

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Friends,

What a difference a year makes! In February 2024 our team had an opportunity to travel to the arid, rural community of Losesia, Tanzania with our Conquering Kili climbers. We last visited Losesia in 2023, as we were preparing to drill a deep borehole well that would provide them with a sustainable source of clean water for the very first time. In 2023, the main source of water for this community of several hundred people was a muddy, hand-dug hole in the ground. In 2024, Losesia is thriving, with a well that delivers over 8,000 liters of water per hour. Attendance at the small village school has increased to the point where they need to expand the school building, health has improved, and community members are able to water their crops and livestock.

Our EdZone initiative continues to deliver important results in our hometown of Charlottesville, where we have established EdZone lockers in all six city elementary schools. We consistently hear from our EdZone Champions—all of whom are classroom teachers—that the simple act of providing a toothbrush or a new pair of socks to a student makes an important contribution not only to how that student feels when they walk into the classroom, but to their ability to focus and learn. We reached an important milestone in 2024 as we expanded our EdZone essential needs programming beyond Charlottesville into Philadelphia. We are excited to take what we're learning in Charlottesville about how meeting students' basic needs helps drive long-term academic success and apply it in a city where around 70% of public school students come from lowincome families.

Through your generous support for Waterboys' work in East Africa and the United States and EdZone in Charlottesville and now in Philadelphia, you are improving lives in a tangible, measurable, meaningful way. We couldn't tackle these tough challenges without you.

With gratitude,

Nancy Hopkins, Executive Director

# OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



PROVIDED 28,158 PEOPLE WITH A NEW SOURCE OF CLEAN WATER



**COMPLETED 15 WELLS** 



IMPROVED THE LIVES OF STUDENTS IN 16 SCHOOLS IN THE U.S. AND EAST AFRICA



DISTRIBUTED 2,500 BOOKS TO SCHOOLS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE AND PHILADELPHIA



**HAD 139 ACTIVE WAVE DONORS** 



50 ATHLETE AND SPORTS MEDIA
PERSONALITIES CHAMPIONED OUR WORK



TO DATE, HAVE DRILLED 137 DEEP BOREHOLE WELLS IN EAST AFRICA



TO DATE, HAVE SUPPORTED 175 CLEAN
WATER PROJECTS

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### HOMETOWNH20

The Richards family in Newark, Ohio had been struggling with severe water shortages in their home for more than 15 years. Their shallow well had become increasingly low-producing, forcing them to ration their water use. Due to some unexpected medical challenges, the family had to put their plans to replace their defective well on hold. They resorted to a number of coping strategies, including barely turning on their taps, buying multiple cases of drinking water each week, limiting their shower time to two to three minutes, and camping on the weekends to take advantage of water at the campground. Brett and Paula Richards are longtime foster parents with an adopted son; it had become increasingly challenging for them to care for the children when even flushing the toilet was a problem.

In partnership with Xylem and the Water Well Trust, we provided the Richards family with a new well and pump house, and volunteers worked to spread mulch around the home and provide a new coat of paint. Every family deserves to have clean, running water in their homes.





"Our family has struggled with low water resources for years, adapting to a lifestyle that many wouldn't imagine—from taking quick, military-style showers to timing our laundry days carefully. When we got the call about this project moving forward, it was an incredible blessing."

- Brett Richards, Homeowner

### WATERBOYS



Our Waterboys Young Professionals Committee (YPC) funded a well at Loormeuti Primary School this year, in large part due to the impressive efforts of six YPC members who raised funds for Waterboys by running the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon.

Serving 700 students, Loormueti Primary School is located in rural Kajiado, Kenya between Mount Kilimanjaro and Amboseli National Park. The school was storing rainwater collected from the roof of the school, but the quantity fell far short of their needs, and the collected water was untreated, making it unsafe to drink. Sometimes students collected water from a seasonal river running next to the school, but the water was contaminated due to heavy use by herds of cows and goats. Due to lack of funds, the school was only able to buy potable water on an intermittent basis. With their new solar-powered, deep borehole well, students and teachers at Loormeuti now have access to plentiful, safe water on a daily basis. School leaders have started planting trees and vegetables on school grounds, and have been able to re-start a critical school feeding program. They are establishing a kiosk in front of the school where the broader community of around 4,500 people can purchase water at an affordable rate and will be provided free to those who are unable to pay and have built a special trough where nomadic herders can water their livestock.



We also drilled a 200 foot-deep well at Fundah School for the Deaf in the Singida Region of Tanzania. This specialized school for serves 25 students, and is located in a community of around 3,400 people. Students and teachers were collecting rainwater and using a muddy hand-dug well for their everyday water needs. Shallow wells are easily contaminated with sewage, chemical runoff, and animal waste, making the water unsafe to drink. The students and staff at the Fundah School for the Deaf and surrounding community are thrilled with their new, reliable source of clean water. The school plans to launch a farming education program that teaches students about drip irrigation farming and will start growing sweet potatoes, potatoes, bananas, okra, beans and maize. These crops will not only be used to feed nutrient rich meals to the students but also increase the income for the school from the surplus supply of fruit and vegetables. Income from the produce will be used for school improvements.

"I can't hide my happiness now that I have such a nice water tap that allows me to fetch water whenever I want. Our school is made more appealing by the surrounding greenery, which includes trees and flowers that bloom throughout the year."

Zulfa Jumanne, 8 year-old student, Fundah School for the Deaf

### EdZone



As our work in Charlottesville continues to grow, we're also thrilled to have deepened our work in Philadelphia this year. In December, we officially launched our EdZone initiative at James Logan Elementary School in collaboration with our expert local partner, Cradles to Crayons. EdZone is grounded in the knowledge that if students' basic needs aren't met, it is difficult for them to focus and thrive in school. Through our EdZone lockers, we provide students from low-income families with day-to-day access to personal hygiene products like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and shampoo, as well as new socks and underwear. By taking a whole child approach, we help set these students up for long-term success. We hosted a ribbon cutting at James Logan Elementary School to celebrate the launch of their EdZone locker, then enjoyed an afternoon of volunteering with our generous program supporters at Cradles' to Crayons Giving Factory warehouse. EdZone will expand into at least two additional Philadelphia city schools in spring 2025.

We're so grateful to Mandy and Mike Mayock for supporting our EdZone literacy program this year. Mike is a former NFL player, football executive, and sports analyst, and Mandy is a therapist and author. In partnership with First Book, we and the Mayocks donated 1,300 high-quality books to Samuel Gompers School. Mike and Mandy took the time to visit with students and teachers at Samuel Gompers and read two books: *All Are Welcome*, by Alexandra Penfold, and Mandy's book, *Willow the Highly Sensitive Pup*. Students were so excited to see the stacks of new books and select one to take home with them.





Both James Logan Elementary School and Samuel Gompers School are part of the Community Schools Initiative, which is a partnership among the City of Philadelphia, the School District of Philadelphia, and school communities to remove barriers to learning and support the success of each student.

"Growing up, my mother always told me 'How you appear is how they receive you.' Hygiene is one of the foundational pillars of confidence, and with these additional resources, those who are in need will be able to tap into this closet and continue to unlock their confidence without hygiene being an issue."

- Eli Prosper, Philadelphia Community Schools Coordinator

## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

### **LIBERTY COCA-COLA**

To successfully launch a new program, you need folks who believe in your vision, and are willing to invest in it when it's still in nascent form. Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages believed in our vision of launching EdZone in Philadelphia and made the program possible with their investment. They stepped up as the first donor for the program, before we had a launch date decided or the pilot schools picked. This year, Liberty Coca-Cola joined us for the official Philly launch at James Logan School, followed by a day of volunteering at our implementing partner's warehouse, where we packed essentials for kids across the city. They are dedicated to helping kids feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn in the classroom.





### LUXCO, INC.



In the journey to expand our clean water work across East Africa, we've been fortunate to work alongside partners who share our long-term vision. Luxco is one of those partners.

In 2024, Luxco funded a deep borehole well at Kahuho Primary School in Laikipia County, Kenya—our second life-changing project together. Their investment brought clean water to a community of more than 2,000 people, including the more than 160 students and 15 staff members who rely on the school as both an educational hub and a center of daily life. Before the well, families walked over four kilometers to reach a contaminated river, and students struggled to stay healthy and focused in the classroom.

Thanks to Luxco's support, Kahuho now has reliable access to safe water. Students are healthier and better able to concentrate. The community is planning greenhouses for vegetables and sustainable school meals. What was once a barrier to health and education is now a source of hope and self-sufficiency.

In 2024, Luxco also sponsored our third-annual Waterboys Charity Challenge After Party and second-annual Team Dinner. They are always willing to support our events and go above and beyond what we look for in a great partner.





## CHAMPION SPOTLIGHTS

### **JOE REED**

Joe Reed, former NFL wide receiver, proud Virginia native, and University of Virginia graduate, brought his passion for community and service to his work as a Chris Long Foundation champion in 2024. He visited a HometownH2O drill site in Caret, Virginia, witnessing firsthand the impact of bringing clean water to families in need here in the United States.

Later in the year, Joe participated in a book reading event alongside Chris Long in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he shared his love of reading with Johnson Elementary students. Through EdZone, we're encouraging young readers in the local community—and Joe is committed to this goal.

Whether on the field or in the field, Joe continues to show up as a true champion—dedicated, hands-on, and always lifting up his community.





### YPC MARATHON TEAM



Two years in a row, we've laced up alongside our Waterboys Young Professionals Committee as an official charity partner of the TCS New York City Marathon—and in 2024, they took it to the next level.

Powered by the passion and dedication of our NYC-based Young Professionals Committee (Waterboys YPC), this year's marathon team raised over \$30,000 to support Waterboys clean water projects in Tanzania. These runners trained hard, fundraised tirelessly, and crossed the finish line not just for themselves—but for the millions around the world still waiting for access to safe water.

Their efforts exemplify what it means to be a water warrior: showing up, pushing boundaries, and turning every mile into meaningful impact.













### **EVENTS**

### **WATERBOYS CHARITY CHALLENGE**

Our third-annual Waterboys Charity Challenge, held in Charlottesville, Virginia, reached "new heights" with the introduction of our first-ever event co-host – Jason Kelce, who summited Mount Kilimanjaro in 2019 as a part of our Conquering Kili cohort that year! Foundation friends from near and far gathered at the Boar's Head Report for two days in April to party, play golf, and raise funds for the cause.







### **TEAM DINNER**



We teamed up once again with Connor Barwin and our friends at Make The World Better Foundation (MTWB) for the second-annual Team Dinner—an unforgettable night of community, connection, and purpose. Hosted at the stylish Steak 48 in Philadelphia, who donated their space and a full spread of food and drinks, the evening brought together civic-minded leaders, athletes, and changemakers committed to building stronger communities.

Thanks to the incredible support of our sponsors and guests, the event raised critical funds to support both organizations' missions—including our EdZone programming in Philadelphia.

This annual tradition continues to grow, proving that good food, drinks, and great company can spark real, lasting impact.



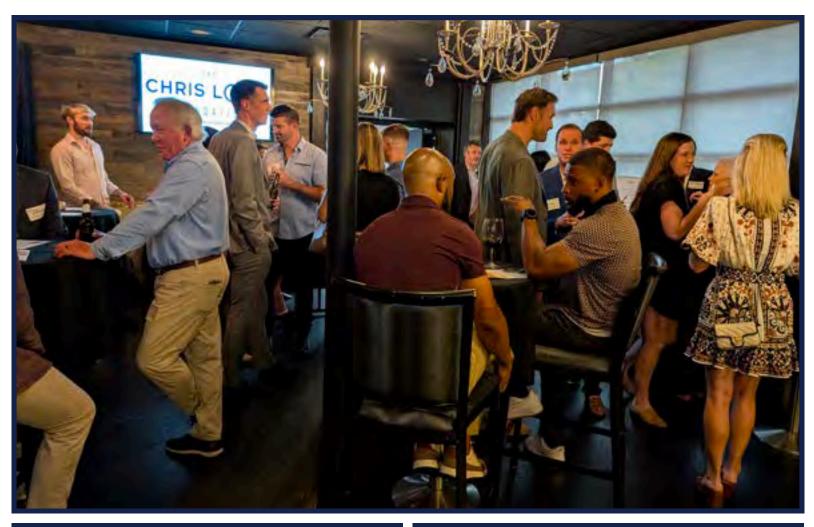




### ST. LOUIS MEET AND GREET



Our goal has always been to operate EdZone essential needs lockers in three cities: Charlottesville, Philadelphia, and St. Louis. This fall, we held a happy hour at Cafe Napoli to lay the groundwork for EdZone St. Louis. Old friends and new gathered to eat, drink, and learn about our plans for EdZone St. Louis. From that event, an advisory committee was formed, and with their help, we plan to launch EdZone in St. Louis in fall 2025.







# GAME DAY STANDARD LAUNCH



In January 2024, we kicked off an exciting new partnership with Chickie's & Pete's and Yards Brewing Company to benefit our EdZone initiative in Philadelphia. Together, we launched Game Day Standard—a rebranded version of the Philly Standard beer—with a portion of every draft sale supporting EdZone's work to provide students with basic necessities like hygiene products, toiletries, and more.

The launch event at Chickie's & Pete's South Philly was a celebration of community, collaboration, and impact. Guests met Chris, enjoyed the new brew, and entered raffles for signed gear—all while supporting a cause that helps students walk into the classroom confident, comfortable, and ready to learn

This partnership exemplifies how local businesses can fuel local change, one pint at a time.







# BOARD & STAFF

#### **TRUSTEES**

**Chris Long** 

**Megan Long** 

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

**Gus Gast** 

**Diane Long** 

Jillian Moore

**Rahul Lamba** 

**Amanda McCool** 

**Matt O'Malley** 

**Tom Santi** 

\*Matthew Slater (term ended in July)

#### **STAFF**

Nancy Hopkins, Executive Director

Cain Turner, Director of Marketing and Communications

Portia Boggs, Director of Development

\*Kim Packett, Associate Director of Programs (through February)

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