



WORLD
NEIGHBORS

Inspiring People • Strengthening Communities

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024



Our Mission

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



On the cover:

Yolanda Lopez Barreno, a farmer from the community of Altos de Toliman in Guatemala
Front and back cover photos by Beth Jansen.

Letter from Kate



In 2024, World Neighbors continued to be blessed with prosperity and growth in all 14 countries where we work. While instability, wars and extreme weather events continued around the world, our communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Haiti were able to prevail, and in many cases became completely independent of our assistance. We added 223 new communities and graduated 49 as we continued to deepen our impact throughout the world. Notably, many of our graduated partners then went on to become trainers for new communities that are just beginning the journey toward self-sufficiency.

In this Annual Report we continue to delve into the impact we are having around the world. How do we measure our success? While it could be measured in numbers of households reached, new businesses formed or training sessions conducted, our mission goes beyond statistics. As our founder, Dr. John L. Peters, understood, there is something much deeper that underlies our work every day. The staff, partners and villagers are all focused on lifting each community out of poverty, and in the process respecting the inherent dignity in every person. Success is measured not only in quantitative terms, but also in the mental, physical and spiritual health of each person we are helping.

During these tumultuous times in the United States, we are deeply grateful for the continuous generosity of so many of you across the country and overseas. Our core belief in the importance of being global citizens and helping our neighbors is more essential than ever! Thanks to your generosity and support over the past 73 years, we are able to carry on the vision of our founder, Dr. John Peters, and we look forward to celebrating our 75th anniversary next year!

With deep gratitude,



Kate Schecter, Ph.D.

President and Chief Executive Officer
The May Ayers Milburn Chair



“The fact is that I am not my brother’s keeper. God is my brother’s keeper. I am simply my brother’s brother.”

— From *Cry Dignity* (page 72)

by Dr. John L. Peters, World Neighbors’ Founder



Dr. John L. Peters’ vision has transformed the lives of 29 million people worldwide, igniting a movement of lasting change.

A dedicated humanitarian, Dr. Peters served as a U.S. Army chaplain in World War II. When a young soldier died in his arms, he vowed to build a more peaceful world. That promise led to World Neighbors’ founding in 1951—a people-centered movement lifting millions from poverty across 45 countries.

His first project in Kerala, India, had him traveling by bullock cart to a remote village, working alongside the community to secure clean water, create small businesses and improve literacy and health. Dr. Peters understood that the only way to create long-lasting change was to address all the issues in a community and to take a holistic approach to development.

For over 73 years, the organization has helped communities overcome hunger, disease and poverty through sustainable solutions in agriculture, health, water access, reforestation and entrepreneurship.

At World Neighbors, we give a hand up, not a handout. We partner with communities, providing the tools and knowledge to build a brighter future for generations.

Our Methodology

World Neighbors works with rural marginalized communities in 14 countries in ecologically fragile areas across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, consistently respecting the needs, assets and wisdom of community members, and facilitating their leadership in making sustainable advances. There’s no quick fix here. Instead, World Neighbors works with the poorest, most marginalized communities for an average of eight to ten years to address the most urgent issues in each community.

World Neighbors addresses individual communities’ needs by providing local trainers, consultants and volunteers. Though specifics vary between communities, World Neighbors has a few constants across all projects: **sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods, natural resource management, community and reproductive health and gender equity.**



School environmental clubs in Kenya teach students about tree planting and conservation.

World Neighbors is honored to be recognized with *Charity Navigator’s* Four-Star rating, *GuideStar’s* Platinum status and *Charity Watch’s* highest rating.

World Neighbors *by Region*

Latin America and the Caribbean

Bolivia
Guatemala
Haiti
Peru

West Africa

Burkina Faso
Mali

East Africa

Kenya
Malawi
Tanzania
Uganda

Southeast Asia

Indonesia
Timor-Leste

South Asia

India
Nepal



2024 *Impact*



50
Partner
Agencies



2,659
Volunteers



983
Savings and
Credit Groups



668
Active
Communities



223
New
Communities



49
Graduated
Communities

Sustainable Agriculture: Advancing Food Security

World Neighbors promotes sustainable agriculture to help communities develop food production systems, equipping farmers with essential knowledge and tools to enhance food security, improve livelihoods and protect the environment.

By engaging in locally driven agricultural experimentation, small-scale farmers in fragile ecological areas learn cost-effective conservation techniques to protect biodiversity, restore soil fertility, manage water resources and boost production, while minimizing reliance on external inputs. A key aspect of our approach is farmer-led experimentation with simple techniques, along with peer-to-peer knowledge sharing to spread successful practices.

In **Burkina Faso**, where rainfall is scarce, World Neighbors has assisted farmers in developing 16 new market gardening sites. These sites now support 642 individuals, the majority of whom are women, in cultivating vegetables such as cabbage, tomatoes and onions. This initiative reduces dependence on staple cereal crops like maize and sorghum, enabling farmers to save money previously spent on purchasing vegetables. By selling surplus produce in local villages, they generate supplemental income. As a result, women are now able to earn independently, promoting both financial stability and sustainable agricultural practices.

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

Through global efforts like this, World Neighbors continues to champion sustainable agriculture, building resilient communities and transforming lives.



A new market garden site in Burkina Faso



Many groups, like this one in Oyara, Peru, work together in community gardens to harvest vegetables that they sell or consume.



In Guatemala, farmers grow seedlings in recycled water bottles to reduce waste and maximize space.

Building Better Livelihoods through Improved Incomes



Women in Indonesia find empowerment and purpose through savings and credit groups.

Rural communities are increasingly diversifying their livelihoods beyond agriculture, adopting a range of strategies to ensure economic stability. Recognizing this shift, World Neighbors supports communities in conducting comprehensive assessments of their production methods, income sources, expenses and opportunities to optimize their assets, natural resources, knowledge and organizational capacity.

To facilitate this transformation, World Neighbors implements initiatives such as savings and credit groups, seed and grain storage banks to mitigate food shortages, value-added product processing and marketing and small enterprise development to generate income.

literacy, bookkeeping, administration and small business management. As a result, members—primarily women—are now actively saving money and reducing dependence on high-cost lenders. Additionally, these groups have created disaster relief savings funds to provide financial support to members and communities during emergencies.

Through business management training, participants have successfully launched both individual and collective enterprises. Popular ventures include processing agricultural products into marketable snacks and selling household essentials.

In **Peru**, World Neighbors helps farmers capitalize on increased vegetable production by facilitating market linkages. Farmers now sell surplus produce at local fairs, strengthening their participation in the local economy. This engagement has, in turn, led to the formation of additional savings and credit groups, further expanding opportunities for income generation and improving overall livelihoods.



This farmers market in Indonesia draws over 1,000 visitors each week from neighboring villages.



Women in Nepal transform savings into success by selling their produce at local markets.

Healthy Families, Stronger Communities

The communities where World Neighbors and its partners work face significant challenges, including a lack of health services, poor infrastructure, isolation, degraded soil and limited access to clean water. Community health in these villages is further impacted by political and economic factors, violence and corruption. World Neighbors collaborates closely with communities, integrating their needs for improved agriculture, nutrition, income generation and overall well-being.

The essential premise of World Neighbors' community health programming is that all families have the right to live in a clean and safe environment with access to clean water, sanitation, adequate food and access to health services and health education.

Working alongside World Neighbors' area staff and local partners, communities assess their own needs and resources before developing a plan to address key health concerns. These may include a lack of sanitation facilities, limited access to contraceptives, childbirth without trained attendants, food insecurity, inadequate housing, unclean water and high rates of diarrhea and malaria. Strengthening local capacity and ensuring the active participation of all community members—including women, youth and elders—is essential to fostering sustainable improvements in community health.



School health clubs in Tanzania encourage hygiene, clean water and proper sanitation.



Reusable menstrual pads are distributed to school health clubs in Tanzania and Uganda.

In **Tanzania**, access to menstrual health and hygiene products remains a significant challenge for many women and girls due to the high cost of commercially available sanitary pads. As a result, a large portion of the female population is marginalized, lacking essential resources to manage menstruation safely and with dignity. In many communities, menstruation is stigmatized and often misunderstood, leading to feelings of shame and embarrassment that can severely impact a young girl's confidence, self-esteem and participation in education and extracurricular activities. Due to discomfort and fear, many girls miss several days of school each month, contributing to poor academic performance and exacerbating gender disparities in education.

World Neighbors is addressing these challenges by promoting affordable, sustainable menstrual health solutions and educational initiatives through school health clubs. Programs in Tanzania and Uganda have introduced reusable sanitary pads as a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to disposable products. Reusable pads can last up to two years, reducing the financial burden on girls and their families.

Through these efforts, World Neighbors continues to support community-driven solutions that promote health, education and gender equity, ensuring that girls and women have the resources they need to lead healthier, more empowered lives.

Protecting Natural Resources

The physical health of the environment is an integral part of the community. Recognizing the deep connection between community well-being and ecosystem health, World Neighbors empowers local populations to actively engage in conservation initiatives that directly impact their lives.

For many people living in remote villages with limited access to external markets, the natural environment is their primary source of food and income. They rely on the land to sustain their families, provide enough resources for medical care, clothing and shelter and to support their overall well-being. However, environmental challenges—such as shifting climates, deforestation and excessive pesticide use—threaten these fragile ecosystems and the livelihoods of those who depend on them. Unpredictable climate patterns further exacerbate vulnerabilities, making adaptation and resilience-building essential.

In **Nepal**, agroforestry has proven to be a highly effective approach within the World Neighbors program. By integrating animals, crops and fodder trees, the initiative has empowered women by increasing their income, reducing risks, saving time and enhancing land management knowledge. Over 50% of women in participating communities now have sufficient fodder near their homes, eliminating the need for lengthy trips to the jungle and saving them two to four hours daily. Agroforestry expansion has also improved livestock health and significantly boosted farmers' incomes, with many increasing their herds from just two goats to as many as 20.

By fostering sustainable resource management and promoting community-driven conservation efforts, World Neighbors continues to strengthen local resilience and improve livelihoods. Through initiatives like agroforestry, communities are not only adapting to environmental challenges but also taking ownership of their natural resources, ensuring a more secure and self-sufficient future.



Porfilia Ramos utilizes her sloped land by building a terraced vegetable garden in Guatemala.

“Over 50% of women in participating communities now have sufficient fodder near their homes, eliminating the need for lengthy trips to the jungle and saving them two to four hours daily.”



A local farmers' group in Nepal harvests millet together.

Dedicated Leadership

World Neighbors operates with a dedicated team of four U.S.-based employees and 56 field staff, the majority of whom are native to the countries where they work. Leading these field teams are seasoned Regional Directors who not only bring extensive experience but also live within the communities they serve, fostering strong relationships and a deep understanding of local needs.

Kate Schecter, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer and President

Robert Lachance, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

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 speaks with community members in Nepal.

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Tulsa, Oklahoma

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Becky Collins, Board Chair, and her husband Mark, with a local partner in Kenya.

Financial Highlights

For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023



■ Contributions **39%**
■ Grants **44%**
■ Other Revenue **17%**



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



■ Program Services **89%**
■ Support Activities **11%**



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



■ With Donor Restrictions **60%**
■ Without Donor Restrictions **40%**



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

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 659,826	\$ 904,565
Accounts receivable:		
Grants, net	226,288	137,655
Government	15,660	23,638
Prepaid expenses and other assets	191,216	101,173
Total current assets	1,092,990	1,167,031
Non-current assets:		
Investments, at fair value	8,995,690	6,606,018
Assets held in trusts	800,876	732,679
Beneficial interest in remainder trusts	1,964,253	2,446,947
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	3,811,147	2,722,512
Oil, gas and mineral interests	49,801	55,470
Operating lease right-of-use assets	244,563	222,978
Property and equipment, net	217,949	235,072
Total non-current assets	16,084,279	13,021,676
Total assets	\$17,177,269	\$14,188,707
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 17,803	\$ 8,329
Payroll and related accrued liabilities	71,875	75,713
Deferred revenue	37,555	113,777
Operating lease liabilities	79,511	72,929
Total current liabilities	206,744	270,748
Non-current liabilities:		
Operating lease liabilities	169,576	154,033
Actuarial liability - charitable gift annuities	38,095	55,921
Obligations - charitable remainder trusts	154,917	151,611
Total non-current liabilities	362,588	361,565
Total liabilities	569,332	632,313
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	6,616,056	4,503,242
With donor restrictions	9,991,881	9,053,152
Total net assets	16,607,937	13,556,394
Total liabilities and net assets	\$17,177,269	\$14,188,707

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024 (with Comparative Totals for 2023)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2024	Total 2023
Operating activities:				
Revenues, gains and other support:				
Contributions of cash and other financial assets	\$2,286,195	\$ 277,293	\$ 2,563,488	\$ 1,866,573
Contributions of nonfinancial assets	3,033	—	3,033	13,538
Government funds	2,406,138	—	2,406,138	1,532,224
Private grants	540,666	674,099	1,214,765	699,475
Investment income and gains utilized	328,890	(186,800)	142,090	111,959
Other sources	56,298	—	56,298	47,438
Net assets released from restrictions	858,161	(858,161)	—	—
Total revenues, gains and other support	6,479,381	(93,569)	6,385,812	4,271,207
Expenses:				
Program services:				
Field programs	4,366,002	—	4,366,002	3,602,422
Public education	238,412	—	238,412	238,166
Supporting activities:				
Management and general	273,158	—	273,158	253,602
Fundraising	284,435	—	284,435	304,897
Total expenses	5,162,007	—	5,162,007	4,399,087
Change in net assets from operating activities	1,317,374	(93,569)	1,223,805	(127,880)
Non-operating activities:				
Endowment contributions	—	673,654	673,654	48,951
Investment return, net	81,050	120,901	201,951	160,150
Net investment gains (losses)	540,182	549,867	1,090,049	564,196
Change in value of split-interest agreements	174,208	(312,124)	(137,916)	190,206
Change in net assets from non-operating activities	795,440	1,032,298	1,827,738	963,503
Change in net assets	2,112,814	938,729	3,051,543	835,623
Net assets at beginning of year	4,503,242	9,053,152	13,556,394	12,720,771
Net assets at end of year	\$6,616,056	\$9,991,881	\$16,607,937	\$13,556,394

Statement of Functional Expenses

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024 (with Comparative Totals for 2023)

	Program Services			Supporting Activities			Total 2024	Total 2023
	Field Programs	Public Education	Subtotal Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Subtotal Supporting Activities		
Salaries and related expenses:								
Salaries	\$ 891,357	\$101,218	\$ 992,575	\$143,694	\$145,084	\$288,778	\$1,281,353	\$1,325,181
Payroll taxes	47,433	5,139	52,572	9,748	9,280	19,028	71,600	71,198
Benefits	178,941	20,860	199,801	24,563	25,927	50,490	250,291	235,557
	1,117,731	127,217	1,244,948	178,005	180,291	358,296	1,603,244	1,631,936
Field programs	1,250,344	—	1,250,344	—	—	—	1,250,344	1,276,694
Grants	1,347,425	—	1,347,425	—	—	—	1,347,425	546,834
Contract services	132,451	27,854	160,305	13,035	43,988	57,023	217,328	170,026
Legal and accounting services	59,054	10,519	69,573	14,316	1,998	16,314	85,887	46,137
Travel	137,468	33,914	171,382	5,790	16,600	22,390	193,772	239,676
Office supplies	20,773	4,759	25,532	1,888	2,250	4,138	29,670	21,716
Telecommunications	21,240	4,502	25,742	2,607	1,128	3,735	29,477	29,729
Postage	2,104	402	2,506	471	3,081	3,552	6,058	5,535
Rent and occupancy	81,851	14,021	95,872	15,918	3,325	19,243	115,115	113,427
Office equipment and software	21,634	2,043	23,677	8,185	8,938	17,123	40,800	37,755
Advertising	—	—	—	—	1,517	1,517	1,517	5,231
Printing and publications	4,192	651	4,843	1,028	13,001	14,029	18,872	19,309
Depreciation and amortization	93,835	—	93,835	14,393	859	15,252	109,087	88,515
Dues	3,065	742	3,807	1,190	3,521	4,711	8,518	6,516
Training and meetings	30,128	7,532	37,660	—	—	—	37,660	91,023
Financial expenses	42,707	4,256	46,963	16,332	3,938	20,270	67,233	69,028
Total expenses	\$4,366,002	\$238,412	\$4,604,414	\$273,158	\$284,435	\$557,593	\$5,162,007	\$4,399,087



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