.92 | 33,669.33 | 26% |
| Hope Village | 89,454.20 | 37,865.11 | 51,589.09 | 41% |
| | 176,764.02 | 48,896.03 | 127,867.99 | |

*Total income excludes \$48.9k of donated professional services

**General Fund is used where the program need is greatest



Songea's Kids Expenses: 2015

| | Donated Svcs/Items | Total Expense* | % of Total Expense | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----|
| Program** | | 40,438.03 | 81,715.12 | 89% |
| SK Admin | | 231.30 | 5,298.72 | 6% |
| Fundraising | | 8,226.70 | 4,990.66 | 5% |
| | 48,896.03 | 92,004.50 | | |

* Total Expense excludes \$48.9k of donated professional services
 **Program expense includes \$13.7k in program- related Tanzania travel



2015 DONORS

Thank You! Or as they would say in Songea, Asante Sana!

Songea's Kids provides care for up to 65 orphaned and vulnerable children in the Mshangano Ward of Songea, Tanzania. The following individuals, foundations and organizations have generously supported our mission. We have made every effort with our all-volunteer team to accurately acknowledge every donor who made a contribution to our success. If omitted or misspelled, please accept our apology; to let us know any changes that can be made, contact us at lindah@songeaskids.org or 425-961-0623.

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Amazon Smile | Flanagin, Yen | Program |
| Anderson, Edona | Follmer, Mark & Susan | Miletich, Arlene |
| Anonymous | Fraser, Robert | Miller, Jacqueline |
| Ardissono, James & Mary | Galer, Nathan | Nanda, Manoj and Julie |
| Atkinson, Nancy | Gilmore, Marlice | Nasby Linda |
| Beley, Jim | Hall, Jennifer | Nolan, Lisa |
| Benson, Janet | Hines, Alan & Silke Wendt | Nordal, Holly |
| Bickel, Rena | Hines, Eric & Pam | Nordlund, Elizabeth |
| Bird, Charles & Janet | Hines, Linda | Nossum, Christian |
| Bloom, Linda | Hines, Rebecca & Warren | Nunn, Bob & Carolee |
| Bloomquist, Daniel & Karen | Hoelt, Werner & Janet | Olson, Eric & Melanie |
| Bohanick, Linda | Howald, Christopher | Pacific Groundwater Group |
| Boyce, Bill and Debbie | Hurt, Williams | Panjwani Shamila Allidina |
| Boyer-Visser, Kathleen | Jacob, Judith | Patnaik, Sanghamitra |
| Burdick, John | Jolly, Joan L | Pettersson, Susan |
| Butners, Marite | Kaald, Paul & Patricia | Pickering, Jean |
| Carter, Cora | Kahler, CJ | Pickering, Jean |
| Center, Barbara and Christopher | Killian, Van & Nancy | Plateau Jewelers |
| Christensen, Richard L. | Knodel, Linda and Ron | Prior, Russell |
| Clay, Marion | Kutzke, Jason & Kimberly | Rattanasamphan, Worawan |
| Clothes for the Cause Puget Sound LLC | Lachelt, Orlin and Joanne | Raudebaugh, Roy & Gabby |
| Colding, Sue | Landerholm, Mary Lee | Reid, Christiane |
| Costello, Margaret | Linder, Marilyn | Reid, Daniel |
| Dalton, Joan | Liranzo, Marlene | Riede, James and Karen |
| Datoo, Fatima | Living Water | Rosenow, Margaret |
| Dawson, Karen & Bushnell, Jerome | Loesby-Fein, Michelle | Rotary Club of Des |
| Days4Girls Kirkland Team | Loh, Laurence & Evelyn | Moines/Normandy Park |
| Dirkes, Betty | Macchio, Cathy | Rotary Club of Emerald City |
| Dybevik, Eric and Mary Beth | Masden, Martha | Rotary Club of Sammamish |
| Ehlers, Tom & Lorene | Matava, Honoria | Rye, Kjell and Laurie |
| Engert Paul and Linda | McBride, Steve & Kris | Rye, Kjerstin |
| Episcopal Diocese of Olympia | McCulley, Nancy & Jim | |
| Farrell, Sally | McDonald, Nancy | Sanford, Robert & Anna |
| Feldt, Karen | McDowell, Mark and Jane | Santana, Ortencia |
| | Meyer, Deborah | Sharek, Tom and Cindy |
| | Microsoft Matching Gifts | Shay, Ellen |

Shepherd Of The Hills Lutheran Church
Silvanus, Crispin
Smith, Karen
Smith, Robert & Marcia Rivers
Solsvik, Sharon
Sowing Seeds of Hope
Spencer, Lloyd & Deanne
Stamper, Doug and Carol
Stoddard, Ruth Joan
Stone, Mary
Straughan, Ben
Sundal, Diana L.
Sundberg, Richard & Sharon
Terpilowski, Edmund & Sally
Terpilowski, Rob

The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Rev'd Dr. Suzi Robertson
The Rev'd Nolen Holcomb
Thrivent Financial
Tiliacos, Adrian
Tiliacos, Erica & Nick
Tohill, Vicki and Jimmy
Tordillos, Estelle
Trinity Lutheran Church
Valderrama, Sherie
Valderrama-Aromayo, Ramiro
Vedder, Leslys
Walker, Steven & Jeffers, Kathy
Wall, Janet
Warner, Candace & Dennis

Watkinson, Peg
Weber, Vicki
Wei, Pao-Pei
Wiatrak, Winifred
Wilkinson, Florence
Wilkinson, Jessica & Arthur
Wilkinson, Richard & Linda
Williams, Deborah
Williams, Patti
Witter, Bob & Diane
Woodriff, Ed
Yenubari, Deborah
Zehms, Dale and Diane

Hearty, Heartful Applause for Our Volunteers!

Songea's Kids is an all-volunteer non-profit based in Sammamish, Washington, USA. Our work would be impossible without talented people around the world devoting hundreds of hours each year to help accomplish our mission and keep our overhead costs low. (If we unintentionally misspelled or omitted your name, please accept our apologies and let us know.) **ASANTE SANA!**

2015 BOARD MEMBERS

John Burdick
Eddy Duan
Sally Farrell
Linda Hines
Lakesha Knatt
Holly Nordal
Amanuel Nussr
Kjell Rye
Sharon Solsvik
Richard Wilkinson

FINANCE

Kathy Huckabay
Archana Laxminarayan
Heidi Flynn

Hope Village ARCHITECTS

David Coleman
Eryn Gaul
Nicole Lew

ARCHITECTS (cont.)

Crystal Loya
Gladys Ly-Au Young
Kirk Nelson
Hill Pierce
Noreen Shinohara
Mika Sundberg
Rick Sundberg

Hope Village ENGINEERS

Charles Ellingson
Russ Prior
Mark Reeves
Glen Strachan

NEWSLETTER

Sophia Kouidou-Giles
Arlene Miletich
Winnie Wiatrak

SPONSOR COORDINATOR

Julie Nanda

SONGEA SOIRÉE

Marite Butners
Sally Farrell
Linda Hines
Eric Hines
Pam Hines
Mary Suhm
Linda Wilkinson
Richard Wilkinson

WEBSITE

Richard Wilkinson

AT LARGE

Kjerstin Rye
Laurie Rye

TANZANIA ADVISORS

Dr. Husseinali Dattoo
Mustafa Jiwaji
Nashon Kikalao

PRESIDENT

(Cont. from P. 2)

Despite best efforts, at 140 meters no water was found; then a wildfire raced across the land and destroyed drilling equipment. That well project was abandoned. **The land instead will be used for drought-resistant crops to feed orphan children.**

We never lost hope.

In October 2015 Songea's Kids President Linda Hines, volunteer nurse Kjerstin Rye, and hydrogeologist Russ Prior joined with HVO leaders to convene focus group meetings with the leaders and villagers in Lutukira Village. We got to know each other, listened to the villagers' needs and hopes, and found a cooperative way forward.

Lutukira village welcomed the orphan project. They urgently needed clean water, and were desperate for vocational training for their children and themselves.

The Hope Village partnership grew!

The villagers transferred to Hope Village Organization (HVO) 30 acres of land in the village on which to build. The Madaba District government joined with HVO in paying the cost of the land survey. A very generous private donor, Leslys Vedder, donated funds for a well in memory of her husband, Dr. James Vedder.

Living Water in Lynnwood and the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia (WA) donated well money, and Sammamish, Emerald City, and Des Moines/Normandy Park Rotary Clubs added well donations. We are awaiting word of matching well fund donations from Tanzania Rotary Clubs.

In 2016 two wells will be drilled, one for Lutukira Village and one for Hope Village. With water, construction can at last begin for the vocational school and orphan housing a funds become available.

How HOPE has become reality.

We are grateful for the many ways YOU support the work of Songea's Kids. Attendees of the 2015 Songea Soiree: "Raise the Roof" provided a net income of \$13,261.20. We plan to double that in 2016 with your help.

Share the Joy Funds in honor of the 60th anniversary of John and Marlice Gilmore provided \$2,667. The Clean Water for Kids Clothes Drive and a matching Thrivent grant totaled \$1,961.20

Caring and talented volunteers, sharing their time and skills, are critical to our success! Because of everyone who donates their time talent or treasure, our overhead is low and donated funds go directly to help those in need.

YOUR donations as Education Sponsors or donors to the Education/Scholarship Fund

The education sponsors and donors give students the opportunity to attend secondary or vocational school to learn skills that can support them and their families. They also learn the value of education and will encourage their own children to excel. Without this support, children in this very poor village would not be able to go past primary school and end the cycle of poverty.

The Songea's Kids Board is working to establish an Education/Scholarship Fund of \$25,000 in 2016 so we can meet our commitment to enable each student to find a path to success and employment.

