

Hope Notes

*Program updates and highlights for
the friends, supporters and partners
of World Hope International*



**TOGETHER,
WE BRING**
hope
IN HARD PLACES

Our Mission

World Hope International is a Christian relief and development organization bringing hope in hard places by partnering with vulnerable and exploited communities to alleviate poverty, suffering, and injustice.

Our Vision

We envision a world where people in hard places are empowered with opportunity, dignity, and hope so they can participate in the transformation of themselves, their families, and their communities.

Countries Where We Work



Cambodia



The Philippines



Haiti



Sierra Leone



Liberia

What's In This Issue

In each issue of Hope Notes you'll learn more about how partners, supporters and friends of World Hope have a life-giving impact on children and their families. In this Issue:

- ▶ Welcome New President and CEO Jenn Petersen
- ▶ WHI dedicates Wesleyan school building in Liberia
- ▶ Cervical Cancer Screening Doubles Life Expectancy
- ▶ Springboxes bring fresh water to Sierra Leone
- ▶ World Hope Asked to Finish Critical Liberian Water Projects
- ▶ WHI and Johns Hopkins Team Up to Protect Child Exploitation
- ▶ Child Sponsor Spotlight: Barbara and James Flynn
- ▶ Supporter Spotlight: Keith and Tanya Glanzer



By Jennifer Jones

World Hope International welcomed Rev. Jenn Petersen on Feb. 1 to lead the organization as President and CEO. As WHI nears 30 years of providing hope to the vulnerable around the world, Jenn brings an ideal balance of spiritual strength as a pastor in The Wesleyan Church and graduate of Wesley Seminary, along with nonprofit experience. She has worked with teams from countries such as The Philippines and Ghana in her most recent role as Director of Mobilization at International Justice Mission (IJM).

Hailed by Founder and Board Chair Dr. Jo Anne Lyon as “an exceptional and respected leader,” at home in New York she is simply known as mom to two young adult children, a son and daughter, and wife to Branden, her husband and Co-Pastor of Resurrection Life in New York City.

As she steps into this new season of leadership, Jenn brings clarity of purpose and an unwavering commitment to WHI's mission. “I have long been inspired by the tangible, consistent and loving presence of World Hope International, empowering the vulnerable in some of the hardest places so they can flourish, thrive and lead,” Petersen said. “During this next chapter, we will continue courageously



MEET PRESIDENT AND CEO Jenn Petersen

Hear her vision for WHI amid a changing landscape with funding uncertainties

and creatively following Jesus into the work of justice, mercy and compassion.”

Mission: Jenn assures World Hope partners and supporters that the mission continues unchanged. “As global humanitarian needs reach unprecedented levels, WHI is continuing to fill the critical gaps in aid and relief. Whether it’s providing clean water, healthcare, education, or protection, WHI is committed to serving the most vulnerable communities with sustainable, life-changing solutions. By mobilizing resources, fostering strategic partnerships, and leveraging innovative approaches, we are doing all we can to ensure that no one is left behind.”

Vision: Noting that foreign aid policies can change quickly, and because many of our partners in remote areas of the world are feeling the impact in these changing times, Jenn notes that while WHI relies in part on government grants, “As a faith-based organization, we also know that our strongest support has been and must continue to be the Church; it is the people of God, showing up time after time, year after year, staying after others have left, going where

others won’t go, giving sacrificially and joyfully, who make the most lasting and deepest impact.”

WHI continues undeterred in its mission. “Long before there was USAID, the UN, or even the USA, there were faithful followers of Jesus, serving people in poverty, walking with the sick, bringing healing to the wounded and broken. This is what we do. We know that the Church can lead the way, in this moment, to bring hope to a hurting world.”

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me....The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”
(Matthew 15:35-40 NIV)

Read more about Jenn’s vision at worldhope.org/blog-leading-the-way-in-the-face-of-funding-uncertainties/

LET’S
BUILD
BETTER

with clean water
and sanitation

LET’S
HEAL
TOGETHER

through medical
and health care
services

LET’S
STAND
WITH EACH OTHER

to educate and
protect the most
vulnerable



Still Bringing Hope

By Jenn Petersen

At the end of March and into early April, I had the opportunity to witness the work of World Hope International (WHI) firsthand in West Africa. My trip started in Liberia, where Nancy Green, WHI chief development officer, and I were met by the WHI Liberia team at the airport.

One thing I noticed right away in Liberia is that the impact of the shutdown of USAID is severely felt. Our team was able to visit several communities that have been directly impacted by the shutdown, including those devastated by seeing critical water projects left incomplete. As we consider stepping into the gap left by the closure of other organizations and taking on such projects, we met with the stakeholders and community leaders. We learned that several families have donated

the deeds to their land so that their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will have access to clean water.

One of the reasons we were so excited to travel to Liberia was to dedicate the Wesleyan Foundation School, a project that has been three years in the making. A team from Celebrate Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, joined us for the dedication. Thanks to the generosity of Celebrate Church and many individual donors, the school can now expand to a secondary school, allowing students to complete high school and prepare for university. It was only three years ago that 225 primary students crowded into a tiny building, often taking tests outside on benches. WHI launched a campaign to expand, decrease dropout rates to integrate faith studies with quality schooling.

I can tell you that this school is beautiful! This school now has:

- 16 classrooms: Early childhood, elementary, junior and senior high
- A solar-powered water system
- A hall used both as a church and as event space
- A cafeteria
- A teachers lounge
- 16 cubicle toilets and bathroom facilities
- A library and computer lab named after WHI Founder Jo Anne Lyon
- Ability to serve 500 students

The next day we traveled to Sierra Leone... We drove directly to a community where our WASH team was drilling a well. I had the honor of preaching at Rogbaneh Wesleyan Church. That afternoon, we drove to the community of Kunsho and spent time at what is known as the “missionary graveyard” where 10 missionaries are buried. These were people who came as young adults (and a one-year-old) to Sierra Leone to share the Gospel. They knew ahead of time that their chances of returning were so slim that they packed their belongings in their own coffins to make the trip to West Africa.

The following day, we drove to Freetown, where we had the opportunity to visit a beautifully renovated Recovery Centre. Then we went to the Enable The Children clinic where we were met by our team and the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare. We made our way to meet with the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and the Vice President of Sierra Leone who passionately shared his vision for development for Sierra Leone and how World Hope is contributing.

One thing that keeps coming to my mind as I reflect on my time in West Africa is this: World Hope is STILL HERE. In a time when hundreds of organizations have been shut down and abruptly had to stop work, by the grace of God, World Hope is still working. Still serving. Still loving. Still bringing HOPE. We will continue standing with, loving, and serving the most vulnerable, because this is the heart of Jesus, and this is who we are.

Editor’s Note: This article has been shortened to fit. The original version can be found on worldhope.org/blog.

Every Drop Counts

Imagine waking up every morning knowing your first task is to walk miles just to find water—water that might make you sick. In Sierra Leone and Liberia, children wake before dawn, trekking long distances just to fetch water—water that could cause infectious diseases like cholera or diarrhea so severe they miss school. Families face the impossible choice between thirst and disease, trapped in a cycle of poverty they cannot escape. Young children walking alone face another risk: human predators. But together, we can change that.



Give to the HOPE FUND:

Funding Need: \$450,000 to complete water projects that were halted by government funding cuts. These projects sit idle, 70-80% complete. Your donations will bring fresh, safe water to 50,000 Liberians.



BUILD *Better*

Clean water & sanitation



Standing in the Funding Gap

By Jenn Petersen

It has been 22 years since Liberia was rocked by a civil war that tore apart the country and its infrastructure. And now, because of the USAID shut down and funding freezes on NGOs, several communities that had life-giving water projects up to 80% completed stand helplessly by as those projects have been halted by stop work orders.

But not for long. As he often does, God has opened a door for World Hope to step through.

The Government of Liberia has asked World Hope International to step in and complete water projects in four communities, providing access to clean water for 50,000 Liberians. WHI originally bid on this project three years ago, and although another NGO was awarded the work at that time, its approach was modeled after WHI's successful initiatives

on Peace Island. With that organization now unable to continue, the responsibility for completing this critical work has come full circle—returning to WHI.

Can you imagine living in those communities and even being a landowner who handed over property rights so that they, their children and their children's children could live a better life, only to see projects shut down and locked? For 18 months they have been watching bore holes drilled, water towers erected, and pipes installed just to be disappointed now.

Enter World Hope's amazing WASH Team in West Africa, which in a short amount of time has taken on the task, put a budget together and set a timeline to deliver clean water to these communities! Others are being forced to pull out, but World Hope is still there. We are standing in the gap, and we won't stop until we finish this work.

Now more than ever we need money to flow into the Hope Fund to complete \$450,000 of water projects that were left unfinished. Before its funding ran dry, the international organization whose work we will continue was able to connect households with water in 15 communities, meaning 5,000 residents no longer had to wait for two hours at a community hand pump or walk long distances home carrying that heavy weight.

I am hopeful that by this time next year, we will be reporting back to you on how

your generous donations have given the gift of access to life-giving water to thousands more.



Clean Water Brings Hope and Health to Sierra Leone

Access to clean water is a challenge for many rural communities in Sierra Leone, where contaminated sources have led to widespread illness and hardship. However, thanks to a powerful partnership between World Hope International (WHI) and Engineers Without Borders Denmark, one community is experiencing a life-changing transformation.

In the Fullawahun community, we have installed a safe drinking water catchment system, known as a springbox, that sits in a freshwater stream, and carries the water through pipes using solar panels to a standing reservoir in the community. The water also is treated with chlorine to make it safe to drink.



For years, villagers had to scramble up and down a steep dirt path to reach the stream. As Sanitation Officer Ketura Mansaray described, “Before when we asked the children to fetch water, they cried. The elderly couldn’t get water for themselves. It was impossible. But this project has helped us with safe water. We thank God that we no longer have to go down that dangerous embankment to fetch unsafe water.” In addition to making people’s lives a little easier, their overall health also has improved as waterborne diseases have decreased.

This partnership has shown the incredible power of collaboration to bring life-saving resources to those in need. With clean water now available, the community can focus on building a healthier future.

World Hope is committed to drilling clean water wells, providing chlorination systems and through other projects, such as the springbox in Fullawahun, to provide locally managed solutions that improve the health and indeed the daily lives of as many people in Sierra Leone as possible.



HEAL *Together*

Medical and health care services

Surviving Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers impacting women globally. Yet 85% of all new cases, and 95% of deaths, occur in only a handful of low-income countries, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). And in Sierra Leone, it is the second most common cancer among women.

That is why World Hope is expanding its cervical cancer screening program in Sierra Leone in partnership with Female Cancer Foundation. Since 2022, World Hope has piloted this screening program across the rural district of Bombali. This mobile screening team visits every peripheral health unit in the district at least twice a year and has screened more than 20,000 women in more than 80 villages. Of those, 363 tested positive, and 343 of them were able to be treated on the same day.

Treating advanced cervical cancer, however, is difficult. Patients have no access to radiotherapy in Sierra Leone and only limited access to specialist gynecological

oncology surgeons. Only a few women who can afford international travel can find treatment for advanced cervical cancer.

Eliminating Cervical Cancer

Sierra Leone has demonstrated strong political will to eliminate cervical cancer by adopting the WHO Global Strategy for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer (90-70-90), which sets ambitious global targets: 90% of girls vaccinated with the HPV vaccine, 70% of women screened for cervical cancer, and 90% of women diagnosed receiving treatment by 2030. Building on this, in 2023 the Government of Sierra Leone launched its own National Strategy for Eliminating Cervical Cancer — a five-year roadmap that introduced the HPV vaccine and solidified the nation's commitment to this global vision.

World Hope International is strategically aligning its efforts with these national objectives to help close critical gaps in implementation. Although a supportive policy framework is in place, challenges remain, including limited vaccine stock

and insufficient resources. By working in close partnership with the government and other stakeholders, WHI is committed to advancing progress toward the elimination of cervical cancer in Sierra Leone.

Our Goal

If we screen each woman for cervical cancer just once in her lifetime, we can cut the death rate from cervical cancer in

half. Cervical cancer is preventable, but only when detected early. Sierra Leone has a population of more than 7 million, of which 2.33 million are girls and women. World Hope has a goal of screening half of all eligible women between the ages of 24 and 49 in Bombali District. But, we can only do that with your help. We will be updating our faithful supporters more on this in the future.



STAND WITH *Each Other*

Education and protection programs

Preventing Abuse in the Philippines

By Mariel Aira Mateo and Jennifer Jones

When did Noah build the ark?
Before the rain came. World Hope is excited to be entering into a new cross-border partnership to be implemented in schools to equip Filipino youth with the tools to prevent harmful, exploitative behaviors before they begin.

Aimed at preventing child sexual abuse in the Philippines, a country at the epicenter of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC), World Hope is working with Johns Hopkins University's MOORE Center, and the Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CPTCSA).

By integrating Johns Hopkins's Responsible Behavior with Youth and Children curriculum with World Hope Philippines' digital safety and parental education programs, Filipino communities will be able to shape solutions tailored to their unique context. This program will help put communities in the proactive, instead of reactive, seat when it comes to addressing child sexual abuse and grooming.

"One troubling aspect of child sexual abuse and exploitation, both online and offline, is that it is often caused by other children and is often a result of a lack of knowledge about safe and unsafe sexual behaviors," said Hunyee McCollum and Amanda Ruzicka, senior research associate and deputy director, respectively, at MOORE. This project will equip young people with knowledge and tools on how to make safe and informed choices when interacting with their peers and with younger children. It also teaches parents computer/digital literacy and safety skills.

Unfortunately, sexual abuse of children is tolerated in some cultures, said Lois Engelbrecht, founder of CPTCSA.

WHI and its partners are rolling out this initiative in two regions in the Philippines but hope to expand it nationwide. By shifting from a reactive approach to a preventive one, this partnership envisions a future in which abuse is stopped before it ever happens.

The Flynns

The Flynn family of Tucson, Ariz., became World Hope child sponsors when their daughter Kelly was nine. The initial idea was that it would be Kelly's project. But 17 years and four sponsored children later, child sponsorship is now a family ministry.

"We were worshipping at a Wesleyan church and this gal came to speak and she inspired us to sponsor a child," said Barbara Flynn. As it turns out, that "gal" was World Hope Founder Jo Anne Lyon.

The letters they have received from their sponsored children over the years have been more of a blessing to the Flynn family than they could have ever imagined. Peggy was their first child, followed by Mabel and Michael and now they sponsor Muhammad. "Some just say thank you and

tell you how they are doing in school," she says. But one boy in Zambia—Michael—touched their hearts in a new way. After getting to know each other through letters, their sponsored child Michael, whose school only went to the 10th grade, had to move in with an aunt and uncle to be close enough to a larger school so he could finish high school. When his aunt gave birth to a girl, they named her Kelly after Barbara's daughter. Michael told the Flynns that he was sharing about Jesus with schoolmates, and that without their support, his family would not have been able financially to send him to school.

After sending a Flynn family photo to him that included cat Ben, Michael wrote back that people in Zambia don't give cats names, and he and his classmates were happy about that. "I think he meant they had a pretty good chuckle over it!" Barbara said.

The Glanzers

After 58 years of marriage, South Dakotans Keith and Tanya Glanzer, both 80, say they continue to do what they have enjoyed doing their whole lives—farming. As they tend to corn and bean crops on the family farm, Keith says, "We're old enough to retire, but farmers don't have hobbies, they just keep farming!"

There is something else the entire Glanzer family continues to do year after year that has been passed down to several generations—give support to Christian charitable works. "We ask the Lord who has a need and where we can give, and if an opportunity arises, we want it done in God's name," Tanya says.

It was actually their son Chad who first introduced Tanya and Keith to World Hope

projects. They have supported several projects over the years, such as the Wesleyan hospital in Haiti, critically needed mobile water drilling rigs throughout Africa, and the Wesleyan Foundation School in Liberia. Keith said they receive a list of three or four important projects to pray about from WHI Chief Development Officer Nancy Green, and then they pick one. In fact, Nancy and her husband made a special stop to see them last fall when she was in South Dakota for a conference. "We've attended the same church all of our lives, a country church, and we support it, but it's fun to be involved in these other projects," they said.

The Glanzers do not believe there is anything special about what they are doing and want no recognition for it. When asked if he would be willing to be featured in an article about everyday people doing the Lord's work, Keith joked, "Yes because we're as 'everyday' as you get!" Tanya



Barbara said she used to wonder if they had enough money to commit to a sponsorship. “But it’s just part of what we do now. It’s built into our monthly expenses just like a tithe. We have WAY too much and this costs so little,” she said, noting that one nice lunch out for two can be the equivalent of a whole month’s sponsorship.

Finally, if she ever gets to meet Michael, which she feels that she will one day, Barbara wants to tell him that they were the ones who were blessed. “In his final letter before graduating, he said he would continue to pray for us. But it is not about us, all the glory goes to God because He made it possible.”



adds, “We learned the whole giving thing from our parents, and we are fortunate that this has passed down to our children.”

Keith summed up what it means to be a valued World Hope partner this way: “The one stable thing in this unstable world is God’s church. Doing things that further the Kingdom of God is our privilege.”



Put Your Compassion into Action Through Donor Advised Fund (DAF) Giving

Did you know there’s a simple and tax-wise way to make a lasting difference with your giving? By donating through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), you can turn your generosity into hope for vulnerable communities around the world.

Gifts through a DAF—whether cash, stocks, or other assets—provide flexibility and immediate tax benefits, while empowering World Hope International to meet critical and emerging needs through The Hope Fund. Your support helps us bring clean water to families, offer healing through global health initiatives, and respond swiftly in times of crisis.

As stewards of your generosity, we ensure your gift makes the greatest impact—guided by faith, compassion, and integrity.

To discover how giving through a DAF can align with your heart for helping others, please contact Nancy Green, Chief Development Officer, (703) 923-9414 x131, Nancy.Green@WorldHope.org or visit worldhope.org/give/daf-direct.

World Hope International’s Tax ID is 35-1985485.

Become a World Hope Prayer Partner

When you say “yes” to prayer, you say “yes” to hope—standing with us to lift up vulnerable communities around the world.

Every Wednesday at 12:00 PM ET, we gather virtually to pray for the people and communities we serve. When you sign up as a Prayer Partner, you’ll receive weekly updates, real-time stories from the field, and special prayer requests—inviting you to make a difference through the power of prayer.

Go to worldhope.org/get-involved/prayer-partner/ and sign up as a prayer partner.

Is your church in our new Hope Alliance?

We hope your church will decide, corporately, to support the Hope Alliance by giving a minimum of \$2,500 per year for three years to support life-changing programs and pray as a congregation to intercede for the most vulnerable.

Find out more about the Hope Alliance at worldhope.org/hope-alliance or by contacting WHI Church Partnerships Representative Matt LeRoy at matt.leroy@worldhope.org.

EASY WAYS TO DONATE



Scan the QR Code or visit WorldHope.org/give



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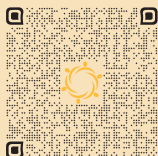
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Now accepting cryptocurrency and stock donations online.

Planned Giving

We welcome a discussion with you on planned giving and stock donations. Contact Chief Development Officer Nancy Green: nancy.green@worldhope.org or 703-923-9414 x 131.

Gifts to The Hope Fund are unrestricted and tax deductible and receipts are provided. World Hope International is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



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