In 2015 we celebrated our 10 year anniversary as an organization. Thanks to the Water1st community, it was a year of tremendous growth. Together, we raised $2,648,000. With 88% of our expenses going to programs, we completed more projects than ever before.

Water1st was created to build water projects that would last. We believe poor people are their own best resource in escaping poverty so we fund solutions based on their priorities. In a world that entices us with new technologies, it is easy to lose track of the human element. But we have remained true to our vision — to provide permanent solutions that have the greatest impact. You can be confident your gifts to Water1st throughout the years have been invested in projects that are still in use today.

The financial support of the Water1st community is the engine that powers our project success. Thank you for believing in this mission and making it your own.

Margie Duckstad   Marla Smith-Nilson
Chair, Board of Directors   Executive Director
IN 2014:
348 PROJECTS COMPLETED
96 PROJECTS UNDERWAY
SERVING 10,261 PEOPLE

IN 2015:
17,967 LIVES TRANSFORMED
17,967 LIVES TRANSFORMED

HONDURAS:
17 PROJECTS
5,554 PEOPLE SERVED
PARTNER: COCEPRADIL

ETHIOPIA:
5 PROJECTS
17,384 PEOPLE SERVED
PARTNER: WATER ACTION

INDIA:
35 PROJECTS
14,400 PEOPLE SERVED
PARTNER: AKSHAYNAGAR PALLISRI SANGHA

BANGLADESH:
1,506 PROJECTS
104,028 PEOPLE SERVED
PARTNER: DUSHTHA SHASTHYA KENDRA

$2,648,000 RAISED

WE LEVERAGE YOUR INVESTMENT.
For every $1 invested, local government and communities contribute an additional 74¢.

2015 REVENUE

INDIVIDUALS: 78%

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS: 88.5%
FUNDRAISING: 9.5%
FOUNDATIONS: 18%
CORPORATIONS: 3%
MANAGEMENT: 2%
ALL OTHER: 1%
EVERY WATERIST PROJECT INCLUDES PIPED WATER AND TAPS, TOILETS, HYGIENE EDUCATION, COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING.

Our comprehensive water and toilet projects meet the immediate needs of people living in extreme poverty. They also play a substantial role in helping communities reach their potential. The unique benefit of a water and sanitation project is that, with attention given to the right details, a community will be transformed.

WHAT ARE THE RIGHT DETAILS TO INVEST IN?

1. A PIPED NETWORK WITH A HOUSEHOLD TAP
A household tap versus a community hand pump results in triple the volume of water used — providing maximum health benefits. With a tap at home, people have 24-hour access to abundant clean water for drinking, cooking, and growing gardens. They can routinely bathe and wash hands. Laundry can be done right at home.

A household tap also ends the long walk for water, freeing up time for women and girls. The time and energy saved can be redirected to important activities that lift families and communities out of extreme poverty — going to school, growing food, earning an income.

2. BUILD A TOILET PEOPLE WANT TO USE
Toilets dramatically reduce exposure to disease and deadly pathogens. In places where there are no toilets, what will convince people to start using one? The key is building one that people want to use. We have found that our project users value the same things we do—they want an indoor toilet that is odor-free and easy to clean.

3. LOCAL OWNERSHIP
Local ownership is vital to long-term project success. Poor people are incredibly resourceful. They succeed in repairing and maintaining their houses, plows, rickshaws, cooking pans — all the things that really benefit them. With specialized training, communities can independently operate and maintain their water and sanitation systems, too.

A piped water network is shared infrastructure, which is more challenging to manage than personal property. But the benefits are worth the extra effort and investment. Our local partners are key to developing organizational structures within the community that assure project sustainability. We carefully select our partners for their proven ability to prepare communities to manage their projects well and serve everyone equally. With these structures in place, community members go on to tackle other issues, such as education, trash collection, and access to electricity.

How do we know this investment is worthwhile? WE FOLLOW UP.

Worldwide, 35-50% of water projects fail within the first 5 years. Our projects are different — THEY LAST. We know what works because we routinely evaluate our projects and learn from past experience. Since 2005 we have completed 1,686 projects and not one has failed, proving that this comprehensive approach works.

SMART, COMPREHENSIVE PROJECTS THAT LAST
SCHOOL OUTREACH. We visited dozens of classrooms and youth groups, educating students about the world water crisis and empowering them to make a difference.

YOUTH BOARDS. Over 40 students served on our High School & Middle School Boards, acting as global water ambassadors in their schools and communities.

GLOBAL FELLOWS. A select group of high school students participated in a global development curriculum that included a field seminar in our project communities in Ethiopia. Each gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of poverty, the effective community-led development philosophy of Water1st, and a powerful voice to advocate for the people they met.
A $500,000 donation granted. ‘2015 World Citizen Award’ given to Water1st by the World Affairs Council.
Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Honduras, and India

This unique travel opportunity allows supporters to experience firsthand the tremendous impact a successful water project has on people’s lives.

MEET THE PEOPLE YOU SUPPORT
TRAVEL WITH US
WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

COUNTRY SPONSORS: $500,000
Anonymous

COUNTRY SPONSORS: $250,000 – $499,999
Jim Ennis Memorial Estate
Brian & Diane Langstraat

PROJECT SPONSORS: $100,000 – $249,000
Not Yet Foundation

PROJECT SPONSORS: $50,000 – $99,999
Anonymous

Across the Globe Children’s Foundation
Sta & Kristine Baty
Covenant World Relief

PROJECT SPONSORS: $50,000

Not Yet Foundation

PROJECT SPONSORS: $100,000
Brian & Diane Langstraat
Jim Ennis Memorial Estate

COUNTRY SPONSORS

2015 SUPPORTERS

While space does not allow us to acknowledge all of our donors, every gift is valued. Your support has a lasting impact on thousands of lives and sends a message of hope to the people we serve.

EVENT SPONSORS

Bayley Family Foundation
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Carollo Engineers
Coluccio Law
Core Solutions Group
Edward Jones
Fremont Studios
Heydey Farm
Kaspers Special Events and Catering
Lake Real Estate
Love Plumbing & Remodel
Miller Hull
Mortonsson Construction
NovusHull
Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Paragon Wealth Advisors
Raymond Beaufort
Seattle Pipeworks
Seattle Reign FC
Swampton Properties
Water from Wine
World Affairs Council

Lincoln & Ari Sieler
Tristi & Matt Sroztok
Gary & Ann Smith
Christie Snyder & Alan Smith
St. Joseph School
Jim & Jolanne Stanton
State of Washington Employees
Patricia & Kimberly Stewart
Sietf Nicolas
Jay Stock
Molly Swain & Mark Fritz
Ron & Anne Taylor
Stephan Toy & Jenny Anttila
Patrick & Teri Tucker
Verizon Foundation
Thomas & Jeanne Walker
Jase Working
Workday
Christina & Greg Wright
Amber Zeddies & Nate Miler
Joan Zetterlund
Kenneth & Paula Zweig
Easy access to clean water and toilets creates opportunity.

With the constant burden of water fetching and illness lifted, families can move beyond the demands of daily survival.

Women can earn an income. Families begin to save money.

Girls can go to school, breaking the cycle of illiteracy among women.

Addressing the water and sanitation needs of the world’s poorest people is the one activity that, when done properly, saves lives and generates benefits that can break the cycle of extreme poverty.

VISIT WATER1ST.ORG to learn more, to donate, or to begin your own campaign to save lives.