



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2015





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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MEET OUR PARTNERS

Ryan's Well works with 7 partners in 6 countries; Togo, Ghana, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Kenya, and Haiti. In each country we collaborate with local NGOs. By doing this, we ensure the upkeep of the work we do, and create lasting bonds with the community. Below is a complete list of our partners.

-  **RWIDF (Rukingiri Women Integrated Development Foundation)**
-  **POWER (Pastoralists Organization for Water and Environmental Research)**
-  **HAS (Hospital Albert Schweitzer)**
-  **Divine Waters Uganda**
-  **AED Togo (Action Enfance et Developpement)**
-  **DONA (Dawn of the New Age)**
-  **OCADES Caritas**

To learn more about the incredible work our local partners do, visit our Local Partnerships page.

Ryan's Well had a very busy and successful fiscal year in 2015. We saw the completion of 98 water projects and 66 latrines with permanent hand washing facilities that are now up and running in Uganda, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo and Haiti. This work brought clean water to over 23,000 people. Providing long term sustainable solutions is dependent on solid on-the-ground organizations that can work with the communities they serve. Ryan's Well is lucky enough to be partnered with seven local organizations that are doing incredible work.

Although raising the funds necessary to complete our work has not always been easy, we are a small organization that is punching above its weight class, both in the amount and the quality of work we are able to do. This past year we received donations from people in 45 countries, which is a clear indication that we are recognized as a global leader in what we do. In spite of the incredibly complex world we live in, and the problems we face on a global level, Ryan and the foundation named after him have both garnered worldwide attention due to our optimistic approach in what we do.

We continue to grow and strive to get better in the work that we do each and

every day. As our Project Manager and current acting Executive Director, I would like to thank our volunteer Board of Directors, our volunteers and our small but mighty staff made up of Connie, Joanne, Ryan, and Sophie. This past year's successes would not have been possible without the collective support of my incredible team. Here's to 2016!



Mark Hreljac

Acting Executive Director



# PROJECT UPDATES

## IN 2015 we...



Built our 1,000th well



Constructed our 1,229th latrine



Provided 864,768 people with clean water since our inception



## CHAIR OF THE BOARD REPORT



It was my pleasure and my privilege to serve as Chairman for the Ryan's Well Foundation in 2015-16. It was an eventful year for the foundation. We were fortunate enough to have Ryan serve his first full year as a paid staff member. He has brought his passion, energy, and commitment to the job, just as he did for all those years he worked as a volunteer.

I'm proud of the work we accomplished in 2015-16, providing clean water for people in need, working with partners to train community leaders to maintain the wells, and inspiring people young and old to take up their responsibilities as citizens of the world.

I was thrilled to be able to travel to Uganda in early April and see for myself some of the projects that were completed last year. Our two partners in

Uganda, Divine Waters and Rukungiri Women Rohinda Women Integrated Development Foundation, are so impressive. They work on a shoestring and accomplish so much.

At each well and water source we visited, community committees would greet us - deeply proud to tell us of their work in managing the well and profoundly grateful for the help that flowed to them from so many generous strangers through a small office in Kemptville, Ontario. I want to thank our board members, our staff, our volunteers and, of course, our donors; it's your commitment that makes this vital work possible.

*Shawn McCarthy*

Shawn McCarthy  
Chair of the Board



# RYAN'S REPORT

“When you have a passion and invite other ordinary people to join in, you become a community. A community of ordinary people can do extraordinary things!” -RYAN HRELJAC

2015 was both a worthwhile and productive year. In April I had the opportunity to spend two months in Uganda with our long time partner and Executive Director of Divine Waters Uganda Deleo Ocen. It was an amazing experience to work alongside Deleo and his team, seeing plans come to fruition and learning firsthand about the building and training process our partners implement. The practical skills I gained through this eye-opening experience gave me a more rounded understanding of our project work, and provided me with the ease to speak more knowledgeably on our project work through presentations and interviews representing Ryan's Well.

During the Fall and Winter, I was fortunate enough to travel on behalf of the Foundation to Mexico, Brazil, the United States and across Canada. Sharing our mission statement with so many diverse communities and cultures is a testament to how the Ryan's Well story has adapted and found different ways to evolve and relate to different people! As a speaker, every time I present I feel as though I bring a new

perspective and purpose to the table while (hopefully!) creating more interest for Ryan's Well.

While I spent most of this year travelling from conference to speaking engagement, I was also tasked with taking over the educational aspect of the foundation. Running the School Challenge has been such an exciting experience. Considering I started fundraising for Ryan's Well when I myself was in school, it's been surreal dealing directly with school children, teenagers, and adults who all have the same goal that I did, and still do have. I am pleased to see how our story seems to persist in having intrinsic value for youth all across the globe!

If 2015 is any indication of good things to come, I am eager to see and be a part of what Ryan's Well can achieve in the coming year.

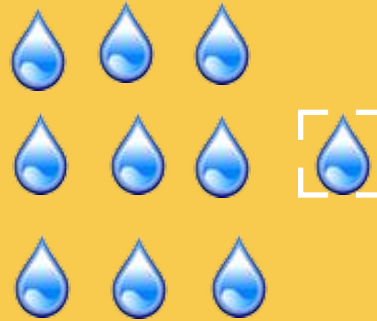
*Ryan Hreljac*  
Ryan Hreljac  
Founder





**Women & Children spend 125 million hours each day collecting water\***

**1 in 10 people lack access to clean water\***



**1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet\***



\*source: www.water.org

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT



The fiscal year of 2015 has experienced many successes regarding the communications department at the Ryan's Well Foundation. We witnessed good traffic on our website and social media platforms. With an average of 53,000 organic followers on Facebook, 5,000 Twitter followers and 800 Instagram followers and counting, we consistently reach a large and engaged audience.

In the way of events, 2015 was definitely fun. We reached the milestone of constructing our 1000th well this year, and celebrated appropriately with the launch of Lalita Krishna of Insync Media's latest documentary,

"Return to Ryan's Well."

Ryan's Well also celebrated International Women's Day by holding a "Women for Women" silent auction event led by our Board Member Kelly Arnott. Having taken place at Stoneface Dolly's in Ottawa, this event was successful at engaging our female donors who make up 45% of our demographic.

Ryan and I also celebrated World Water Day in Chicago by speaking at The Illinois Holocaust Museum's Stand Up Student Leadership Day. While there, we were exposed to over 250 pre-selected students who were passionate about making a difference.

All in all, this year has been a busy

one! Although we're far from close to ending the world water crisis, we're slowly but surely getting there— one well at a time.

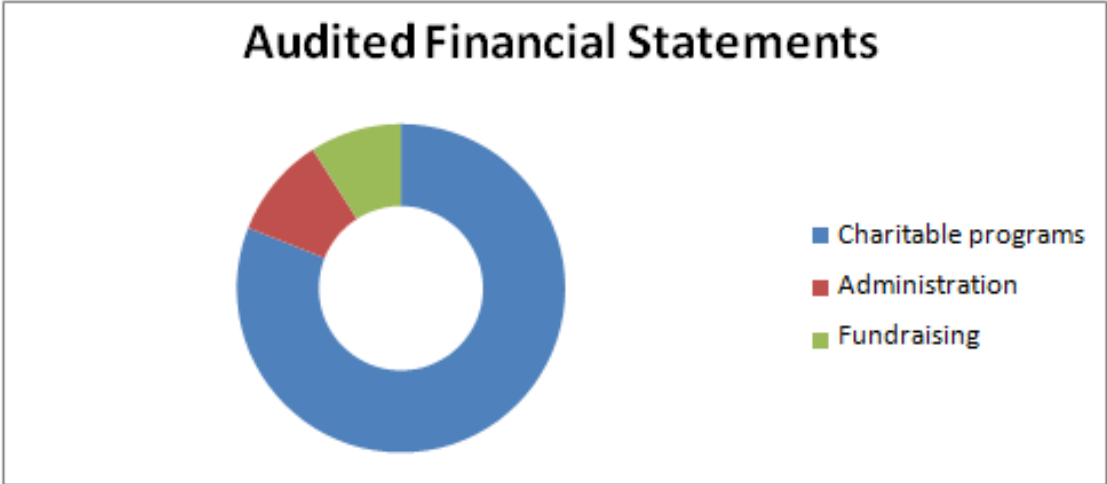
*Sophie Pon*

Sophie Pon  
Communications Coordinator

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

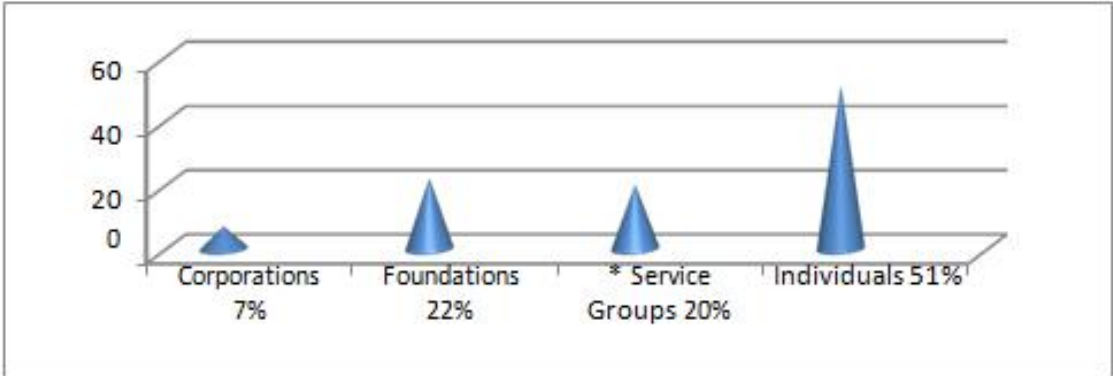
Over the past three years, an average of 81 cents of every dollar donated directly supports our charitable programs. As we continue to examine ways to grow and diversify our revenue stream, we are deeply committed to ensuring donations are directed towards our important mission of improving lives and effecting change in the world. Our small and efficient team is critical to keeping our overall fundraising cost at 9% and our average administration cost remains unchanged over the past 3 years at 10%.

The Foundation's fiscal year runs from April 1st to March 31st. Our annual audit and financial statements are completed by the Firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, Ottawa, Ontario. **Read our 2015 Financial Report.**



### Who Makes Our Work Possible

2013-2015





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Board Members

<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>VICE CHAIR</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>
<b>SHAWN MCCARTHY</b>	<b>SUSAN HRELJAC</b>	<b>SARAH GORE</b>	<b>DEVAN PENNELL</b>

## Board Members

<b>KELLY ARNOTT</b>	<b>JAMES BALL</b>	<b>DERMID O'FARRELL</b>
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# STAFF

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / PROJECT MANAGER**  
**MARK HRELJAC**

**FOUNDER**  
**RYAN HRELJAC**

**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**  
**SOPHIE PON**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
**CONNIE JENSEN**

**ACCOUNTANT**  
**JOANNE SAMS**



# THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

