WaterSchool’s 2015 Impact Report
Clean water. For life.
WaterSchool celebrated its 8th birthday in 2015. As a team, we reflected on all that has happened since we began this journey in 2007.

We talked about the hundreds of thousands of people in Uganda whose lives are better because they have access to clean water. We talked about the kids who are growing up in good health because their parents are teaching them hygiene and sanitation. We talked about communities where hospitals are shutting down their dysentery wards because they no longer have a need for them.

**And we talked about you.**

Whether you joined the WaterSchool family this past year or if you have been with us since the beginning, we are amazed by your enthusiasm and generosity. From making a pledge at WaterNight in Las Vegas to sharing a traditional Ugandan meal with us in Burnaby, British Columbia your commitment to families and communities in Uganda inspires us and we are tremendously grateful.

Because of you, over 600,000 people’s lives have been changed. Thank you! You have given the incredible gift of clean water. And it’s a gift that lasts a lifetime.

- Richard Lau & the WaterSchool Team
Harnessing the power of the sun’s UV rays, we teach people that laying a clear, plastic bottle full of contaminated water in the sun for a day purifies the water. Because of Uganda’s proximity to the equator and the year-round intensity of the sun, this technique kills 99.9% of bacteria, parasites and viruses.

Clean water is only one step to good health. Sanitation training helps prevent diarrhea by teaching people many simple techniques like how to build a safe latrine. Keeping the latrine hole covered with a wooden lid prevents flies from spreading diseases onto food. We show people how to build a “tippy tap” hand washing station, using sticks, string, stones and a plastic container. A Ugandan farmer can build one in just an hour!

Working in partnership with local schools, the WaterSchool team and partners reach thousands of children every year with hygiene education. The result is healthier children, lower medicine costs, improved school attendance and better grades.
At WaterSchool we implement our programs in partnership with agencies on the ground in Uganda and Kenya. We have strong working relationships with local community groups including schools, churches, hospitals, women’s cooperatives and government institutions. They enthusiastically support our efforts to improve health, which leads to better living conditions and improved economic prospects for these communities.

WaterSchool’s proven method of education, community engagement and peer support.

- More days in school
- Flourishing small businesses
- Healthy, happy kids
- Safety for women & girls
- A future full of possibilities
Typhoid, diarrhea and sometimes cholera are common diseases that our community members in Uganda and Kenya struggle with when we first meet them. Without access to clean, safe water and without a clear understanding of proper sanitation and hygiene techniques, daily life can be very challenging.

In January 2015, we met Florence. With seven children running around, she told us that she is constantly taking them to the doctor because they are sick. This is expensive and she was frustrated that so much of their income was going towards taking care of these wholly preventable diseases.

Florence participated in WaterSchool’s training program and within three months things were starting to look very different around her homestead.

“After learning a lot about water and sanitation from WaterSchool, I constructed a bathing shelter, a tippy-tap for hand washing, and started to purify my family’s drinking water in the sun,” she explains. “Today, my children are happy and healthy. They no longer struggle with typhoid and diarrhea.”

The impact your support has made on Florence extends far beyond good health.

“Because of what we have learned, my children are no longer going to the doctor,” Florence says with a smile. “I save a lot more money each month which I re-invest in my small business.”
Economic freedom that comes with clean water means that Florence will be able to send her children to a better school, will be able to feed them well and will be able to support them more as they grow up.

“I have become a Peer Promoter of WaterSchool,” Florence explains. “I share what I have learned with other women in my community and encourage them to make changes around the home that will better the lives of their families.”

Thank you for investing in people like Florence. With the gift of clean water, you are changing lives.

$33 gives a family like Florence’s clean water. For life.

Visit WaterSchool.com/donate to make your gift.
In 2015 your partnership enabled us to bring WaterSchool’s life-changing programs to:

- **29,865 Households**
- **14 Schools**
- **150,000 People**

Through our Peer Promoter Program, WaterSchool hygiene and sanitation practices continue to spread. Community members adopt the practices, and share them with their family and friends.
Solar disinfection - or SODIS as we call it - turns contaminated water into drinking water. Contaminated water is collected and placed in clear plastic bottles which are left on a hard surface in direct sunlight for one sunny day or two cloudy days. During this time, the sun’s UV rays destroy 99.9% of the micro-organisms in the water making it safe to drink. This procedure is endorsed by the World Health Organization.

“I got involved with WaterSchool because I think the cause is fantastic,” Derek explains. “I know some of the organization’s Board Members through work and, when they approached me to participate in a fundraiser, I didn’t hesitate to say yes.”

The fundraiser Derek participated in is WaterShave - an epic balding-for-dollars gala extravaganza in Las Vegas. The flagship event of an internet domaining conference, Names Con, WaterShave brings a large community of WaterSchool supporters together every year.

“It’s a great opportunity for us to get together and make a big impact in the world as a group and it was fun to get my friends and family involved with a cause I care so much about,” says Derek. “When I said “yes” to shaving my head, I knew I had to raise more money than any other shave participant - and I did! I actually raised more than all of them combined!”

“What I like the most about WaterSchool is that 100% of your donation goes directly to support program implementation overseas. You know you’re making an impact no matter how big or small your donation is.”

Exactly how much of an impact?

“$33 gives one family clean water,” Derek says and then adds, “That’s clean water for life.”
WaterNight @ Names Con
Las Vegas, Nevada
Clean water for over 3,000 families!
In 2015, amazing donors like you partnered with WaterSchool to bring clean, safe water to thousands in Uganda. You are a part of a team of generous corporate partners, kind individuals and committed organizations that make our work possible.

Total donations: $538,995

- 40% Corporate Partners
- 33% Individuals
- 22% Grants & Foundations
- 5% Churches & Schools
WaterSchool programs are designed to make a lasting impact on the communities we work with in Uganda and Kenya. Our wonderful, dedicated professional team of eleven Ugandans and one Kenyan in the field are members of the communities we serve, and they cultivate fruitful, long-term partnerships with local schools, hospitals, clinics, women’s cooperatives and churches.

Total expenses: $578,264

- 94% Program Costs
- 6% Administration

WaterSchool board members personally cover all the administration fees, so that 100% of your donation goes directly to implementing vital programs in Africa.

100% of your gift
“Words fail me to express fully how thankful I am to WaterSchool and its supporters for opening my eyes to a life I would never have achieved. This has been possible because of what I have learned about effective water and sanitation hygiene. It’s led to good health and a bright future for me and my family.”

- Margaret
Mercy is a 13-year-old girl from the Pagwaya village in Northern Uganda. Her school is a WaterSchool partner and recently, Mercy learned about SODIS and participated in basic hygiene and sanitation training. While we’ve seen a significant decrease in waterborne illnesses and an increase in school attendance at her school, kids like Mercy also take the hygiene and sanitation training home to their families. Today, her family has a new pit latrine, tippy tap and are a catalyst for change in their entire community.