



DEVELOPING  
WORLD  
CONNECTIONS

Annual Report 2024





## Celebrating Our People and Purpose

When I started at Developing World Connections in 2014, the organization had already established itself as a reputable provider of international volunteer opportunities. While voluntourism was increasingly viewed as either ineffective at best, or a neo-colonial enterprise, at worst, I was impressed at the thoughtfulness that DWC put into ensuring that volunteers were all contributing to initiatives whose benefit in the local community would long outlast the volunteers' time in-country.

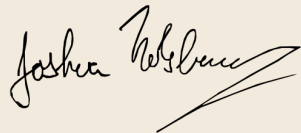
Ten years later, despite global financial crises, pandemics, civil unrest and natural disasters, DWC's volunteer program is still channeling people's desire for a meaningful adventure into projects that meet real needs in the developing world. In 2024, DWC sent 165 volunteers to nine different countries, working on projects that ranged from classroom construction to the training of woman and girls and the distribution of menstrual health kits.

In the first few years of my time at DWC, the board of directors gave us the mandate to begin planning and implementing development projects that did not include or rely on volunteers. Initiatives like our gender-based violence project in Sri Lanka, or our food security program in Kenya. These projects are funded by some incredibly generous donors and implemented directly by DWC and our local partners. This evolution allowed DWC to continue to have an impact when our volunteer program was on hold throughout the pandemic. Looking forward, any time a natural disaster or crisis occurs that might prohibit us from mobilizing and sending volunteer teams, this line of programming will ensure that we are still able to make an impact.

Today, it's incredibly rewarding to see both our volunteer program and all of our other projects come together, allowing DWC to be even more effective. Thank you to all of our generous donors and volunteers. None of this would happen without you.

Finally, I am continually reminded that the passionate staff and volunteer project officers that I work with everyday are the engine behind the great things that we do. A huge thanks to you for your talent, dedication and commitment to DWC's mission. In addition, I'd like to thank DWC's board of directors for their valuable time, guidance and support.

I'm excited to see where we will take DWC next,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joshua Molsberry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joshua Molsberry, CEO

## Our 2024 Impact at a Glance

**168**  
**VOLUNTEERS**

**15**  
**TEAMS**

**11,720**  
**HOURS**



**5**  
FLOATING  
HOMES



**10**  
MOTHERS' TRAINING  
AND EDUCATION



**100**  
CLEAN  
COOK STOVES



**2**  
SCHOOL GARDENS  
FOR MEAL PROGRAMS



**1**  
WOMEN'S  
CENTRE



**1**  
SCHOOL  
WATER SYSTEM



**6**  
SCHOOL  
CLASSROOMS



**98**  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
FOR GIRLS



**12,920**  
MEALS  
FOR STUDENTS



**22,420**  
SCHOOL  
BUS RIDES



**70**  
STUDENTS  
TUTORED



**500**  
CLINICAL SERVICES  
FOR CHILDREN

# Staff And Governance



**JOSHUA MOLSBERY**  
CEO



**KATJA ROBERTS**  
Controller /  
Operations Manager



**LISA NELSON**  
Senior Finance  
Coordinator



**MARILYN CAMPBELL DAVIS**  
Donor Engagement Specialist /  
Fund Development



**JOY DEMSEY**  
Volunteer  
Program Manager



**JODY TIPPETT**  
Communications  
Manager



**ANGIE CAVANAUGH**  
Administrative Coordinator



**ELYSE MARLO**  
Administrative  
Coordinator



**JENNY ONOFRE**  
Administrative  
Coordinator



**RUSS CARMICHAEL**  
Projects  
Officer



**DAVID LYON**  
Projects  
Officer



**MICHAEL LOETERS**  
Projects  
Officer



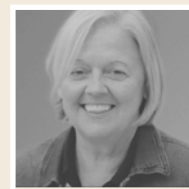
**BRITTANY PEPPER**  
Projects  
Officer



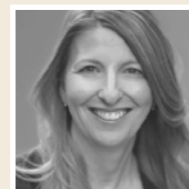
**ANDY CLARK**  
Projects  
Officer



**DAN MILLER**  
Past Chair / Director



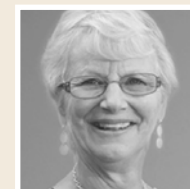
**LISA LAKE**  
Chair / Secretary



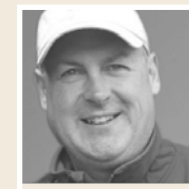
**LISA FULLER**  
Director



**CRAIG TAYLOR**  
Director



**TERRY-LYNN STONE**  
Director



**HAGAN AINSWORTH**  
Director

The strength of Developing World Connections lies in the people behind it. To all those who help power our mission: thank you. We see your work and we are endlessly inspired by your belief in a better, more equitable world.

We are grateful to our dedicated staff, project officers, board members, volunteers, and partners who continue to drive our mission forward. Your passion, talent, and commitment make a real difference in the communities we serve—thank you for being the heart of DWC.

This year, we acknowledge the contributions of Lisa Fuller, who stepped down from the board after years of meaningful service. Also of note, Hagan Ainsworth, a board director and marketing communications professional, has taken a temporary leave to work directly with our staff on scaling DWC's marketing efforts during this exciting time of growth.

Let's keep building—together.

# Where We Work

## ASIA



## LATIN AMERICA



## AFRICA



# Our Host Partners

Nepal	Creating Possibilities
India	Sayhog   Jatan
Sri Lanka	Slcdf
Philippines	Rise Above
Cambodia	Bridge Of Life School

Guatemala	Open Windows Foundation
Costa Rica	Mar A Mar
Peru	Ifejant

Liberia	Universal Outreach Foundation
Kenya	Access Kenya

## Our Projects



In Guatemala, over half of families cook with open fires, leading to serious health risks, especially for women and children. DWC's LUG program provides efficient, vented eco-stoves that reduce smoke, lower wood use, and improve health, safety, and quality of life while preserving local forests.



Now in its eighth year of support from Urban Systems Foundation, San Jose Obrero school in Villa Maria del Triunfo continues to transform lives through expanded learning spaces, reliable transportation, nutritious meals, and teacher training—helping students stay in school and thrive in one of Lima's poorest communities.



Every Girl supports scholarships, menstrual kits, and safe learning spaces to help girls overcome barriers that limit access to education. By addressing these challenges, the program improves health, well-being, and opportunity—proving that when one girl is empowered, her future, and her community's, can change forever.



DWC's Emergency Response program provides immediate aid—food, water, and medicine—to families in crisis after disasters. Essential supplies, services and community initiatives help low-income families rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.



Once water-rich, India now faces a growing crisis. Climate change and poor resource management have left land barren and communities struggling. This program restores water access and supports farmers in turning dry, depleted land into fertile, productive farmland—bringing hope and sustainability to regions in urgent need.



Hand Up for Education removes barriers to learning in underprivileged communities, improving academic and social outcomes. By providing schools with clean water, sanitation, and safe learning environments, we address low attendance, poor literacy, malnutrition, and behavioral issues, helping children thrive despite challenging circumstances.



DWC's Raise the Roof program addresses housing poverty by providing durable shelter and improving living conditions. By ensuring access to safe, sanitary homes with reliable utilities, the program enhances family well-being and supports long-term efforts to break the cycle of poverty in developing communities.



DWC's WASH program tackles global water and sanitation challenges by providing sustainable access to clean water, improved sanitation, and better hygiene. This initiative reduces water-borne diseases, supports health and education, and enhances overall well-being, helping communities thrive while preventing the spread of illness and improving livelihoods.



DWC's Community program addresses local challenges through infrastructure development in education, economic growth, technology, and culture. Community centers serve as hubs for learning, workshops, and cultural events, fostering a sense of belonging and ownership, and empowering residents to actively contribute to their community's growth and well-being.

## Costa Rica Maternal Health Clinic Renovation

### Renewing Care for a Community

Total Investment: \$36,275.00 ■ 11 Volunteers ■ 1 Team ■ 880 Volunteer Hours

*Along the winding trails of El Camino de Costa Rica, rural communities often feel overlooked, their economic opportunities limited. Through our partnership with Asociación Mar a Mar, DWC is changing that narrative by supporting sustainable tourism and vital infrastructure.*

In 2024, DWC's focus on Costa Rica turned to a cornerstone of care: the Cimarrones Maternal Health Centre in Limón province.

For over 250 families, this centre is a lifeline, offering nutritional support and maternal health services. Yet, it had struggled with crumbling facilities, frequent theft, and inaccessible spaces. In November, our volunteers rolled up their sleeves alongside local tradespeople, painting walls, installing plumbing, and building an accessible washroom and secure storage area. Together, we transformed a worn space into a safe, welcoming haven.

This renovation means more than bricks and mortar—it's a promise kept to mothers and children who deserve care they can rely on. By enhancing safety and accessibility, we are easing burdens and strengthening a community's heart. In rural Costa Rica, where poverty and inequality linger, this work reflects our commitment to lasting well-being.



#### WHERE CARE BEGINS

The renovated maternal health centre is a cornerstone within a community grateful for care made possible.







## BUILDING FUTURES

Education for Life is a collaborative effort to improve educational access, infrastructure, and student well-being at San Jose Obrero School where poverty significantly impacts learning opportunities.



Peru Classroom Construction ■ Nutrition ■ Transportation | Social Support

## Building More Than Classrooms

Total Investment: \$300,155.00 ■ 41 Volunteers ■ 4 Teams ■ 2800 Volunteer Hours

*DWC partners with the Peruvian organization IFEJANT to support San Jose Obrero School, which is in an underprivileged community outside of Lima. The school has been at full capacity, prompting efforts to build and improve classrooms to accommodate its growing student population. Overall, DWC's partnership with IFEJANT and its projects at San Jose Obrero School contribute to both infrastructure development and social support for students, making a lasting difference in the community.*

### SCHOOL EXPANSION

Our 2024 volunteer teams travelled to the school to construct much needed classroom space. Their work included tasks like digging, bricklaying, painting, and mixing cement.

Beyond construction, volunteers engage directly with students by assisting in programs like meal distribution and student transportation. These interactions foster meaningful connections between volunteers and students, enriching the experience for all. Additionally, home visits allow volunteers to witness the challenges families face, deepening their understanding of the social and economic barriers that students must overcome to receive an education.

The impact of DWC's work at San Jose Obrero School has been significant. Volunteers often describe their experience as transformative, noting that while they initially come to provide physical labour, the most profound impact comes from the relationships they build and the cultural exchanges they experience.



# Peru

## EDUCATION FOR LIFE

*Education for Life is the result of a six-year collaboration between DWC and Urban Systems Foundation, local community leaders, the IFEJANT team, and mothers, addressing many academic and social challenges faced by students aged 6-18 at San Jose Obrero School in Peru.*

*This program uses a holistic approach to address practical challenges like high transportation costs, the difficulty of commuting to school, inadequate nutrition, access to technology and supplies, and poor school infrastructure. By tackling these issues, the project aims to reduce barriers to education, promote mental health, and improve the overall quality of life for vulnerable children and families in the district.*

Corporate employees built and renovated classroom space and expanded production room for baking classes, enabling students to learn vocational skills outside regular school hours.

With a lack of digital access among students (only one in 300 had a computer), a classroom was equipped with a computer, internet, and printing services. A tutor provides small-group instruction.

Workshops and group sessions on mental health were introduced. Students and families have received counseling for issues such as domestic violence and economic hardship. Social activities like chess clubs were introduced to foster engagement and emotional well-being.

The nutritional component has been expanded to serve daily breakfast to 70 students, nearly doubling its previous capacity. Local mothers trained in nutrition, help improve dietary habits at school and at home.

Many students in the region face challenges reaching school due to difficult terrain and long walking distances. The bus program now serves primary and secondary students with safe and reliable transportation so they can attend regularly. By providing this support, more students benefit from educational opportunities in this underserved area.

In 2024, ten local mothers were supported to finish secondary education or technical training, giving them a stronger foundation for future opportunities.

Future plans include more classrooms for the growing school population, additional washrooms to improve student health and increased privacy, particularly for female students, and to build a covered outdoor recreational space for staff and students.



## MULTIFACETED TRANSFORMATION

Education for Life is a corporate sponsored DWC program at San Jose Obrero School in Peru. This initiative is breaking barriers to learning and creating lasting impact for students and families.





## TRANSFORMING DAILY LIFE

A new clean cook stove means a healthier home, savings on fuel and preparing meals with ease for this mother.



**Guatemala** 100 Eco Stoves ■ 1 School Classroom ■ 56 Scholarships

## Lighting Up Lives and Learning

Total Investment: \$172,705.00 ■ 33 Volunteers ■ 3 Teams: ■ 1660 Volunteer Hours

*In Guatemala, where underserved communities dream of better days, DWC is a steady partner in building brighter futures. From cleaner air in homes to expanded classrooms and scholarships for girls, our projects in 2024 touched lives with hope and possibility.*

### LIGHT UP GUATEMALA

For nearly a decade, we have partnered with the Open Windows Foundation to bring clean cook stoves to families in need. This year, we delivered 100 stoves: 25 in May, and 75 in October. These stoves reduce indoor air pollution, easing coughs and improving health outlooks for entire households. For families cooking over open fires, this is a quiet revolution in sustainability and care.

### OPEN WINDOWS CLASSROOM EXPANSION

Education is a ladder out of poverty, and we are making it stronger. At the Open Windows education center, our volunteers helped construct a second-story classroom, opening doors to after-school tutoring and skills programs for more students. With every concrete block placed, we're expanding opportunity, ensuring kids have space to learn and grow.

### EVERY GIRL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For young girls pressured to leave school early, our Every Girl Scholarship program is a lifeline. By funding uniforms, supplies, and fees, we are keeping them in class, empowering them to shape their own futures. In a country where education can break poverty's grip, these scholarships are an investment in dreams.

## Kenya Food Security for 600 Children ■ 2 Classrooms

# Nourishing Minds and Futures

Total Investment: \$76,940.00 ■ 9 Volunteers ■ 1 Team ■ 720 Volunteer Hours

*In Naro Moru, Kenya, poverty and climate change test families daily. DWC partners with ACCESS Kenya to plant seeds of change. Through education and health projects, we are building a foundation for students to thrive—starting with full bellies and safe classrooms.*

### FOOD SECURITY IN NARO MORU

Since 2022, our Food Security project has fought malnutrition for over 600 schoolchildren. This year was bountiful with a one-acre fruit and tomato garden, adding fresh produce to lunch plates once limited to beans and corn. Two schools expanded their gardens by half an acre, improving water systems and growing more vegetables. Excess harvests sold at markets help sustain the program, while students, parents, and locals learn about nutrition and gardening. This is a three-year journey toward self-sufficiency—and it's blooming beautifully.

### KIRINYAGA CLASSROOM

At Kirinyaga Primary School, overcrowding and crumbling walls once dimmed learning. A Timbermart corporate team braved rain and rocky terrain to build a new classroom for 40 students. Now, with a stable space, these 7- to 14-year-olds can focus on lessons. ACCESS ensures this gift endures, lifting this community near Mt. Kenya.

### MACHARIA PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

At Macharia Primary School, 218 students once studied in damp rooms and shared dilapidated latrines. Volunteers built two classrooms, modern latrines, and a water system, supporting the new Junior Secondary Program for 11 to 14-year-olds. In a region strained by drought and poverty, where kids often miss school to fetch water, this project—backed by local dedicated parents—offers dignity and a chance to learn.



### IGNITE LEARNING

A new space to learn means students have the chance to focus, grow, and dream bigger—proof that a safe classroom can open doors to a brighter future.







## EVERY GIRL DESERVES A FUTURE

Empowering every step — DWC donors support students in Liberia on a path to opportunity.



## Liberia 18 Scholarships

### Fostering a Community of Scholars

Total Investment: \$16,260.00

*Liberia ranks 176th out of 189 on the UN Human Development Index, with a literacy rate of 48.3%. The education gap between male and female students grows significantly at higher grade levels. The average years of schooling is only 4.7 years. Addressing these disparities is critical in ensuring that girls can complete their education and break the cycle of poverty.*

*DWC partners with Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF) in Liberia to support various development initiatives, particularly in education and economic empowerment. Our key project in this partnership is our Every Girl program, which provides scholarships and financial support to motivated young girls in Monrovia and its surrounding areas.*

#### EVERY GIRL IN LIBERIA

Monrovia, Liberia's capital, is home to over 1 million people and serves as the country's economic and governmental hub. Despite its economic activity, many residents face financial hardships with families struggling to afford school fees, uniforms, and supplies. This leads to high dropout rates, particularly among girls. These barriers to education contribute to a cycle of poverty that spans generations. By funding scholarships, DWC seeks to empower girls through education and create opportunities for a brighter future.

Annual scholarship support provides financial assistance for academic expenses, including tuition, books, and fees. Families contribute towards living costs such as food, housing, and transportation, though additional support is provided when the need is great.

For the Academic Year 2024, funding was allocated for nine elementary students, five high school students and four post-secondary students.

Scholarships are awarded annually based on funding availability and applicant assessments. If a scholarship student is struggling academically, the program provides support and skills development.

With ongoing funding, we aim to expand opportunities for more young girls, ensuring they complete their education and gain the skills needed for a successful future.

## Cambodia 5 Floating Homes

### Hope on the Water

Total Investment: \$92,400.00 ■ 29 Volunteers ■ 2 Teams ■ 1960 Volunteer Hours

*In the rural reaches of Cambodia, near Siem Reap, life can feel precarious for families in Kompong Khleang. Many live aboard fragile boats on Tonle Sap Lake, where access to clean water, sanitation, and stable shelter is a distant dream amid extreme poverty. At DWC, we see their resilience and step in with a solution: floating homes that offer safety and dignity.*

#### FLOATING HOMES ON TONLE SAP LAKE

In 2024, alongside our partners at Bridge of Life, we built five sustainable floating homes in Out Aput Village. These homes—crafted with locally sourced materials, biosand filters, and solar panels—provide more than shelter. They bring security, sanitation, and a foundation for brighter futures. Our volunteers, working hand-in-hand with local tradesmen, transported materials, constructed homes, and launched them onto the river. Together, we watched families—chosen with care by village leaders—stand proudly in their new homes, their smiles reflecting hope.

For a community of 15,000, where makeshift boats were once the norm, these homes offer change. Children gain better chances at education, families breathe easier, and the ripple effect strengthens Kompong Khleang. This is about more than building—it's about fostering resilience and empowering a community to thrive.



#### FLOATING FOUNDATIONS

A family sits in front of their new floating home, built by volunteers who have become part of their story.







## BUILDING STRENGTH TOGETHER

Local women and DWC volunteers working side-by-side on the Women's Centre in Lalpur, Nepal.



Nepal Women's Centre ■ 24 Scholarships

## The Home of Resilience and Self-sufficiency

Total Investment: \$61,370.00 ■ 9 Volunteers ■ 1 Team ■ 460 Volunteer Hours

*DWC has been partnering with Creating Possibilities Nepal since 2013 to implement various infrastructure projects aimed at improving the quality of life for underprivileged communities. Projects typically focus on education, empowerment, and income-generating programs for women and children in rural areas and Kathmandu. Volunteers participate in infrastructure construction projects, such as building schools, or homes and latrines for families in need. These efforts foster strong community bonds as local families actively participate alongside international volunteers. The impact of DWC and CP's partnership has been profound, empowering Nepalese communities with sustainable development opportunities and fostering global volunteer engagement in humanitarian work.*

### LALPUR WOMEN'S CENTRE

The Women's Centre in Lalpur was established to empower local women through education, training, and community-building initiatives. The centre provided literacy classes, health education, financial management training, and access to microfinance, fostering economic and social development. It also served as a safe gathering space and a potential emergency shelter during floods.

This project, in partnership with Creating Possibilities Nepal, supported the Hariyali Mother Group, a women's self-help organization with 26 members, many of whom relied on agriculture and small enterprises for their livelihood.

Construction took place in phases, with volunteer teams working alongside local tradespeople. A December 2024 team completed site preparation and foundation work along with local women and tradespeople.

This initiative will provide long-term benefits for these women, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency in the community.



# Nepal

## A Brighter Future Through Education

### EVERY GIRL IN NEPAL

Our Every Girl program is dedicated to addressing the critical education gap faced by girls in the rural villages in Dang District, Nepal. With the overall literacy rate in Nepal at only 50%, and female students in this region experiencing alarmingly low educational success—only 8% passing their grade 10 equivalent exams—this initiative aims to break the cycle of illiteracy and socioeconomic inequality. Due to high poverty levels, families prioritize basic survival needs, leaving little to no resources for education. Young girls are often expected to remain at home to manage household chores, reinforcing patriarchal traditions that hindered their potential.

This project provides essential support to bright and motivated female students from the most impoverished families in the region.

2024 saw funding for 24 female students for one academic year. This funding ensures that the students had access to necessary academic resources, including computer classes, books, stationery, essential clothing and school supplies. Bicycles were purchased for new students needing transportation support.

Many of the students who received support have been part of the program since its inception in 2020, demonstrating the project's ongoing commitment to educational continuity. For some, this marked their fourth year of funding, while for others, it was their first year of support.

This project was closely integrated with Creating Possibilities' women's self-help groups, which included over 800 women from 25 villages. These groups played a crucial role in identifying beneficiaries and advocating for girls' education within their communities, further empowering women to be active participants in change. The groups worked together to ensure the most in-need students received assistance, reinforcing a community-driven approach to educational support.

Every Girl continues to make a difference in the lives of young girls by providing them with the educational resources necessary to build a brighter future. The need for funding remains critical to ensure that more girls can continue their studies and break free from the cycle of poverty. With sustained support and expansion, this initiative could empower even more young women to achieve academic success and become leaders in their communities.



### TOWARD POSSIBILITY

A bicycle is symbolic of independence and opportunity. With access to vital resources like books, school supplies, and transportation, students are defying the odds.





## Philippines 2 School Classrooms

### Transforming Futures Through Volunteering

Total Investment: \$27,585.00 ■ 9 Volunteers ■ 2 Teams ■ 760 Volunteer Hours

*DWC continues its partnership with Rise Above Foundation Cebu, working together to improve the lives of underserved children and families in the Philippines. This collaboration focuses on sustainable community development, particularly in education, infrastructure, and health initiatives. DWC volunteers are playing a crucial role in supporting young Filipinos by engaging in hands-on project work that directly benefits schools and students.*

#### CLASSROOMS OF CARE IN CEBU

DWC supported Cabasan School in Cebu through two volunteer projects in 2024. Volunteers engaged in a variety of tasks, including painting, activity area construction, and improving water systems to ensure proper sanitation with flush toilets. These efforts help children stay in school and contribute to lower absenteeism rates by preventing illness and malnutrition. Through its partnership with Rise Above Cebu, DWC remains committed to empowering students and strengthening communities, ensuring that education remains a pathway to a brighter future.

Our approach to volunteer project work blends meaningful community support with cultural exchange, providing volunteers with the opportunity to learn new skills, immerse themselves in the local culture, and enjoy leisure time exploring the region's natural beauty. In addition to their physical labor, our volunteers also foster deep, personal connections with the students and local community. Volunteers often collaborate with the children, encouraging them to join in tasks like carrying materials or painting, which helps build a sense of ownership and teamwork. These interactions create lasting bonds and have a positive impact on the volunteers' and community members' experiences.

#### EMPOWERING YOUTH

Under watchful gaze, a DWC volunteer works to bring vibrant life to a classroom at Cabasan School in Cebu.





Sri Lanka 2 School Classrooms ■ Health Clinics for 500 children

## Stronger Schools, Stronger Communities

Total Investment: \$92,945.00 ■ 27 Volunteers ■ 2 Teams ■ 2160 Volunteer Hours

DWC and the Sri Lanka Community Development Foundation (SLCDF) have been in partnership for five years focused on empowering local communities through development projects. A past notable collaboration has been the “No to Gender Violence in Sri Lanka” supported by multi-year funding from Global Affairs Canada. DWC currently sends volunteer teams where participants assist with various community development projects, including home and school construction. Through these efforts, SLCDF and DWC combine local expertise with international support to create sustainable, community-led improvements.

### TISMAPOLA SCHOOL & BERAGALA SCHOOL

In 2024, our focus turned to education, building classrooms to nurture young minds in Tismapola and Beragala Schools. Many schools in rural areas suffer from poor infrastructure and inadequate sanitary facilities, leading to high dropout rates and challenges in attracting qualified teachers.

These projects address these issues by enhancing the learning environment and supporting better student outcomes.

The work at Tismapola Secondary School involved constructing a new classroom for Grade 10 and 11 students, who had previously studied in a shared space with no proper dividers. Noise from this setup disrupted the learning environment. The construction included building walls, a roof, and flooring for a stable, secure, and functional classroom. The Beragala Secondary School project involved completing an unfinished classroom for Grade 11 students to make the existing structure safer and more suitable for use.

DWC teams helped to create more secure and durable classrooms, that will enhance the learning conditions and overall functioning for students and teachers in rural Sri Lanka.



### GIVING LEARNING A LIFT

Volunteers lend some colour to a rural classroom. Improved learning spaces motivates students to focus on their studies.







# Sri Lanka

## CLINICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

In the wake of Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis since independence, families across the country faced devastating hardships. For children with disabilities, these challenges were especially acute. Soaring inflation, medicine shortages, and overburdened public health services meant that access to critical care was not just limited—it was disappearing.

In 2024, DWC partnered with Navajeevana Rehabilitation, an organization with over 35 years of experience supporting people with disabilities in Southern Sri Lanka. Together, we launched a vital initiative to bring multidisciplinary clinical services directly to underserved communities in the Hambantota District.

Thanks to this collaboration, six mobile outreach clinics were conducted in some of the region's most remote areas. These clinics reached approximately 500 children with disabilities, many of whom had gone months or even years without access to the care they needed.

Children received physiotherapy, speech therapy, prosthetic and orthotic services, audiology support, counseling, low vision services, and custom-fitted mobility and positioning devices. For many families, this was the first time they had access to such a comprehensive range of services in their own communities.

Recognizing that support does not end with a single clinic visit, the project also provided transportation, meals, follow-up care, and training for family members and community volunteers. This ensured that rehabilitation could continue at home, long after the clinics had packed up.

## DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

This project has made a profound difference by restoring dignity, hope, and opportunity to children with disabilities and their families.



# Fundraising

## Generosity and Community Spirit Endure

*The spirit of giving remains alive in the hearts of many. Even in times of financial strain and shifting priorities, we have found that donors are increasingly looking for meaningful ways to make a tangible impact. At Developing World Connections, we try to focus on the power of personal connections. By fostering authentic relationships and showcasing the real-world impact of their donations, we are confident that people will continue to support DWC, inspired by the direct, lasting change they can make in the lives of others.*

### GLOBAL VILLAGE

Our Global Village monthly giving program provides DWC with a dependable base of support that allows us to effectively respond to dynamic and evolving situations around the world. Every donation, no matter how small, has the power to make a difference. Even modest recurring donations add up over time, enabling DWC to strengthen our impact and reach more people in need. In 2024, donors generously contributed over \$46,330

### FACE TO FACE

In 2024, DWC launched its first ever door-to-door fundraising campaign as a way to expand public awareness of our mission and fieldwork, particularly among those unfamiliar with our organization. Teams of fundraisers canvassed Kamloops and Vancouver neighbourhoods to secure monthly donations in support of our Global Village program, enabling us to provide support and infrastructure to vulnerable individuals and communities in Latin America, Asia and Africa. This campaign marked a significant step forward in DWC's efforts to grow its monthly giving support base by adding 136 new monthly donors.



### CONNECTING ONE DOOR AT A TIME

DWC's door-to-door fundraisers hit the streets of Kamloops and Vancouver in 2024, engaging directly with the public to grow our giving community.







## TEE IT UP FOR OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Golfers, sponsors, and community supporters came together at our sold-out 2024 tournament to raise a record-breaking \$129,870 in support of DWC's global initiatives—making it our most successful event yet.



## BOSA DEVELOPMENT HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

Bosa Development continued its longstanding commitment to creating sustainable change by championing our Every Girl initiative in 2024. Their leadership and generosity played a critical role in this year's campaign's success. We are proud to announce that a total of \$78,213 was raised through individual donations! With Bosa Development's generous match, the final total reached an extraordinary \$156,688—making this the most successful Bosa Development and DWC holiday campaign to date. Thank you to everyone who made this campaign such a great success.

## VANGUARD DEVELOPMENT HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

During the 2024 holiday season, Vanguard Development demonstrated their ongoing commitment to empowering young women through their partnership with DWC in support of the Every Girl holiday campaign. By pledging to match donations, Vanguard significantly increased the impact of individual contributions. With their generous support, DWC raised a total of \$46,450. These funds directly contribute to scholarships, bicycles, menstrual health kits, eco-stoves and sanitation facilities in vulnerable communities across Guatemala, Nepal and Liberia.

## ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our 17th annual charity golf tournament once again provided an incredible opportunity for DWC to engage with the Kamloops community, raise awareness of our global initiatives, and generate vital financial support. The event continues to draw a diverse crowd of sponsors, business professionals, community leaders, and recreational golfers.

We were thrilled to welcome back Corrigan Financial as presenting sponsor for the eighth consecutive year—one of many local businesses committed to our cause. Through corporate sponsorships, registration fees, auctions, raffles, and other fundraising activities, we not only covered event costs but also raised additional funds to support our programs.

In 2024, the tournament raised a record-breaking \$129,870, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants. Selling out once again, this annual event continues to be a highlight on our fundraising calendar—bringing people together for a meaningful cause in a fun and impactful way.



# Major Donors

## EXCEED ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

As a new major donor, DWC was thrilled to partner with this up-and-coming engineering firm on the installation of a new water system in Kenya. Their expertise and commitment were instrumental in providing safe, clean drinking water to students at Macharia Primary School, significantly improving health and learning conditions. Exceed Electrical Engineering's dedication to sustainable development has made a lasting impact on the community.

## MEAL A DAY OF THE AMERICAS

For the past three years, Meal a Day has enabled us to provide education scholarships and food security to children living in some of the poorest barrios of Latin America. Their unwavering support has ensured that vulnerable children receive nutritious meals and access to education, fostering hope and opportunity in under-served communities. Meal a Day's commitment to alleviating poverty continues to transform lives.

## STOBER FOUNDATION

With the generous support of this new donor, we have addressed water and food security issues in Costa Rica and Peru. In Costa Rica, efforts have focused on the ecologically rich Talamanca Mountains, home to the indigenous Cabécar people, ensuring sustainable water sources for both communities and endangered species. In Peru, we are planning a three-year pilot project aimed at revolutionizing the quality of education in Cusco and Lima, providing children with the tools they need for a brighter future.

## URBAN SYSTEMS FOUNDATION

For several years, Urban Systems Foundation has been the main driver of our Education for Life initiative in Peru, impacting dozens of children and their families. Their support has been crucial in enhancing the quality of education at San Jose Obrero School. Urban Systems Foundation's dedication to holistic development has been transformative for this community.

## RYAN BOSA

The support of Ryan and his firm, Bosa Development, has allowed DWC to radically improve the lives of hundreds of women and girls worldwide. As one of DWC's most generous and loyal long-term donors, Ryan's contributions have been pivotal in advancing our Every Girl program. This initiative focuses on empowering women and girls in Liberia, Nepal, Guatemala, Cambodia, Kenya, and Sri Lanka by improving access to education, clean water, sanitation, and housing. Ryan Bosa's unwavering commitment to social responsibility continues to inspire and effect meaningful change.

# Financials

For the year ended December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Donation	1,548,469	1,281,500
Fundraising	139,465	128,540
Global Affairs Canada	13,709	918,838
Amortization of deferred capital asset	450	-
	<b>1,702,093</b>	<b>2,328,878</b>
<b>Direct program expenses:</b>		
Project:		
Team	397,270	356,008
Program expenses	554,006	1,112,930
Bank charges	31,432	26,393
Outreach	32,816	27,898
Wages and benefits	312,264	335,262
	<b>1,327,788</b>	<b>1,858,491</b>
<b>General and administration expenses:</b>		
Amortization	3,552	4,285
Bad debts	250	-
Donations	-	500
Board expenses	3,668	7,312
Fundraising	114,475	8,119
Insurance	10,894	9,554
Office	25,759	24,159
Professional fees	9,179	45,931
Rental	19,680	19,680
Repairs and maintenance	5,901	9,160
Supplies	3,305	1,353
Telephone	6,548	5,675
Wages and benefits	261,485	185,133
	<b>464,896</b>	<b>320,861</b>
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses from operations</b>	<b>(90,591)</b>	<b>149,526</b>
<b>Other Income (expenses)</b>		
Gain on currency	12,736	(3,558)
Unrealized gain (loss) on marketable securities	-	4,252
Interest Income	8,405	6,900
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	5,881	-
	<b>27,022</b>	<b>7,594</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue expenses</b>	<b>(63,569)</b>	<b>157,120</b>



## DRIVING OUR MISSION

Due to DWC's strong financial position over the last two years, the board of directors approved a budget deficit in 2024 allowing us to make strategic investments in areas that help drive our mission. These included partnering with Public Outreach to run our face to face fundraising campaign, and Sidekick Solutions, to help us overhaul and streamline our CRM software. Given these investments, our administrative costs saw an increase in 2024. We anticipate these costs to stabilize in 2025 and realign indirect costs with direct project and teams costs.

