

# Annual Report 2023



**WORLD  
NEIGHBORS**

Inspiring People • Strengthening Communities



## Our Mission

World Neighbors inspires people and strengthens communities to find lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and disease, and to promote a healthy environment.



## Letter from Kate



The year 2023 was one of prosperity and growth for World Neighbors (WN). Despite wars in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza, growing terrorism in West Africa and extreme weather events from droughts to floods, our communities were able to thrive. We added 147 new communities and graduated 36 as we continued to deepen our impact throughout the world.

In this Annual Report we have dug a little deeper to examine what we mean by the term “impact” and I am reminded of a section in *Cry Dignity*, the memoir written by our founder, Dr. John L. Peters. When asked in 1976 how WN achieved such success, he wrote, “I attribute the major part of our success to our failures.” He continued that the ‘development’ would be carried out by the

indigenous local people—men and women living in poverty who work hard to change their own circumstances. He continued, “Our role would be as catalysts, encouragers and nourishers—midwives who help to bring to birth, and continue for a while to nurture, the dynamic resources that were already there and waiting.”

Recognizing the assets—both in the people and in the natural resources that are there to be encouraged and preserved—is a key aspect which makes WN so successful.

In this issue you will read about five community-based organizations that have continued to serve the needs of their communities long after they graduated from WN’s assistance. They continue to tap into their own resources, innovating and growing independently. We were the catalysts, but they are the ones sustaining and making an impact to this day.

In closing, I want to thank you for your faith and generosity in supporting WN and making this unique approach so effective.

With deep gratitude,



**Kate Schecter, Ph.D.**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
The May Ayers Milburn Chair





**“It would be the high commission of my life:  
to find out how love can be expressed in  
ways that build up rather than tear down,  
that challenge rather than condone,  
that fortify rather than enfeeble.”**

— Dr. John L. Peters



WN was founded in 1951 by Dr. John L. Peters, who was profoundly moved by the suffering and poverty he witnessed during World War II. Dr. Peters was inspired to create this grassroots Organization, dedicated to finding lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and disease by walking hand in hand with those in need. In this picture, Dr. Peters, who died in 1992, is meeting with program partners in the Philippines.

## Our Methodology

WN is an international development organization that works with remote and marginalized communities in ecologically fragile areas of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

We work hand in hand with rural communities as they determine their own unique needs, solutions and priorities within the program areas of:



**Sustainable  
Agriculture**



**Rural  
Livelihoods**



**Community and  
Reproductive  
Health**



**Natural Resource  
Management**



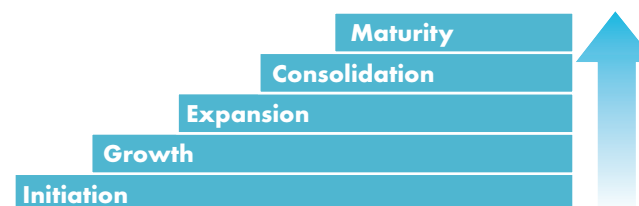
**Gender  
Equity**

Unique in its approach, WN invests in people, not things. We provide training and knowledge so that people gain the skills and leadership to work together for change. The result is long-term self-reliance rather than a short-term fix and ongoing dependence on external aid.

As people gain skills and confidence, local leaders and organizations emerge to carry on the work, scale up successful models and participate in coalitions advocating for wider change. The goal is to achieve lasting, sustainable improvements in people's lives that endure after WN has moved on to a new region.

Since 1951, WN has helped more than 29 million people in 45 countries improve their lives and the communities where they live.

## WN Program Stages



## Numbers by Region

### Latin America and the Caribbean

(Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti and Peru)

Partner Organizations: **32**  
 Communities Served: **158**  
 Program Participants: **12,520**  
 Volunteers: **1,130**  
 Beneficiaries: **32,113**  
 Graduated Communities: **5**  
 New Communities: **40**



### South Asia

(India and Nepal)

Partner Organizations: **5**  
 Communities Served: **121**  
 Program Participants: **2,270**  
 Volunteers: **376**  
 Beneficiaries: **11,775**  
 New Communities: **21**

### Southeast Asia

(Indonesia and Timor-Leste)

Partner Organizations: **10**  
 Communities Served: **191**  
 Program Participants: **11,372**  
 Volunteers: **273**  
 Beneficiaries: **62,822**  
 New Communities: **52**

### West Africa

(Burkina Faso and Mali)

Partner Organizations: **8**  
 Communities Served: **100**  
 Program Participants: **21,134**  
 Volunteers: **1,000**  
 Beneficiaries: **69,800**  
 Graduated Communities: **30**  
 New Communities: **31**

### East Africa

(Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda)

Partner Organizations: **6**  
 Communities Served: **74**  
 Program Participants: **4,573**  
 Volunteers: **360**  
 Beneficiaries: **198,759**  
 Graduated Communities: **1**  
 New Communities: **3**

## Sustainable Agriculture

WN works primarily in isolated, rural villages that rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. Our programs help farmers yield more from their crops, livestock and fish farming operations, while adapting to climate change conditions.

In India and Nepal, for example, 720 farmers established or reestablished kitchen gardens and can now source vegetables directly from their own garden for daily meals. This allows farmers to save money and earn additional income by selling the surplus.

In addition to kitchen gardens, farmers are trained in local seed production and preservation, compost preparation, soil health and livestock management.



Farmers use the training they receive from WN to develop commercial farms, like Hasta Maya above, and sell their vegetables in local markets.



Tirtha Maya utilizes every corner of her land to plant crops or fodder for animals.

### Community Group

Laliguras Women Farmers Group in the Sindhuli district of Nepal

### Year Community Graduated

2012

### Number of Beneficiaries

83

The Laliguras Women Farmers Group was formed in 2001 in collaboration with WN and Sindhuli Integrated Development Services, WN's local partner organization in Nepal.

These women participated in comprehensive sustainable agriculture training which included vegetable cultivation, organic fertilizer preparation, agroforestry, livestock management, market linkages and more.

Since their formation in 2001, the group has expanded and saved their extra income from vegetables sales to invest in their community. The women worked together to bring tap water and roads to their once marginalized village.

In 2012, this group graduated from WN's programs but continues to act as a model for other communities, bringing in new farmers from emerging groups to observe their success and inspire them to replicate the model themselves.



## Rural Livelihoods

WN's savings and credit groups form the core of our Rural Livelihoods programs. Community members come together to form these groups, each contributing a small sum of money.

From this pooled fund, small loans are made and repaid with interest, providing an increasing source of funding for income-generating activities, educating children or family needs.

Rural Livelihoods programs also support community members in developing entrepreneurial ventures that can increase farming income or establish small businesses.

**In fiscal year 2023, WN formed or supported 754 savings and credit groups within its 644 active communities, with women comprising about 70% of the membership.**



Members of a savings and credit group receive bookkeeping assistance in the Karambo village in Indonesia.



The Kaki Rinjani Women's Group displays one of their culinary enterprises.

### Community Group

Kaki Rinjani Women's Savings and Credit Group in Karang Sidemen Village in the Central Lombok Regency of Indonesia

### Year Community Graduated

2020

### Number of Beneficiaries

93

The Kaki Rinjani Women's Savings and Credit Group graduated from WN's programs in 2020 but continues to thrive in their community. Before WN's involvement, women in the community were traditionally confined to domestic roles and limited in their financial autonomy.

Through the WN Rural Livelihoods programs, the Kaki Rinjani group was able to save an impressive IDR 70,000,000 (\$4,500) which empowered the members to embark on several collective businesses, including coffee production and culinary enterprises.

**"WN challenged us to form a group, learn about bookkeeping and financial management, and ultimately push ourselves to establish businesses. WN fully supported us in managing this group to ensure its sustainability."**

— Vera, Kaki Rinjani Women's Group member



## Community and Reproductive Health

In the rural communities where WN works, there is limited access to health care and lack of education on the importance of nutrition, hygiene and sanitation.

More than six million people in Guatemala lack access to basic health and nutrition services. Many of this region's health concerns are preventable through the type of community-based interventions implemented through WN's programs.

Community and Reproductive Health programs for fiscal year 2023 included sanitation and hygiene, smokeless stoves, nutrition, mobile health clinics and training local community health volunteers.

Much of WN's health focus is on supporting access to clean water. In every region, WN's programs help communities identify the water resources available and protect them from contamination. This includes encouraging the use of low-tech, bio-sand water filters, rainwater catchments and the revitalization of local water springs.



Luisa Carrillo in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, drinks clean water from her new water filter.



Access to clean water is crucial for community health. In this photo in Cochabamba, Bolivia, the whole family benefits from their water reservoir.

### Community Group

Olopenses Women's Association in Olopa, Chiquimula, Guatemala

### Year Community Graduated

2023

### Number of Beneficiaries

935

WN began working with the Olopenses Women's Association (AMO) in Guatemala in 2013. WN's project with AMO focused on strengthening and building local capacities to enhance community organization and autonomy.

The Association supports the community's efforts to improve their nutrition, water and sanitation to address overall community health. Activities include the formation of community health promoters, the construction of water filters and the installation of clean, smokeless stoves.

AMO graduated in 2023, but progress does not stop there. AMO continues to provide services to the communities in their region, including community health workshops. Hundreds of families from 12 different communities now benefit from the support of AMO.



## Natural Resource Management

Climate change, deforestation and soil degradation have dramatic consequences for WN's communities: reducing the quality of crops, increasing dangerous flooding and droughts and damaging clean water sources.

WN's Natural Resource Management programs help communities to address these consequences in a holistic approach. We treat the physical environment as part of the community and see the community as part of the landscape.

WN recognizes the interdependence of community well-being and ecosystem health and involves the community in the management of their own natural resources. Like most of WN's programs, Natural Resource Management overlaps with other program activities like sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods as communities use the resources available to them to earn income and improve their livelihoods.



Community members use their local resources for income generating activities, like this preparation of shea butter in the commune of Fada in Burkina Faso.



Community members and participants of WN's programs work together to plant trees in the local schoolyard.

### Community Group

Findima Savings and Credit Group of the PRODEGM Fada program  
in the commune of Fada in Burkina Faso

### Year Community Graduated

2023

### Number of Beneficiaries

156

WN initiated the PRODEGM Fada program in the commune of Fada in Eastern Burkina Faso in 2008. This program benefited 30 communities in the area. One of those community groups, called Findima, organized a reforestation campaign as part of WN's Natural Resource Management program.

Along with other local groups, Findima group members planted local tree varieties in the courtyard of the local elementary school. This activity contributes to the protection of local tree species and the environmental education of students.

These communities have graduated from WN's programs but continue natural resource management activities through awareness-raising and initiatives on indiscriminate tree cutting, bush fires and assisted natural regeneration.



## Gender Equality

WN's Gender Equity programs cut across each of the other program areas because empowering women has such a powerful impact on the health and prosperity of entire families and communities.

Throughout WN's communities, many women are confined to domestic roles within their homes which limits the ways they can contribute to their families and communities. Women often do not own their own assets and have no control over their income.

Through savings and credit groups, WN invites women into the development process, by helping them build skills in leadership, financial literacy, management and entrepreneurship. Just as important, these groups provide a system of support and encouragement that builds confidence that leads to sustainable change.



Women meet as part of a local savings and credit group in Kenya.



ADT currently owns its own office and has expanded its outreach to three sub-counties, continuing and growing the activities that WN started.

### Community Group

Akukuranut Development Trust in the Teso Region of western Kenya

### Year Community Graduated

2004

### Number of Beneficiaries

1,500

WN began working with communities in the Teso region of the Busia County of Western Kenya in 1989 and the communities graduated from WN's programs in 2004. To ensure the program activities would continue after graduation, WN helped form the Akukuranut Development Trust (ADT) which still is active today in facilitating the programs that WN initiated.

ADT continues WN's work through programs in food security, income generation, capacity strengthening and gender equity. Part of gender equity programs include gender sensitization, but also economic and social empowerment of women.

As a result of programs in sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods, women in the Teso region now own assets and control their own incomes. This has also improved their participation in decision-making at the household and community level and allowed women to take on more roles in leadership.

ADT is a great example of the sustainability of WN's development approach and why including women in the development process is crucial for lasting change.

## Dedicated Staff and Volunteers

WN's staff include four U.S.-based employees and 50 employees in the field who are predominantly from the countries where they work. The staff in the field are led by our experienced Regional Directors who live in the regions where they work and have a deep connection to the people they serve.

### **Srijana Karki**

Regional Director for South Asia

### **Chris Macoloo, Ph.D.**

Regional Director for East Africa

### **Do Christophe Ouattara**

Regional Director for West Africa

### **Lionel Vigil**

Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

### **Edd Wright**

Regional Director for Southeast Asia



Srijana Karki  
Regional Director for South Asia

**WN is honored to be recognized with Charity Navigator's Four-Star rating, GuideStar's Platinum status, Charity Watch's highest rating and the Great Nonprofits' 2023 Top-Rated distinction.**



Farmers from Peru traveled from Ayacucho to Huancayo for training. They will then take what they have learned back to teach their communities.

**WN spends 87% of expenses on programs in the field. We strive to make every dollar count and to have the largest impact possible.**

At our headquarters in Oklahoma City, our President and CEO, **Kate Schecter**, Ph.D., along with Chief Financial Officer, **Robert Lachance**, CPA, lead the organization and ensure that WN continues to be ranked among the nation's top charities for its fiscal management, accountability and transparency.

Thousands of volunteers and leaders are trained with the help of our 61 local partner organizations throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. These volunteers make it possible for WN's programming to reach thousands of villagers each year. Community mobilizers receive training from WN's local partner organizations, then train their own and neighboring communities.

From WN's inception in 1951, the programs have been designed to "train trainers." This is crucial to create lasting, sustainable change that will endure.



## Board of Trustees

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The WN Board of Trustees are true catalysts of change who invest their time and resources in guiding and supporting WN, often traveling at their own expense to see first-hand how WN's programs are transforming lives around the world.

**Becky Collins** served as WN Board Chair for fiscal year 2022/2023 and first joined the board in 2016. Her commitment to the Organization and its mission are deeply appreciated by all the staff and the other Trustees.



Becky Collins (front), WN's Chair of the Board of Trustees, on a Journey to Rajasthan, India with other Board members, staff and friends of WN.



Becky Collins with a Kenyan partner talks about fishing programs on the shores of Lake Victoria, Kenya.

# Financial Highlights

For the Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022



■ Contributions **37%**  
■ Grants **43%**  
■ Other Revenue **20%**



■ Contributions **22%**  
■ Grants **46%**  
■ Other Revenue **32%**



■ Program Services **87%**  
■ Support Activities **13%**



■ Program Services **84%**  
■ Support Activities **16%**



■ With Donor Restrictions **67%**  
■ Without Donor Restrictions **33%**



■ With Donor Restrictions **70%**  
■ Without Donor Restrictions **30%**

# Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 904,565	\$ 613,335
Accounts receivable:		
Grants, net	137,655	650,750
Government	23,638	4,447
Prepaid expenses and other assets	101,173	57,585
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,167,031</b>	<b>1,326,117</b>
Non-current assets:		
Investments, at fair value	6,606,018	5,695,372
Assets held in trusts	732,679	776,107
Beneficial interest in remainder trusts	2,446,947	2,534,625
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	2,722,512	2,593,398
Oil, gas and mineral interests	55,470	—
Operating lease right-of-use assets	222,978	276,874
Property and equipment, net	235,072	171,525
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>13,021,676</b>	<b>12,047,901</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>14,188,707</b>	<b>\$ 13,374,018</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 8,329	\$ 4,891
Payroll and related accrued liabilities	75,713	88,210
Deferred revenue	113,777	44,967
Operating lease liabilities	72,929	67,616
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>270,748</b>	<b>205,684</b>
Non-current liabilities:		
Operating lease liabilities	154,033	212,051
Actuarial liability — charitable gift annuities	55,921	68,402
Obligations — charitable remainder trusts	151,611	167,110
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>361,565</b>	<b>447,563</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>632,313</b>	<b>653,247</b>
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	4,503,242	3,807,397
With donor restrictions	9,053,152	8,913,374
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>13,556,394</b>	<b>12,720,771</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 14,188,707</b>	<b>\$ 13,374,018</b>



# Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023 (with Comparative Totals for 2022)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2023	Total 2022
<b>Operating activities:</b>				
Revenues, gains and other support:				
Contributions of cash and other financial assets	\$ 1,550,136	\$ 316,437	\$ 1,866,573	\$ 1,168,762
Contributions of nonfinancial assets	13,538	—	13,538	10,905
Government funds	1,532,224	—	1,532,224	556,942
Private grants	192,619	506,856	699,475	1,938,183
Investment income and gains utilized	455,459	(343,500)	111,959	85,465
SBA PPP loan forgiveness	—	—	—	69,735
IRS employee retention credit	—	—	—	19,181
Other sources	47,438	—	47,438	16,334
Net assets released from restrictions	788,819	(788,819)	—	—
<b>Total revenues, gains and other support</b>	<b>4,580,233</b>	<b>(309,026)</b>	<b>4,271,207</b>	<b>3,865,507</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Program services:				
Field programs	3,602,422	—	3,602,422	2,507,068
Public education	238,166	—	238,166	215,114
Supporting activities:				
Management and general	253,602	—	253,602	249,532
Fundraising	304,897	—	304,897	276,099
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,399,087</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,399,087</b>	<b>3,247,813</b>
<b>Change in net assets from operating activities</b>	<b>181,146</b>	<b>(309,026)</b>	<b>(127,880)</b>	<b>617,694</b>
<b>Non-operating activities:</b>				
Endowment contributions	—	48,951	48,951	3,100
Investment return, net	68,933	91,217	160,150	159,821
Net investment gains (losses)	296,155	268,041	564,196	(1,159,326)
Change in value of split-interest agreements	149,611	40,595	190,206	(948,671)
<b>Change in net assets from non-operating activities</b>	<b>514,699</b>	<b>448,804</b>	<b>963,503</b>	<b>(1,945,076)</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>695,845</b>	<b>139,778</b>	<b>835,623</b>	<b>(1,327,382)</b>
<b>Net assets at beginning of year</b>	<b>3,807,397</b>	<b>8,913,374</b>	<b>12,720,771</b>	<b>14,048,153</b>
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 4,503,242</b>	<b>\$ 9,053,152</b>	<b>\$ 13,556,394</b>	<b>\$ 12,720,771</b>

# Statement of Functional Expenses

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023 (with Comparative Totals for 2022)

	Program Services				Supporting Activities				
	Field Programs	Public Education	Subtotal Program Services		Management and General	Fundraising	Subtotal Supporting Activities	Total 2023	Total 2022
Salaries and related expenses:									
Salaries	\$ 947,486	\$106,807	\$1,054,293		\$136,628	\$134,260	\$270,888	\$1,325,181	\$1,386,414
Payroll taxes	47,810	5,135	52,945		9,089	9,164	18,253	71,198	85,367
Benefits	176,078	20,730	196,808		20,808	17,941	38,749	235,557	229,915
	1,171,374	132,672	1,304,046		166,525	161,365	327,890	1,631,936	1,701,696
Field programs	1,276,694	—	1,276,694		—	—	—	1,276,694	735,695
Grants	546,834	—	546,834		—	—	—	546,834	100,000
Contract services	77,755	14,377	92,132		12,156	65,738	77,894	170,026	96,008
Legal and accounting services	28,108	3,206	31,314		13,045	1,778	14,823	46,137	72,246
Travel	160,613	40,209	200,822		3,239	35,615	38,854	239,676	126,437
Office supplies	16,801	3,981	20,782		674	260	934	21,716	19,916
Telecommunications	20,960	3,932	24,892		3,643	1,194	4,837	29,729	34,069
Postage	2,408	304	2,712		785	2,038	2,823	5,535	6,893
Rent and occupancy	81,323	14,110	95,433		15,014	2,980	17,994	113,427	108,594
Office equipment and software	20,093	1,863	21,956		7,591	8,208	15,799	37,755	39,806
Advertising	195	—	195		—	5,036	5,036	5,231	7,237
Printing and publications	5,074	775	5,849		1,256	12,204	13,460	19,309	20,542
Depreciation and amortization	76,309	—	76,309		11,796	410	12,206	88,515	90,628
Dues	2,142	609	2,751		814	2,951	3,765	6,516	7,135
Training and meetings	72,818	18,205	91,023		—	—	—	91,023	13,324
Financial expenses	42,921	3,923	46,844		17,064	5,120	22,184	69,028	67,587
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$3,602,422</b>	<b>\$238,166</b>	<b>\$3,840,588</b>		<b>\$253,602</b>	<b>\$304,897</b>	<b>\$558,499</b>	<b>\$4,399,087</b>	<b>\$3,247,813</b>





# WORLD NEIGHBORS

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