



Dear Friend,

We want to express our gratitude for your continued support of WorldHope Corps. Your commitment has made a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

In this newsletter, we will share highlights of the first quarter of 2023, including messages from our Executive Director and Country Directors, program highlights, special projects, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. We are excited to share our progress with you, from providing clean water and education to organizing community development projects. Your support is critical for mobilizing assets for community transformation, and we are honored to have you as part of the corps.

Let's continue to work together and make a positive impact in our community.

Sincerely,

The WorldHope Corps Team

## Message from the Founder and Executive Director, WorldHope Corps Inc.



This first quarter 2023 newsletter is dedicated to the memory and legacy of **Josephine “Josie” Mae Dittrich**, WorldHope Corps mission volunteer and donor advisor, who passed away in her sleep on May 7, 2023, at her residence on St. Simons Island, GA. (historic British colonial island where John Wesley, future founder of Methodism, first set foot in America in 1735).

As her family reminds me, “Josie was a native of Kansas City and had been a resident of St. Simons Island since 2007. Everyone agrees that Josie was the most beautiful, interesting, enthusiastic, generous, talented, humblest, and kindest person they'd ever met. She was an immediate friend and mother to all and knew NO strangers. Her loss leaves a life-changing void for all who knew her because to know her was to love her.”

Josie was a mission volunteer and generous supporter of WorldHope Corps for many years. She

sponsored special projects and facilitated Women’s Empowerment workshops in Malawi under the direction of Pastor Dennis Singini, Director of WHC Malawi. She traveled with me on at least three group mission trips to Malawi and, in 2015, sponsored Pastor Dennis for a month-long USA “friend-raising” trip to the East and West Coasts of America, to preach and teach, take organizational development training courses, and visit donors.

Upon learning of her death, Pastor Dennis wrote: *“So sad that you are gone. You were a mother ...you always took care of me as a son in every step. Josie, I will never forget you. Oooh it's so painful and a big loss to us all. Eva Dittrich and the entire family, you are in my prayers. Rest in peace, dear Josie.”*



*2012: Josie Dittrich (R) facilitating a WorldHope Corps Women’s Empowerment Workshop in Malawi*

Her family celebrated her life and legacy in a service on May 13: “Josie graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School and attended the Oral Roberts University. She went on to be a missionary, USO showgirl earning a Purple Heart for her service in the Vietnam War, host of an inspirational radio talk show, a

Chaplaincy hotline counselor, and television producer of several Christianity-based productions. Josie worked with CitiHope International and WorldHope Corps to provide aid to underserved global populations, in places such as Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kyrgyzstan, and Haiti. She also individually partnered with the Golden Isles Lions Club to provide eyeglasses for remote villages in Malawi and personally sponsored the housing and education of several girls there”. There is more in the obituary linked [here](#).

I remember her best behind the camera and in the studio editing videos of the children and families in Malawi that moved her so deeply, including our work with the orphans living in the “Shalom zone” in Mzuzu, Malawi linked [here](#).

For more on the mission work Josie cared so much about, visit [www.worldhopecorps.org](http://www.worldhopecorps.org)

Rest in peace, dear Josie. Rise in Glory!



*Josie Dittrich*

**Michael J. Christensen, Founder, WorldHope Corps, Inc.**

## **Message from the Director, WorldHope Corps Malawi, Pastor Dennis Singini**



I am pleased to provide you with an update on our local activities from January 1 to March 31, 2023. Despite numerous challenges facing our country, like the cholera outbreak, Cyclone Freddy which led to multiple disasters in the Southern part of Malawi, and economic challenges to executing our emergency programs, WorldHope Corps Malawi remained committed to our mission of promoting sustainable development and empowering marginalized communities.

WHC Malawi continued to focus on water and sanitation (visiting communities to drill 2 new boreholes in the next few months), and our Hope Scholarship education program. The newly selected student Nester Changala, 20 years old, was admitted into the University of Livingstonia. She completed her two-month bridging program and is expected to start her studies in June 2023 because of the Hope Scholarship program.

I am proud of the work WHC Malawi has accomplished and grateful to our donors and partners for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those we serve.-- *Dennis Singini*

## **Message from the Director, WorldHope Corps Uganda, Pastor Baamu Moses**



On behalf of WorldHope Corps Uganda, I greet you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I come to thank you for the financial donations that have helped WorldHope Corps Uganda carry out activities like community trainings, monitoring scholarships and loan disbursements, and supporting coffee farmers. These programs have made a tremendous change in the community. This can't be taken for granted but we keep thanking God for his providence. May the good LORD bless the works of your hands.

--*Pastor Moses Baamu*

## **WORLDHOPE CORPS MALAWI HIGHLIGHTS (JAN – MAR 2023)**

### **Site Visiting for two anticipated wells**

A site survey was conducted to assess suitable drilling locations for our two new proposed village wells, and to check if the roads were passable for heavy equipment to reach the selected sites.

Due to heavy rains some unpaved roads were washed away, and in some areas the roads were not passable. This caused delays of up to three hours in reaching those sites.

The first site is located in Mwambongo Village and the proposed well is expected to benefit more than 900 people by minimizing waterborne diseases such as cholera and reducing the gender-based violence that arises in many families as a result of the distance of the water sources. We hope to raise enough funds from sponsors to drill this new village well before the end of the year.

The second site at Nkosi village will host the *New Beginnings Well*, which already has two sponsors. Most families in Nkosi village rely on harvesting rainwater in buckets from the roof for drinking during the rainy season. Thanks to our generous donors, the funds for the New Beginning Well were received and a hydrological survey was done during the quarter. Drilling is expected to start in May 2023.



*Current source of water for the people in Nkosi village—a muddy pond*

## Cholera Pandemic Campaign



*Hired van with public system used as a stage to conduct cholera campaigns*

During the first quarter of 2023, WorldHope Corps Malawi implemented a cholera prevention program in three areas 25km away from Mzuzu. The proposal was developed and submitted to the *United Methodist Global AIDS Fund* in the USA. The program involves both preventive measures and water treatment interventions and is set to run for 4 months from March 1 to June 30, 2023.

WHC Malawi provides health education and awareness campaigns to promote good hygiene practices, including: hand washing and the use of clean water and sanitation. A drilled a borehole in the area ensures access to safe drinking water for the communities. The campaigns have so far reached more

than 2,500 people out of the 5,000 targeted for the whole project, and have contributed to a significant reduction in the number of cholera cases in the area. The program also has increased community awareness and knowledge on cholera prevention, reduced cholera transmission cases, and improved hygiene and sanitation practices in the community. The program has received support from 22 village chiefs and group headmen who are encouraging community members to attend and learn from the cholera campaigns taking place in their areas.



*Group Village headmen who are fully in support of the cholera project*

## Strategic Meetings

WorldHope Corps Malawi held strategic meetings to discuss various aspects of their work, including developing relationships to access local funding using the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, advancing education programs such as Hope Scholarships, empowering women and girls, providing clean water and sanitation, and responding to emergencies like Cyclone Freddy disaster which has claimed the lives of over 900 people, many of them children and mothers.

## WORLDHOPE CORPS UGANDA Highlights (JAN – MAR 2023)

WorldHope Corps Uganda has conducted various activities in the first quarter of 2023. These include training in small business marketing, loan disbursements, refreshment training on Shalom Coffee training, and distribution of Hope Scholarship tuition to students in different institutions.

## Marketing Training

During the small business loan reimbursement process, WorldHope Corps Uganda noted that many women lacked marketing skills to sell their products. As a result they were unable to make enough profits to repay their loans on time, causing delays. To address this issue, a suggestion was made to conduct marketing training before the second loan disbursement. Anna Sanyu was selected to facilitate the training, which was sponsored by WorldHope Corps Uganda.

Participants were provided with lunch and a small transport allowance. The training aimed to equip the women with the necessary skills to market their products effectively and improve their business profitability.



*Participants of the Marketing Training*

On March 25, 2023, WorldHope Corps Uganda disbursed a second loan program of UGX 4,500,000 (approx. \$1,200 US) to 14 eligible members who had successfully paid all their dues. This was done to support their small businesses and enhance their sales.

Prior to the disbursement, a refreshment training was conducted to help beneficiaries overcome challenges that may have previously hindered them from repaying their loans on time. The training served as a reminder of the policies that guide loan taking and repayment.

These women are grateful for the efforts that the friends and partners of WorldHope Corps are making to help them achieve their dreams of becoming self-sufficient.



*Some members that received loans*

## Hope Scholarships

During the first quarter of the year, WorldHope Corps Uganda distributed a total of UGX 4,852,000 (approx. \$1,300 US) towards the first term tuition fees for eight students who are studying in different institutions. WHC Uganda also visited some of the schools to check on the progress of the students who

received scholarships, and they were performing well.



*Mirenda Nalunkuma, one of the beneficiaries of the Hope Scholarship*

## Shalom Coffee Training

A coffee training was conducted and a Muslim representative from the Salaam Coffee Cooperative was invited to advise participants on growing, harvesting, and storing quality coffee that can compete on the international market. The representative also encouraged members to join the *Source of the Nile Shalom Cooperative* to benefit from marketing and additional training opportunities for their coffee. Several new members registered for membership in the cooperative.



*Shalom Coffee training in session*

## Visit to Katikara Trading Centre

WorldHope Corps Uganda organized a three-day trip to Katikara in Bukomero District to check on WorldHope Corps projects there. Pastor Mukiga and his daughter Agness Nyangoma warmly received the Director of WHC Uganda, Baamu Moses. He visited the Community Nursery and Primary School in Katikara where 350 pupils are currently enrolled. Pastor Mukiga and his staff expressed gratitude for the new shoes that WHC donated to all their students. The community boarding school has twelve teaching staff and five support staff.

## Closing remarks

Thank you for reading this issue of our newsletter. We hope you have found it informative and useful. Please check out the previous issue of our newsletter [here](#).

We value your feedback and suggestions, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any thoughts or questions [here](#).

And thank you for your continued support. We look forward to connecting with you soon. In the meantime, please continue to support the work of WorldHope Corps by donating [here](#).

Or send your contribution by check to:

**WorldHope Corps, Inc. P.O. Box 6241, San Diego, CA 92166**