

WORLD
CONNECT

2017 Annual Report

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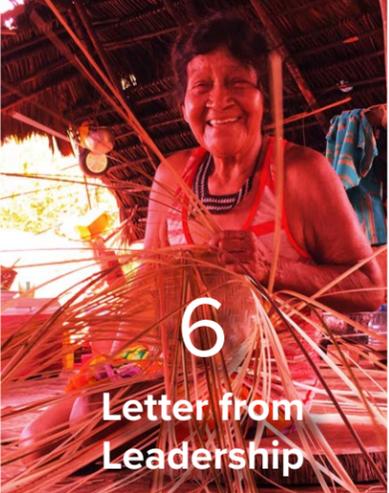


Cover photo: Arienne Wunder
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WHO WE ARE

World Connect is a US-based non-profit implementing a cost-effective, locally-led approach to grassroots development. While this work advances development, it also strengthens social capital within the communities we invest in and between the investors and the implementing communities. With 1,300 projects under our belt, we see the road to a more integrated, equitable, peaceful and productive world starting with investments in the human capacity and connections that are the building blocks of stable and productive communities.

MISSION

World Connect builds social capital in the most under-resourced areas of the world by investing in grassroots entrepreneurs who locally drive their own transformative, self-sustaining development.

VISION

We envision a world of equity, where disparities are eliminated and global communities become independent from aid, demonstrating the strength of human connection and capacity.



Photo: Samuel Clark-Crough

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

There is a movement afoot in the humanitarian and development worlds to see a transfer of leadership and resources from donors and organizations in the Global North to local NGOs, grassroots organizations, and entrepreneurs in the Global South. Ample evidence points to better results when using bottom-up approaches that empower front line workers and local organizations to make decisions using their local knowledge and relationships.

World Connect has invested in 1,300+ grassroots projects across 35 countries. We are continually impressed with how much is leveraged because of how we make our investments – we give directly to those who stand to benefit from development projects in response to their pitches of locally sourced and resourced ideas. We believe that the project success we see is attributable to local leaders and constituents being invested in that success. They design their projects, mobilize their communities to invest time, talent and treasure, apply for grant funding, often for the first time, and implement their projects successfully without needing extensive oversight from partners in the North.

On page 36 you will read about Ben Saliou N'Diaye, a leader of two projects totaling \$13,588, that resulted in 10 well covers, 4 public latrines, 34 household latrines, and community-wide sanitation training. Both projects were implemented in less than one year and leveraged community cash and in-kind labor. Ben's vision and leadership has transformed the health of his community, eliminating generations of water-borne illness and allowing the community to focus on increasing productivity and setting progress in motion. To walk with Ben through his community in Southern Senegal and to see the pride he shares with his community, because of these projects, is to witness true leadership.

We have a decision to make. Do we accept the current pace of progress? Do we continue to watch crises around the world grow when we could be investing in stabilizing communities now? We have the capacity to shape a different world. In the pages of this report, you will see the power of good ideas and good people. We're striving for a more connected world. It's these connections that fuel momentum and progress. We hope you are inspired to connect.

Gratefully,

George Biddle
Chairman

Pamela Nathenson
Executive Director



OUR APPROACH

Photo: Julia Hanc

The field of development emerged sixty years ago and since then hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent on efforts to improve health, education, and economic development. We applaud the many efforts over the last century that have yielded reductions in extreme poverty, disease transmission, famine, and improvements in literacy and economic participation.

But today, nearly 800 million people still live on less than \$1.90 a day and 3.5 billion, nearly half the world's population, live on less than \$5.50 a day. As of 2015, 844 million people worldwide lacked clean drinking water, 2.3 billion lacked basic sanitation services, and more than 360,000 children die every year due to water and sanitation-related illnesses. More people have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and crises than at any time since World War II. As of 2016, only 0.3% of the \$27.3 billion in global humanitarian spending went directly to local and national NGOs, down from 0.4% in 2015.

As wealth is more concentrated and power rests in the global economy and within national governments, we wonder if we are paying enough attention to the ideas, initiatives, and stories coming from local communities and leaders. We see solutions to development challenges in the people facing those challenges head on. It is in local ideas and energy, local organizing and advocacy, local commitment to sustainability, that solutions can be found.

World Connect has launched 1,300 projects across 35 countries with a local approach and 95% report achieving their goals. Two-thirds of our projects are helmed by women-led grassroots organizations, 82% are sustaining at 1+ years out, and 57% are catalyzing additional development, leading to some sort of growth, replication, or other ripple effects. 100% of local communities contribute cash to their projects and for every dollar that World Connect invests in projects, our implementing partners obtain an additional \$1 in external funding. Fewer than 1% of our projects report loss or misuse of grant funding.

Strategic investment at the grassroots catalyzes local development and in the process builds social capital, which leads to stronger and more resilient communities. There are 17 impressive stories in this report that illustrate how good ideas and good people catalyze momentum, weave social fabric into social capital, improve health, protect the environment, generate income, and create opportunity.

"World Connect implements the most contextually well-designed grant program I have ever encountered in my 15+ years abroad." – Bryan Dwyer, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and International Development Professional



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Photo: Pamela Nathenson

With \$10,968 from World Connect, a school in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo is expanding. Stewart Lunanga, the Project Leader, brings children into the safe space of school despite the threat of conflict around him.

- 264 million children around the world are not in school and over 95% of these children live in the Global South
- Education is proven to lift people out of poverty and conflict and reduce gender violence
- Girls face particular stigma because of gender bias and insufficient support for menstruation
- In 2017 World Connect invested \$141,676 in 46 projects across 16 countries to advance education

This section takes you from Haiti, where girls are learning to code, to Rwanda, where girls are sewing their own menstrual pads, to Tanzania, where female students are now able to live in dormitories, increasing access to their studies.

NO PADS, SEW PADS, Rwanda



Constance Nyamvura, Head Nurse, Project Leader

It is hard for many

in the Global North to imagine the absence of feminine hygiene products, but because of both stigma and access to resources, many girls and women control their periods with rags, paper, leaves, or not at all. This not only leads to urinary tract infections, it discourages girls from attending school and allows the stigma of menstruation to perpetuate. With an investment of \$848, girls in Miyove, Rwanda learned about sexual health and hygiene and how to make reusable menstruation pads for themselves and to sell. The local project leader, Constance Nyamvura, who is also a nurse at the local health center, reported a 100% decrease in urinary tract infections for girls who are now using the reusable pads.

World Connect has launched eight projects with \$30,800 across 6 countries to increase access to sanitary products and to advance sexual and reproductive health, especially for girls.

“ Learning to make these pads has made me so happy as I am not a burden for my family anymore. Before I was asking my parents every month to buy me [pads] which is expensive and some months it was yes and some it was no as there was no money.
– Aline, Project Participant

“ I love it because I can use them and go to school and run and it is easy.
– Hilary, Project Participant



“ I made my mother pads and she loves them. – Betty, Project Participant



“ We are happy because it has saved us from walking a long distance and we have more time to study.
– Oliva Mgaya, Project Participant ”

“ The two-hour commute to and from school put students at risk of advances from men. Five students were expelled from school in 2016 because of pregnancy, none of whom were residing in the current dormitory. The new girls’ dormitory provides more time for students to study, a better learning environment, proper nutrition, and a safe place for female students. – Reed, Field Partner ”

SAFETY & STUDIES, Tanzania



Oliva Mgaya and Aula Kalili, Project Participants

The Kitandililo Secondary School

built a dormitory for 48 of its 202 female students in 2016, after significant efforts to raise funds locally in the community. The school documented 75% less absenteeism in boarding girls, a 63% increase in study time, and overall more girls than boys passed their national exams. In 2017, having demonstrated the value of having boarding space for girls and having tapped the majority of locally-available resources, the school pitched World Connect on a project to build another dormitory. With a World Connect investment of \$9,556, the new space was built quickly given the school’s experience with construction and the significant volunteerism of the local community, which takes great pride in its school. There are 48 girls in the new dormitory, a safe space where their studies are top priority. To date, students who live in the dormitories are 35% more likely to pass their national exams than those who do not live in the dormitories.

To date, World Connect has launched 5 dormitory construction projects across 2 countries with \$37,641.

GIRLS WHO CODE, Haiti



Charitza Rémy and Valdjeen Abraham, Project Participants

With a World Connect investment

of \$5,540 the first-ever tech training for girls in Villa Rosa, Haiti, was organized by our local partner organization, Cocread. This project aims to teach 36 young Haitian girls computer science and technology, with a focus on STEM. Activities include coding, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, robotics, and renewable energy. Since the project's launch, national and international agencies have engaged Cocread in conversations about how to apply its training model to other under-served communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Martinique.

In 2015, Ralph Francois, Project Leader, founded Cocread, a social enterprise and community incubator in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti that creates self-sustainable communities using art and technology. With a belief that the future to lasting development rests in the talents of local entrepreneurs, Cocread believes in the power of communities to achieve their goals using their own assets. Ralph's local leadership and success saw him also named in 2018 as a Yale World Fellow.

“The coding course makes me fall in love with Math. I love solving problems.
– Charitza Remy,
Project Participant”

“That space is the greatest thing that could happen to this community. Kids exist now.
– Charitza's Mom”



BUILDING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

With \$10,507 from World Connect, a women's group planted a garden in Fass, Senegal, where 89 women are working daily to keep it flourishing, and generating income to support their families. Abib Dieye, the Project Leader and horticulture expert, dedicated spare time to empower local women with gardening and farming knowledge, so they could become self-sustaining entrepreneurs.

- 2017 was the third hottest year recorded
- 2017 saw \$272 billion in flood damage globally
- 39 million acres of tropical forests were lost
- Communities in the Global South often have the most to lose as the planet heats up, as they are often in high risk areas with limited resources to protect their lives and their assets
- In 2017, World Connect invested \$39,718 in 16 projects across 9 countries to rebuild and protect the environment

This section takes you from Senegal, where recycling businesses are taking off, to the Philippines, where fish are returning thanks to coastal protection, to Panama, where a community is coming together thanks to new solar panels.

BREATH OF FRESH AIR, Senegal



Birkelane Sett Wecc employee makes his rounds with his donkey cart

In 2016, good news about

a successful World Connect funded recycling enterprise that serves 1,000 households traveled to the neighboring town of Birkelane, Senegal, prompting a replication. With an investment of \$748 from World Connect in 2017, another trash collection enterprise was established. Its early success attracted the attention of the Mayor's office, from which the business leveraged an additional \$10,000 to scale its services and equipment. Now with 15 employees and 12 donkey carts mobilized daily for household trash collection, at least 54% of households in Birkelane are enrolled in a trash collection and recycling service, and 100% of the Birkelane Sett Wecc household clients no longer burn or dump their trash, reducing pollution locally and improving air quality.



“ Local partners know the best way to get things done in their own respective culture...this project has impacted all members of households by reducing the risk of inhaling poisonous fumes emitted from burning inorganic waste as well as eliminating malaria breeding grounds by removing opportunities for water to collect in trash strewn around the community. – Kiana Perez, Field Partner

“ Women and children are now used to the idea of throwing away trash in a waste bin. By providing a solution to safely get rid of trash, we have also made household tasks a bit easier for women and children. – Sidy Kouta Diagne, Project Leader

Photos: Kiana Perez

SUSTAINABILIT-SEA, Philippines



Lupe Dumaguin, Project Participant, with the new guard house behind him

In Bancal Bay,

previously the most productive fishing ground in the Visayan Sea, overfishing has led to decreasing fish catches at alarming levels. The Bancal Bay Resource Management and Development Alliance (BARMDA) heard about a World Connect project up the coast in Catmon that created a marine protected area and ultimately increased biodiversity and fish catch with an investment of \$5,000 in 2016. In 2017, BARMDA received their own grant. With an investment of \$4,370, they built a guard house next to their sanctuary, provided additional training for patrollers, and educated officers of fishing associations on the importance of the sanctuary. In total, 134 people were reached by these orientations, and 90 illegal fishermen have been fined by the patrollers, supporting the financial sustainability of the protected space.

“

This project is important because it is helping the fisherfolk by protecting an important area for fishes. If we are successful in protecting the sanctuary then the fish populations will return and we will have livelihoods for future generations, but this will not be possible without the proper tools for the Bantay Dagat (guards) and if the people do not understand why the sanctuary is important. The people need to understand why coastal resource management is important so that they can be active participants and help protect our resources. This is why this project is so important to our community.

– Lupe Dumaguin, Project Participant

”

ILLUMINATION ENDS LIMITATIONS, Panama



Josefa Chiru and Domingo Cedeño, Project Participants

With an investment of \$4,950

from World Connect, the community of Nuevo Paraiso saw the local primary school and twenty-two households install solar panels. Solar lighting allows children to study longer and teachers, who sleep at the school, to feel safer at night. Solar also allows household-based businesses to stay open longer, and gives families opportunities for shared meals and evenings with friends. This innovation is leading to improved quality of life and social cohesion.

In Panama, 231 panels have been installed across 7 projects with \$31,200 from World Connect.

“

We were able to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary into the night with a house full of family and friends. This is the first year we were able to celebrate like this.

— Josefa Chiru and Domingo Cedeño, Project Participants

”

“

I can now do my homework when I get home from school in the afternoon! Having light in the house is such an improvement and now I don't have to spend my own money to charge my phone, it's free!

— Yasibet Ruiz, Project Participant

”



FUELING ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Every community around the world has creative, entrepreneurial thinkers whose business ideas can transform their communities
- Little investment capital makes it to the most remote corners of the globe, and investors are risk averse with first-time leaders, especially women
- Women earn on average only 60% to 75% of men's wages
- An increase in female labor force participation would result in faster economic growth
- In 2017, World Connect launched 25 economic opportunity projects with \$87,462; women were leaders in 48% of projects and 100% of them employed women

This section takes us from a resourceful women-led soap making enterprise in Guinea, to a creative local milk transporting solution for dairy farmers in Ecuador, to a sustaining juice bar created and run by developmentally disabled young adults in Peru.

Pictured here is a women's textile business, launched with \$432 from World Connect, in Kagunda, Zambia, where 13 women are earning an average of \$520 month. Lister Namalambo Mwinnga, the Project Leader, organized the women of the business to take extra time to fundraise so that 44 children were sponsored and able to attend school.

HELLO DOLLY, Ecuador



Dolores Catucuago demonstrates the container weight she used to carry

An investment of \$2,520

from World Connect was used to build 20 dollies to help female farmers transport 30 and 40-liter milk containers up to 2 km per day. Previously the women carried them on their backs. Due to the newfound efficiency, the association produces 6 times as much milk, they have created a vegetable garden and increased and diversified their livestock. Women have more time for their families, and no longer need a second job to make ends meet. Overall, the quality of life for these farmers has improved. Each farmer's income has increased tenfold, and chronic pain in women farmers has decreased.



“ At first, I used to walk two kilometers twice a day to the milk tank carrying 30-40 liters. Now, with the dolly, it is less stressful and I am not as tired as before. My back used to hurt and now it does not hurt. The cow milk transportation has improved and I also believe the air compressor will help the dolly recipients a lot.
– Dolores Catucuago,
Project Participant

“ The dolly project has helped people in lots of ways; very positive ways. The dollies have given the women more energy; they feel less pain in their back and are happier after delivering their cow milk in the morning and afternoon. This project has supported [San Pablito] families because after the women use their dollies, they are more prepared to help with household chores and help their children during the day.
– Alberto Toapanta, Project Leader

CLEANING UP SOAP, Guinea



Kadiatou Balde, Project Leader, tracking the cooperative's finances

Motivated by the poor quality of soap

that burned the women's skin, the Balal Diamma women's group formed to make and sell a higher quality soap. With a World Connect investment of \$616, a women's soap making cooperative has launched. With training, women have become respected accountants, managers and vendors. All of the buyers have noted their soap is the best that is available and have begun to actively purchase soap from Missira. Other nearby cities have begun requesting to have their soap delivered. Merchants from Labe, a major city in the region, are starting to buy their soap and sell it across the country. The women's income has increased 200%. After witnessing their success, the daughters of the women formed a group to encourage each other to stay in school and avoid early marriage and early pregnancy.

“

The project has helped us in so many ways. People only buy soap here now. We always have soap that is better and cheaper. We are making money and the money stays in Missira. This work also makes me happy. I like being a leader and helping the women. I have learned so much. I now know how to run an enterprise and what is involved in running the business, keeping track of what goes out and what comes in.

– Kadiatou Balde, Project Leader

”

7 YEAR SUCCESS, Peru



Project Participants Suzie, Kelmer and their son and Gladys Abanto, Mother of Kelmer

To address stigma

and offer opportunity for developmentally challenged individuals, World Connect invested \$2,207 to launch a juice bar in 2011. The presence of the Soy Productivo Juice Bar succeeded in changing community perspectives on the capabilities of the developmentally challenged. Before the juice bar, participants had no income at all. Today, they see 50 customers a day and earn an average of \$7,462 annually, allowing them to cover medical and prescription costs.



“ You don’t know what this project means to me! Our entire life changed. [My son], Kelmer, became more independent, happier and, as a result, I got my life back and am able to take care of my animals and get involved in other projects. – Gladys Abanto, Project Participant and mother of employee ”



Photo: Julia Haney

ADVANCING HEALTH AND SAFETY

A health center installed power with \$4,454 from World Connect, in Mnazi-Kwemkwazu, Tanzania. Azizi Nanjasye, a Project Leader and head of the laboratory department, dedicated his time-off to dig the trenches for the electrical wires until late into the night to ensure the project's completion.

- Barriers to health often determine whether communities can advance development
- 2.6 billion people don't have access to toilets
- 25% of the world doesn't have access to safe water
- 830 women die each day due to preventable causes related to pregnancy. 99% of maternal deaths occur in the Global South
- 362 million children under the age of five are malnourished
- In 2017, World Connect invested \$92,202 in 40 health projects from latrine construction, to maternity ward development, to water pump installation

This section takes us from Senegal, where one community has outfitted nearly their entire village with latrines, to another that installed an enhanced water system for a health clinic which also helped put out a local fire, to Nicaragua, where mothers no longer need to climb a volcano to feed their children lunch at school.

SANITATION SALVATION, Senegal



Ben Saliou N'Diaye, Project Leader, and Alassane Ndiaye, Project Secretary

When 2.6 billion of the world's

population has no sanitation infrastructure, we see the potential in scaling our approach to building latrines. World Connect visited a sanitation project in 2016 in Dassilame Soce, Senegal and was impressed by how successfully the community used \$5,541 to build 3 well covers, 2 public latrines, and 11 household latrines. A second investment was made in 2017 with \$8,038 to build 23 private latrines and 2 additional public latrines. After only a few months the community reported a decrease in gastrointestinal disease and community awareness and action on sanitation and hygiene improved significantly.

Photos: Julia Haney

“

Something I really appreciate is that our environment is much cleaner. Even our water will be cleaner now, with the latrines and well covers.

– Djioni Senghor, Project Participant

”



“

The community knows what well-constructed latrines look like now, and how to build them. They know how to take care of them now, too. Good sanitation practices are sure to improve over time. The community is very grateful. I'm grateful for the responsibility and experience this experience has given me.”

– Ben Saliou N'Diaye, Project Leader

”

on Tolbert



Project Leader, Dr. Abosede Lewu, and Project Participant, Dr. Mojoyin

“ I just want to say a big thank you to your organization and those that made it possible for us to get educated and tested for free. Prior to [this project], I had never heard of this disease nor checked for any cancer. I also had my blood pressure checked for the first time and it was very high, the organizers immediately linked me to the doctors for further care. From the bottom of my life I thank you and wish upon you God’s blessings.
– Wosilat Ganiyu, Project Participant ”

“ For most of us, we do not know about this test and how [the cancer] comes or what to do to prevent it. We are so grateful that [the test] has been done for free as well because some of us cannot afford this test. I will tell my family and friends all I learned today and make sure I get screened every 3 years.
– Chinenye Kaonyeajiya, Project Participant ”

Worldwide, cervical cancer remains

one of the most grave threats to women’s lives, while it is one of the most preventable. 87% of deaths from this disease are in low- and middle-income countries, with the eight highest rates of incidence all in Africa. With a \$4,996 investment from World Connect, a local organization, Girlsaide, in Ajegunle, Nigeria educated and screened 250 at-risk women for cervical cancer. Each participant also received educational pamphlets to take home for their friends and family. Within 2 weeks of the project’s completion a new group of women collectively went for a pap smear at the local clinic. Due to their success, Girlsaide attracted an additional partnership and is aiming to educate and screen a total of 3,000 at-risk women in Nigeria this year.

HELLO H2O, Senegal



Taliba Tandian, Project Participant, turns on water for the first time

In Missira Dantilla, an investment of \$500 from World Connect helped repair the health hut and a second World Connect investment of \$3,000 helped purchase a solar powered refrigerator for vaccines and a solar powered water pump for a local water tower that was not functioning. Now, vaccines are deployed and clean water is used in births attended in the clinic. A huge additional benefit is that the improved water pump saved the village from an aggressive fire.



“The water is so good! We are so happy with World Connect for doing this. My wife will give birth in a clean hospital.”
– Sory T., Project Participant

“When I first arrived, I didn’t know how I was supposed to live and work here. There wasn’t water, the vaccines were ruined, and children were getting sick. This has changed how I live and work completely.”
– Sank, Health Worker



CONNECTIONS START AT HOME

Social capital is the value of our relationships. Our families, our communities, our businesses, all of the interactions of our daily lives have value to us. Building social capital within and between the Global South and the Global North is vital for global stability. Without shared interests and resources, there will be little that binds us together as societies, whether those societies are local, or global. At World Connect, we believe that connections, especially social connections, are at the root of progress. Innovations in technology have meant we rely on each other less for our activities of daily living and while there are benefits to increased individualism, social connections promote health and catalyze development. It's not bad to need each other.

World Connect seeds the development of social capital by providing seed capital to ideas that connect – connect people, connect capital, connect societies. Ideas we fund unite people in pursuit of common goals and interests. Greater social cohesion can help stabilize governments, economies, and prevent conflict. In 2017 we worked with 18 schools and 12 community groups in the U.S. and the United Kingdom to launch projects aimed at promoting global engagement and connection within and between the Global North and South, especially among young people. The global engagement of young people is especially vital as we work to find solutions to persistent development challenges worldwide, connect people in implementing solutions, and leave the world more connected, more collaborative, and more invested in a shared future.



FROM PEACE CORPS TO IMMIGRANT ADVOCATE

World Connect made an investment of \$910 to a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer in Washington, D.C. to train local university student volunteers and pair them with immigrants who are applying for US citizenship. Volunteers mentor the citizenship applicants through the application and preparation process, help them study for their citizenship exams, and conduct mock US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) interviews.

“Civic responsibility is an overarching theme of this project. Citizenship comes with enormous privileges, but also comes with very special and important responsibilities. Volunteers and new citizens will be community advocates for the larger ideal of what citizenship means in this country and promote openness and opportunity and the embracing of difference.”

– Megan Barnhart, Local Leader, Washington D.C.

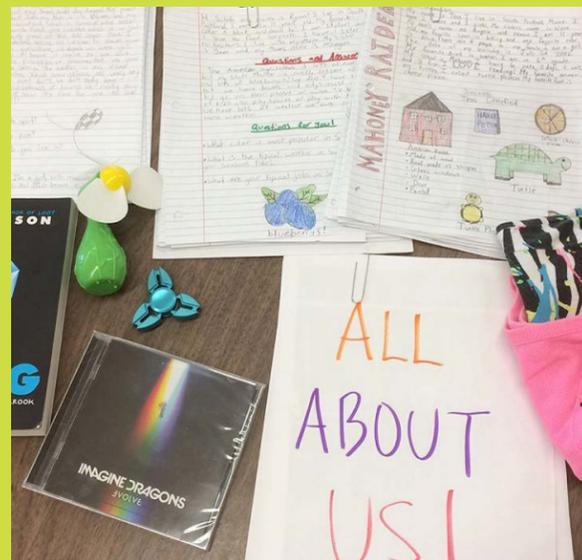


MY PEACE CORPS STORY

Tyler Lloyd, a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, served in Burkina Faso. Following his return to the US, Tyler began to see that every Returned Peace Corps Volunteer he spoke with had a unique story to tell. With \$650 from World Connect he launched a podcast to connect their stories to a listening audience. In its first month, the podcast was downloaded 2,000 times! This podcast is listened to by prospective volunteers, current volunteers, returned volunteers, and anyone interested in the experience of integrating into a new country. Tyler hopes that this podcast will provide prospective volunteers with a better understanding of Peace Corps, current volunteers with the pleasure of hearing other volunteers' experiences (across the globe and decades), and returned volunteers with a connection to the Peace Corps community. Importantly, the My Peace Corps Story podcast will provide an opportunity for friends, family, and anyone with access to the internet to learn more about Peace Corps: the volunteers, projects, countries, and cultures.

FROM MAINE TO SAMOA

With \$481 from World Connect, the cultural exchange program between 100 US sixth graders at Mahoney Middle School in Portland, Maine, and 30 Samoan seventh graders exposed students to different customs and lifestyles, cultivating a sense of global citizenship, and providing a starting point for future learning topics in the classroom. Students contributed items to a “culture box,” created videos, and wrote letters to be sent to their international peers. This activity allowed students to reflect on what defines their cultural identity and how this compares with others around the world. Leaders of this program believe this experience has not only contributed to students' awareness and appreciation of another culture, but also sparked an interest in exploring other places.



“My Samoan students were able to connect with American students in a way that otherwise never would have been possible. It was amazing to see the students' passion for exploring new cultures. This project motivated the students to continue their education, so that they can one day venture outside of the village and see what the world has to offer!”

– Sarah Brown, Peace Corps Samoa

“Our students developed empathy and understanding of children on the other side of the world by establishing personal relationships and uncovering both common interests and cultural differences.”

– Elizabeth Gartley, School Librarian, Mahoney Middle School

6 YEARS AND COUNTING

Sage School is an independent school located in Foxboro, MA for academically advanced students in grades Pre-K through 8. Sage has partnered with World Connect and hosted Great Coin Races for the past 6 years! For the 2016-17 school year, in addition to their Great Coin Race, Sage students started a soap fundraiser, making and selling soap to raise funds and awareness for a World Connect project in a Tanzanian primary school.



With an investment of \$2,874, this project developed a water supply system, enclosed the school's kitchen facilities, and renovated the damaged faculty restroom. This will allow the school to reduce its vulnerability to infectious diseases. All ten teachers at the school now have access to a sanitary, safe restroom with a completed cesspit; the 251 students at the school will be able to use a safe, sanitary kitchen space located on the immediate school grounds; and with the new water tank the entire school population now has access to clean, safe water.

FROM MAINE TO ALBANIA

Students at Shore Collaborative in Chelsea, MA, a school for students with special education needs, made and sold muffins to raise funds for an accessibility project Kukës, Albania.

In Kukës, one of Albania's poorest regions, a youth group was mobilized to build ramps in front of public buildings and popular intersections to rehabilitate Kukës' civil infrastructure. The construction team was able to more than double its initial estimate of 65 ramps by recycling existing materials in sidewalks and minimizing waste materials. With an investment of \$4,378, 150 ramps have ensured a level of handicapped accessibility in Kukës not even seen in Albania's capital, Tirana.

“The project has contributed to improved mobility for all citizens and specifically it brings a qualitative change for children, women using child strollers, people with special needs, wheelchair users and elderly. We believe that the intervention creates a safe zone for those users providing more to those vulnerable.”

– Lavdrim, Local Leader





Photo: Natacha Weiss

MEET DEBI & MIKE ANDERSON

Debi and Mike Anderson have supported World Connect since 2015. Their family founded ZinPro, based in Minnesota, a mineral company where they value improving people’s lives and contributing to society. Through research, charitable contributions, community service, and education, ZinPro is dedicated to sustainable solutions across the globe. By supporting World Connect personally and through their company, they see the possibility of building a better world, connection by connection.

Debi traveled to Rwanda with World Connect in 2017, where she visited a women-led bakery that brought together a community divided by genocide, a farm cooperative that raises funding for unpaid health workers, and a project where girls, who couldn’t afford sanitation products, were learning to sew their own menstrual pads to use and generate income.



With even a small grant to a grassroots program, it is possible to create real change that is difficult for large charities to match. World Connect continually seeks out viable projects and is conscientious in overseeing their projects through to success. Traveling with World Connect allowed me to see firsthand how committed they are with putting their statements into action. I quickly understood how much they value working with knowledgeable and ambitious local leaders. The most effective way to impact global development is to partner with, support and teach people within their own communities. World Connect delves into diverse projects and continues to widen their global investment and reach. We are proud of the measurable growth, impact and achievement of the grassroots programs being supported.

– Debi & Mike Anderson



Debi, second person from the left, visited the Action for Women Bakery in Rwanda in November 2017 on a World Connect trip.



Debi and Mike Anderson at World Connect’s annual dinner.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

\$100,000+

Debra and Mike Anderson
Tim Disney
Maura McCarthy and Bill Haney

\$50,000-\$99,999

Leslie and George Biddle
Abigail Disney

\$25,000-\$49,999

Kim and Paul Broder
Elena and John Coumantaros
Barbara and Michael Eisenson
Edwina and James Hunt
Karen Wang and Paul Kwan
Kristen Anderson Lopez and Robert Lopez
Shelly and Tony Malkin
Jennifer and Sean Reilly
Marilyn and James Simons

\$10,000-\$24,999

Joan Bingham
Clara Bingham and Joe Finnerty
Heather and Andrew Boyd
Linda and Ed Cabot
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Gregory Hockman
Ashley Holpp
Kimberley Huffman
Linsey Hughes



Attending our Annual Benefit Dinner in NYC allows guests, local leaders from our projects, and staff to be encapsulated by the good going on in our world and discuss how to best invest in a better tomorrow.

Anne Huneke
 Cathy and Ben Iselin
 Aliya Itzkowitz
 Mary Gwen Jahnke
 Kippy Joseph
 William Kadish
 Judith Keefer
 Jeannine Kerr
 Laura Khro
 Joanie Kim
 Kim Martin Korda
 Brittany Kramer
 Laura Kriska and Patrick Gunn
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 Catherine Levitt
 Rebecca Lewis
 Judith Lindbergh
 Chris Lindsay-Abaire
 Joan Loughnane and Tim Callahan
 Christy Lowe
 Anne Madoff
 Ida Makansi
 Charlotte Mao
 Guillaume Marceau
 Wayne Margolies
 Kathleen McCarthy
 Laura McVey
 Miwa Messer
 Allison Miller
 Josh Miller
 Pamela Nathenson and Eyal Rimmon
 Sally Jill Nathenson-Mejia and Enrique Mejia
 Peter Newman
 Carol and Stuart Oken
 Talia Orencel
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 Bari Ramberg

Hannah Reeve
 Stacey Reiss and Ross Intelisano
 Dallas Rexer
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 Jennifer Rogers
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 Kash Sree
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 Kathleen Starostka
 Parker Tyler
 Jade Vasquez
 Amy Waldman
 Vanessa Ward
 Camilla West
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INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

\$100,000+
 Dean Anderson Family Foundation

\$50,000+
 California Community Foundation
 Emerging Markets Charities Benefit

\$25,000-\$49,999
 The Baton Rouge Area Foundation
 The Broder Family Foundation
 The Ripple Foundation
 Marilyn and James Simons Charitable Fund

\$10,000-\$24,999
 Angel Foundation
 Jerome and Dolores Zuckerman Gewirtz Foundation
 Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation

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 Arnold Littlefield Charitable Fund
 Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation
 The Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans Foundation

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 Gross Family Foundation
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 Taconic Community Foundation
 The Trevor Family Charitable Trust

\$500-\$999
 Blum Family Foundation
 Colby College
 Nadeau Family Foundation
 Ruggles and Hunt
 The Bo Foundation

SCHOOL PARTNERS

Bay View Academy
 Blake Middle School
 Community Partnership Charter School
 Cothill Educational Trust
 Ellis English Language Learners and International Support Preparatory Academy
 Flushing International High School
 Hathaway Brown School
 McCall Middle School
 Newton North High School
 Poly Prep Country Day School
 PS 321
 Sage School
 Shoreline Collaborative
 St. Bernard Academy
 The Brearley School
 The Chapin School
 Wayland High School
 Winchester Middle School



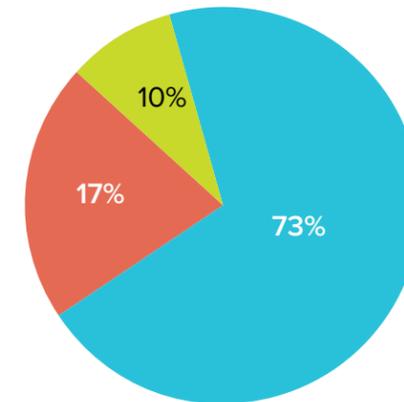
Each year, donors have the opportunity to **travel with us to project sites** to see the impact firsthand. In 2017, we visited the Dominican Republic, Senegal, and Tanzania, met local project leaders inspiring and mobilizing their communities, and creating connections between investors and implementing sites.

With our model, **a few hundred dollars can change hundreds of lives.** So, we analyze, invest in and monitor each project like every penny counts. Because every penny does count. With the support of our donors, World Connect was able to launch 126 new projects in 2017 across 16 countries with \$404,936.



2017 FINANCES

2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (AS OF DEC. 31)



- Program Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising

*Excludes \$112,522 In-kind donated services, included in Total Expenses

ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 133,908
Contributions Receivable	\$ 263,354
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 17,682
Other Assets: Website and Logo	\$ 150,953

Total Assets **\$ 565,897**

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 31,473
Grants Payable	\$ 161,025
Due to Related Party	\$ 50,000

Total Liabilities **\$ 242,498**

NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$ 80,398
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 243,001

Total Net Assets **\$ 323,399**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$ 565,897**

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Contributions and Grants	\$ 931,073
Special Event Revenues	\$ 271,449
Donated/In Kind Services	\$ 263,475
Other Revenue	\$ 9,227

Total Support and Revenue **\$ 1,475,224**

EXPENSES	
Program Expenses	\$ 854,349
<i>Supporting Expenses</i>	
Management and General	\$ 295,874
Fundraising and Development	\$ 134,525

Total Expenses **\$ 1,284,748**

Change in Net Assets **\$ 190,476**



LECOLE BILINGUE
YOUTH INSPIRATIONS ACADEMY
EN COLONIE DES VACANCE
Summer Camp
Juillet 2016

ECOLE PRIMAIRE BILINGUE YOUTH INSPIRATIONS ACADEMY

YOUTH INSPIRATIONS
INSPIRATION DE LA JEUNESSE
Bilingual School/Ecole Bilingue

Thank you

Merci
Beaucoup

WORLD
CONNECT

At the Youth Inspirations Academy in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, World Connect made two grants to increase access to education. With \$23,223, the school built two new primary school classrooms. Students don't only learn there; the school has become a safe haven and place of creativity and growth for kids in conflict-affected Eastern Congo. With a growing body of students, new library and sports fields, freshly painted buildings, a media lab, and loads of art supplies, the school provides a unique chance for Goma's kids to explore their creative side and just be kids.

WORLD CONNECT

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*as of 2018

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Broadway Video, Cyber-NY, gyro, Morgan Lewis, Second Bolt, RTO, Allison Prouty, Ben Cushman, Devon Lawrence, Carrie Welch, Catherine Kernie, Jeannine Kerr, Jennifer Conley Darling, Margaret Schilling, and Natacha Weiss