



**Empowering women with access to clean water can change the world**

## Letter from the Co-Founders

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2021 we were confronted with many health, human, economic, and environmental challenges. The world's focus shifted to protecting the environment with a heightened awareness of the effects of climate change. Water plays a huge role in all of this. We either have too much rain or not enough in places where it is needed. Water scarcity has again been brought to our attention.

"Half of the world's population could be living in areas facing water scarcity by as early as 2025...Water scarcity takes a greater toll on women and children..." - (UNICEF 2020)

The Waterbearers, as a women-led organization, holds the simple intention to bring clean water, light and love to those in need, empowering women in the process.

Without your contributions, our achievements this year would not have been possible.

We look forward to your continued support in our mission to inspire women who have access to clean water to get it to those who do not. Each year, we raise women's consciousness globally through our awareness campaigns, energizing women grateful for their privileged ease of access to water to help those who lack this human right.

We are committed to continuing our reach to women worldwide and hope that a peaceful brighter future awaits those who lack access to safe drinking water and have also been challenged in unimaginable ways.

With love and gratitude,

*Jane* and *Erin*



Jane Brinton  
Co-Founder | Executive Director



Erin Toppenberg  
Co-Founder | Director

## Board Members

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## Where we make a difference

We work around the world in places where people lack access to clean water, collaborating with communities to provide sustainable solutions. Since 2016, through strategic partnerships, our campaigns have helped fund clean water initiatives in 33 countries and impacted a million lives.

In 2021, our focus was supporting our partner organizations and local communities in seven countries impacting more than 55,000 people with safe drinking water.

- Ecuador
- Haiti
- Sierra Leone
- Thailand and Burma
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe



## Programs Implemented

### ECUADOR

Thirty-six percent of the Ecuadorian population lives in rural areas. Although access to water and sanitation has increased immensely throughout the last decade, Ecuador still faces widespread poverty. The Indigenous people remain the most affected resulting in chronic malnutrition with little access to education, clean water, or health care.

The Province of Azuay is located in the southern part of Ecuador, in the Andes mountain range. The Waterbearers co-founder Jane Brinton, working together with the local, provincial government, identified families in need and, during the COVID restrictions, distributed 120 filter systems and demonstrated their use in 48 rural communities in the highlands. This project benefits 1,345 families, impacting 9,232 people with access to safe drinking water.

In May 2021, heavy rains caused rivers to overflow their banks, mudslides and flooding destroyed hundreds of homes. Jane Brinton was invited to tour the heavily affected areas with Cecilia Mendez Mora, the Prefect of Azuay and meet 40 families who lost their homes.

Partner Organizations: Prefecture of Azuay | University of Azuay



**G@BIERNO PR@VINCIAL  
AZUAY**



## HAITI

On August 14, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula, causing 2,248 deaths and injuring more than 12,760 people. Two days later, Tropical Storm Grace dumped ten inches of rain, adding to the devastation, chaos, and hindering relief efforts.

"The number one priority is water," says Myriam Leandre Joseph, Founder of Cite de la Santé, a non-governmental organization of Haitian doctors and entrepreneurs, all volunteers who offer their services to the Haitian community. Myriam continues, "I am in contact with people in Nodyes who need water filters. And, the town of Pestel relies on storing rainwater, but 90% of the cisterns have been destroyed." The mayor of Pestel, Marie-Helene L'Esperance, says, "Every house was destroyed, there's nowhere to live, we need shelters, medical help and especially WATER!"

The Waterbearers reached out to our original partner, Waves For Water (W4W), to see how we could help. Executive Director Christian Troy has been distributing filters in Haiti and around the world since the big quake of 2010. We donated \$5000 to Waves For Water for 100 Buckets of Love, including a filter, food staples, and hygiene kits distributed by their team in Haiti. The Sawyer filters were already in-country, the biggest challenge for any relief agency.

Partner Organizations: Waves For Water | Cite de la Santé



## SIERRA LEONE

In 2021, The Village Link and The Waterbearers were awarded a grant by Rotary International to benefit the villagers of Konia in the Bo district. Two hundred and twenty households received a bucket-filter system and training. Safe sanitation guidelines were introduced, and toilets were erected. The community recently celebrated one year free from water-borne diseases, cholera, typhoid, dysentery and diarrhea.

"The Waterbearers is making a huge impact on the lives of the people. You have contributed immensely to reducing the mortality rate. The people no longer experience death or sickness caused by drinking unsafe water."

*- James Bowen, The Village Link and The Waterbearers*

Thanks to individual donors, The Waterbearers installed three more Rain Catchment Systems (RCS). In Golu village, 700 people, the community marketplace in Gerihun serves 168 surrounding communities of 20,000 people and the Center for the Disabled. A total of 324 filters were distributed this year.

Partner Organization: The Village Link



## THAILAND

In 2021, The Waterbearers partnered with The Charis Project and Shade Tree Foundation in Mae Sot, Thailand, which borders Burma, also known as Myanmar. In February, the military coup and the civil disturbances forced thousands of civilians to flee to the Thai/Burma border for safety. Settlers living under makeshift tents alongside the river have little access to clean water, food supplies, or health services.

"One of the biggest needs is clean drinking water! Escaping the military is one thing, but getting sick from contaminated water often kills more displaced people than the fighting itself. We're so thankful that we have the water filters on hand, thanks to the partnership with The Waterbearers." – Aaron Blue, Shade Tree Foundation.

The Waterbearers provided a water system and 100 filters with a potential reach of 10,000 people.

Partner Organizations: The Charis Project -  
Shade Tree Foundation |  
All You Need Is Love Charity



### ZIMBABWE

Over 40% of Zimbabwe's population lives in extreme poverty. For many people, especially those living in rural areas, access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains problematic.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, the country experienced severe water shortages due to recurring droughts and failure to treat the little available tap water. It is forcing residents to collect water from unsafe sources and overcrowded boreholes. Water scarcity from years of drought in Zimbabwe has forced communities to seek water elsewhere as their groundwater wells dried up. Many of the previously dug wells were no longer deep enough to reach the subsiding water level.

Thousands of women and school-age children may spend eight to nine hours in line at crowded boreholes or narrow water wells to get water that may not be safe.

From 2000 to 2017, the percentage of people in Zimbabwe with access to safe water decreased from 72 percent to 64 percent, and basic sanitation decreased from 46 percent to 36 percent (Human Rights Watch 2020).

Precious Nyadongo, representing a group of 50 Zimbabwean women known as Sisters Connected Trust, reached out to the Fyera Foundation seeking funding to complete a borehole project in the rural community of Nketa-9 in Bulawayo. Fyera had previously raised funds on behalf of The Waterbearers had the exact amount needed to complete the well.





### ZIMBABWE

"I used to walk a long distance to the nearest borehole twice a day to collect water. Because there was only one borehole for our entire area, which we had to share with 800 people, that meant getting up very early to stand in line. The queue was always long, and during COVID, you couldn't risk social distancing because someone would cut in front of you. Even when I got to the borehole, we were only allowed to take one bucket of water. Our allotment for the day was 20 liters; that's a 5-gallon bucket.

"Now that we have a borehole closer to my house that serves half the community, the water lines are much shorter. It has been such a blessing for me, my girls and the other 50 plus women who also benefit from having access to clean water."

*- Precious Nyadongo, Sisters Connected Trust.*

Partnering with the Sisters Connected Trust, Precious identified several communities that lacked access to safe drinking water. The Waterbearers initiated a program to install five more solar-powered boreholes up to 80km from Bulawayo. The rural districts of Battlefield, Seafield, Garamtata and two in Maraposa are the beneficiaries. Two villages also received drip irrigation systems.

Partner Organization: Sisters Connected Trust



# Ripple Effect

Did you know that providing clean water has a ripple effect that inspires and impacts women worldwide?

## 01 *Make a donation*

*"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples."*

— Mother Teresa



## 02 *Access to clean water*

With access to clean water near villages, women and girls, "water bearers," no longer have to walk long distances or face adversity and danger along the trail.

## 03 *Livelihood*

With easy access to water, women can grow crops, providing their families with nutritious food and an opportunity to sell the excess harvest to create an income.



## 04 *Education*

Easy access to clean water means more time to study, and a chance for young girls to get the gift of education.

## 05 *Wellbeing*

The ripple effect from clean water and sanitation means healthier families and more time to be with them.



## *Ripple effect*

Join our growing circle of caring supporters.

THE WATERBEARERS.ORG

The 'Ripple Effect' strengthens the community, primarily women, with garden tools and seeds to produce crops. With easy access to water, they can provide their families with nutritious food and an opportunity to sell the excess harvest to create an income. Female-led micro-businesses allow gender equality to take a quiet leap. The ripple effect from clean water and sanitation means healthier families, more time to be productive, and a chance for young girls to get the gift of education.

Precious has visited a regenerative farm in Kenya and hopes to replicate this in Maraposa, Zimbabwe, as a Sisters Connected Trust and The Waterbearers pilot program.



# FINANCIALS

## Financials

REVENUE	2021	2020
Contributions	\$57,111	\$80,045
Grants	\$12,925	\$0
Net Assets beginning of year	\$56,632	\$17,974
Total Net Assets	\$126,668	\$98,019

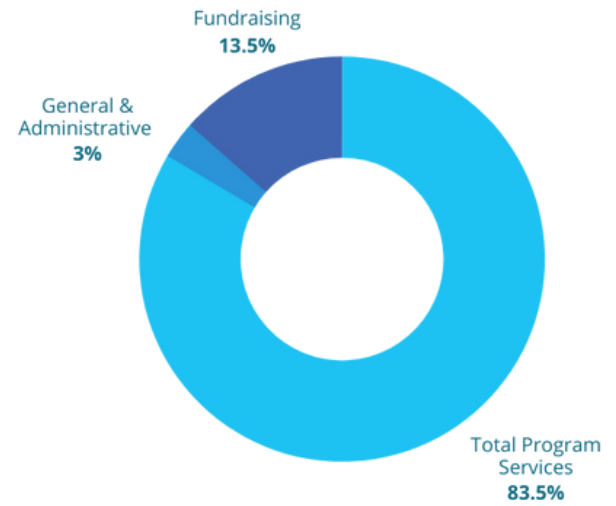
### EXPENSES

#### Program Services:

Water Programs	\$66,006	\$19,376
Freight & Distribution	\$3,184	\$8,470
Total Program Services	\$69,190	\$27,846

#### Supporting Services:

General & Administrative	\$2,487	\$3,218
Fundraising	\$11,182	\$8,228
Total Supporting Services	\$13,669	\$11,446
Total Expenses	\$82,859	\$39,292



## FIND US ON:



## THANK YOU

To our team of supporters who fundraised, donated and contributed to help us achieve our mission of providing clean water to those in need.

Ashley Rogers  
Kathy Steele  
Natasha Singh-Alley  
Ophelia Ramirez  
Pauline McKean  
Shelley Greenwald  
Sora Garrett  
Spryte Lorianio

To our partners and in-country leaders dedicated to helping their communities access clean water.

James Bowen and Mary Rose Boani (Sierra Leone)  
Precious Nyadongo (Zimbabwe)  
John Ssentamu (Uganda)  
Aaron Blue and Ruby Chen (Thailand)  
Anne Carr and Belen Guerrero (Ecuador)

