

2023 FOU



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Dear Friends,

2023 was an exciting year for the Chris Long Foundation—in so many different ways, we saw the power of collective action as a catalyst for positive change.

The highlights contained in this year's Annual Report demonstrate our core belief that that we can accomplish so much more as a team than we ever could through individual efforts. That belief has guided our work since day one; it's a core part of our DNA. It's easy to get overwhelmed when we consider the scale and scope of a complex challenge like lack of access to clean water, or how poverty shapes unequal access to education. But together, we're helping to move the needle as we work toward our bold vision of access and opportunity everywhere. This year we were particularly inspired by:

- The 11 US military combat veterans, athletes, and clean water advocates who mobilized their friends, families, employers, and communities around the clean water cause, then joined Chris in our seventh annual climb to the 20,000-foot summit Tanzania's Mt. Kilimanjaro.
- Our six EdZone Champions—all teachers in the Charlottesville City Schools—who are ensuring that essential personal hygiene supplies are getting into the hands of kids who need them.
- The Kenyan staff of Well Aware, our new implementing partner, who do deep community engagement to ensure that the wells we support are not only technically sound, but are owned and operated by the people they serve.
- The six intrepid runners who ran the 2023 New York City Marathon in support of Waterboys, in partnership with our NYC Young Professionals Committee.
- The 130 donors who helped us double our donations through our Giving Tuesday match—one of our most successful single-day fundraising campaigns yet
- Our new corporate partner, Luxco, Inc., who is using their platform to educate their customers about the clean water crisis in East Africa.

These are just a few examples of the incredible ripple effect that happens when we rally around a shared goal. We hope they inspire you to consider ways you can continue to team up with the Chris Long Foundation as we support practical, sustainable solutions for the 785 million people around the world without access to clean water and the 11 million children living in poverty in the U.S. Thank you for being part of our team.

With gratitude,

han Happen

Nancy Hopkins





OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



PROVIDED 43,494 PEOPLE WITH A NEW SOURCE OF CLEAN WATER



COMPLETED 18 WELLS



IMPROVED THE LIVES OF STUDENTS IN 18 SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES



WELCOMED 687 FIRST-TIME DONORS



TO DATE, HAVE DRILLED 130 DEEP BOREHOLE WELLS IN EAST AFRICA



SENT 300 BAGS OF ESSENTIAL NEEDS ITEMS HOME WITH STUDENTS FOR THE SUMMER BREAK



TO DATE, HAVE COMPLETED CLEAN WATER PROJECTS IN 16 STATES AND NAVAJO NATION



TO DATE, HAVE REACHED 10,992 PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WITH CLEAN WATER

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Meeting Students' Essential Needs

Sixty-three percent of youth in the Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) are classified as economically disadvantaged. Low-income families make difficult choices when it comes to their household budgets and prioritizing basic necessities. Federal programs like SNAP and WIC do not cover the purchase of hygiene items like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant. When a student's basic needs for cleanliness and physical comfort aren't met, they can suffer from stress, low self-esteem, and have an increased risk of being bullied, negatively impacting their performance an attendance.

Through EdZone, we are partnering with CCS to provide essential needs items at all six elementary schools in the city, breaking down barriers to learning and long-term academic success. Starting in fall 2022, each school created an "EdZone closet" where students can access personal hygiene items, socks and underwear, and other necessities in a confidential manner with help from teachers, nurses, school counselors, and staff. We packaged over 200 bags of EdZone supplies for students and families to take home for the summer break, and distributed over 100 bags of supplies at an outdoor, walk-up event at a local park in June. We also responded to specific seasonal needs, such as providing backpacks in August and winter coats. Six teachers have stepped up as "EdZone Champions," responsible for promoting the program, responding to student and family requests, and keeping the closest stocked at their schools.



"Since the onset of the pandemic, we have seen our families' needs grow...Soap, deodorant, or menstrual products may seem like a small thing to many families, but for a student in need, access to these free products can help them arrive at school feeling prepared, confident, and ready for success." **Dr. Royal A. Gurley Jr., Superintendent, Charlottesville City Schools**



Bringing Water To Under-Resourced Schools

According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in five youth do not drink water during the day, and about half of school-aged children are underhydrated. Many underfunded schools in the United States have broken down water fountain infrastructure and/or water containing dangerous contaminants, like lead from aging pipes. There is a strong link between hydration and students' health and ability to focus and learn. According to the American Health Association, water intake during lunchtime is nearly tripled when water bottle-filling stations are installed in schools.

In partnership with Liquid IV and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)'s Agua4All program, in 2023 we installed 29 brand new water bottle-filling stations and filtration systems in 12 schools in the Scranton City School District in Pennsylvania and the Benton Harbor Area Schools in Michigan. Students and staff received reusable water bottles and participated in school assemblies to discuss the importance of clean drinking water and hydration.

This program addressed critical needs in both of these school districts. Scranton City School District had been dealing with lead and asbestos contamination issues in their water for several years, and Benton Harbor was also facing a lead contamination crisis, with lead levels exceeding federal safe drinking water standards for three years in a row. Drinking foundations had to be shut off, and the schools and families had to purchase bottled water so their children would have access to safe water. Through our efforts, 4,046 students are now able to stay hydrated during their school day.



"Prior to the water filling stations we had issues with lead in our water. We were using jug water which was very expensive. With this opportunity we were able to get the water filling stations and my students were able to get water bottles. That was a means that some students were not fortunate enough to get. Having a water bottle provided to every faculty, staff and student member is a huge thing for us. They are very excited knowing that everything is safe and it's so much easier to get the water." Shannon Rucker – Principal, Isaac Tripp Elementary, Scranton, PA



Serving Rural Families

When their well pump broke and their well ran dry, the Umbel family of Friendsville, Maryland went without running water in their home for nearly a year. Roxanna Umbel made do by hooking up a 250-gallon water tank to a trailer and hauling it down to the local fire department to get water for household tasks like cooking and cleaning. They had to purchase expensive bottled water for drinking, and all showering and laundry had to be done at a family cabin more than a 15-minute drive away. Not only did the constant planning, rationing, traveling, and budgeting to meet their water needs cut into their family time and act as a huge emotional and logistical drain, it also put a strain on Roxanna's homebased childcare business. With a new 700-foot-deep well provided through our HometownH2O partnership with Water Well Trust, Xylem, and Talking Rain AQA, the Umbels now have a clean water source that meets all their day-to-day needs. Roxanna is also thrilled to be able to run her business more efficiently now that water is easily accessible.



"Without having water here to be able to do everything that you do on a day-to-day basis, plus having your job in the location of your house, it made it very, very difficult not just on a personal family level but on a business one too... It was overwhelming." **Roxanna Umbel, Homeowner**



Bringing Clean Water to Communities

We launched a new partnership with Luxco, Inc., a St. Louis-based distiller, to provide a sustainable source of clean water for the community of Oloile in southern Kenya. This village of around 1,600 residents was facing a dangerous water crisis, with periods of drought of up to two years. To meet their water needs, the community had to rely on hand-dug holes, seasonal rivers, and untreated rainwater harvested from roofs. Children sometimes had to walk up to 40 minutes to the nearest source of water, and due to water contamination, often suffered from water-borne diseases. Through generous support from Luxco, Oloile how has an 80-meter-deep well with a solar-powered pump, an elevated tank that can store up to 10,000 liters of water, a community water kiosk, and a community water trough for their livestock.

Thanks to our 2023 Conquering Kili cohort, over 2,000 students and 34 teachers at Kijenge Primary School in an urban slum area of Arusha, Tanzania, now have access to clean water. Students and teachers used to spend up to an hour fetching water each day from a nearby river that was also used for wastewater, causing frequent illnesses. In 2023, 11 professional athletes, veterans, and clean water advocates (including Chris Long and former NFL defensive end, Jabaal Sheard) climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise funds for a well at the school through donations of all sizes from over 400 individuals and businesses. The 2024 Conquering Kili cohort recently completed their climb, and while we were in Tanzania we had the opportunity to visit Kijenge Primary School well and see the impact firsthand. The well – and the community – are thriving.





"At our school, having access to clean and safe water is crucial for our overall well-being. With this water, we plan to establish a small vegetable garden, which will not only provide us with fresh produce for our lunches, but also create a more eco-friendly environment. Additionally, this water will be used for cleaning pupils' dishes, cleaning our classrooms and toilets, and helping us to maintain a hygienic and healthy environment." **Teacher at Kijenge Primary School**

SUPPORTER SHOWCASE



Hersha Hospitality Management

Since our partnership with Hersha Hospitality launched in 2018, they have been a model of exceptional partnership and corporate responsibility. Hersha has a robust Corporate Social Responsibility program, Earthview. Thankfully, for the communities we serve, a core component of this plan is Earthview Water, in which Hersha sells Waterboys-branded water (in recyclable aluminum cans) at all 17 of their hotels, and donates a portion of proceeds from each bottle to our international water work. In 2023, they hit the remarkable milestone of raising enough funds to fully support a third deep borehole well in East Africa. Their first two wells were in Unyankumi and Mtipa, both in the Singida region of Tanzania. Their third well will be their first well in Kenya — in Laikipia County.





Xylem, Inc.

Since our partnership with Xylem began in 2019 through their Watermark program, their commitment to water sustainability has been critical in our efforts to tackle the domestic water crisis. Xylem, a global leader in water technology, has integrated their technical expertise with our mission through our HometownH2O program, significantly contributing to addressing water scarcity in the U.S. Their innovative solutions and consistent support have been instrumental in advancing our projects, including the installation of 16 wells in rural communities to date and four in 2023.

In 2023, one of our joint projects with Xylem was for a new well in Parker, Pennsylvania, which transformed the lives of the Dittman family and ensured they have reliable access to safe drinking water. Xylem also commits volunteers to tackling other projects for the families we're supporting in addition to wells. This project and so many others reflect Xylem's ongoing commitment to creating a positive impact through sustainable water solutions and community support.







CHAMPION SPOTLIGHTS



Walk For Water

Two-time World Cup winner & Olympic bronze medalist Julie Ertz, NFL legends Kyle Long & Beau Allen, NFL players Joe Reed & Dieter Eiselen, and our own Chris Long participated in our 2023 Walk For Water campaign. Through videos they recorded, our Champions demonstrated how easy it is for them to access clean, safe water, which stands in contrast to the significant struggles faced by East African women and girls who often walk 3.7 miles daily to collect water that may be unsafe for consumption. This campaign highlighted the luxury of accessible water and underscored the urgent need for safe, accessible water for everyone. Their contributions were pivotal in calling others to action, encouraging donations, spreading awareness, and supporting the movement towards a world where water access is no longer a struggle.







Waterboys Charity Challenge

Our second-annual Waterboys Charity Challenge was such a fun and impactful event. This two-day celebration featured a Par-3 tournament, party & concert, auction, and celebrity golf tournament. Held at the Boar's Head Resort and the Birdwood Golf Course in Charlottesville, Virginia, this event rallied our community to support the mission of the Chris Long Foundation. With Talking Rain AQA as the title sponsor, our event raised significant funds to support the communities we serve. We are grateful to all the sponsors, celebrity golfers, and attendees for helping the event grow year over year.



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Starr Hill Trivia Night

In 2023, the Chris Long Foundation and Starr Hill Brewery launched an exciting one-year partnership that started with a bang with a trivia night in their Charlottesville Dairy Market location. More than 40 teams enjoyed water access, education, and sports-themed questions, asked by Chris himself, and *Draft Pic Pale Ale*, a special Chris Long Foundation beer on tap. A portion of the proceeds from *Draft Pic* goes to the work of the Foundation. Our partnership will continue into 2024 with *Draft Pic* canned and in some Starr Hill locations and Virginia retailers.













Team Dinner

The Chris Long Foundation was founded on the idea of the power of collective action, and in 2023, that ethos took an exciting new shape. In December of 2023, we partnered with former Philadelphia Eagle Conner Barwin's Make the World Better Foundation, and acclaimed Philly steakhouse, Steak48, to host Team Dinner. This event brought together athletes and fans from both organizations for a delicious and dynamic dinner that supported both our EdZone essential needs work in Philadelphia and the work of Make the World Better Foundation's work in parks and community spaces. Through our partnership, we were able to bring together more advocates and have a larger impact than either of us would have making a solo play. We look forward to many Team Dinners to come!



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