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# ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



Canadian Registered Charity #888587110 RR0001





**27,957**

*more people now have access  
to clean water*

**100%**

*from June to December 2016, an  
anonymous donor covered all of  
our administration costs*

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER, RYAN HRELJAC

Sometimes you can blink and an entire year just flies by. 2016 was unbelievable in so many awesome ways. I would say it is a combination of refreshing our old roots and forging new paths ahead which has led to so many people around the world getting reengaged, as well as others discovering Ryan's Well, and becoming part of the team. It was no accident that we have just had one of our best years ever. This is the result of countless people's hard work and support from all over the globe. Thank you to everyone who has helped, big or small. It has all been coming together to make a world of difference for so many in the form of clean water and sanitation.

It continues to be my privilege to advocate for the work we do around the world. Travelling throughout Mexico, the United States, Taiwan and Canada has been a whirlwind of talking with students, entrepreneurs and engaged world citizens who aren't willing to sit idly by and let the world's clean water crisis continue to plague our global society. A definite highlight was travelling to our two School Challenge Contest winners this year: Burns

Middle School in Florida and St. Paschal Baylon in California. From these visits, I was able to see first hand that students and educators are clearly engaged and motivated by the work of the foundation.

This year, we continued to impact and inspire thousands of students across the world. Teaching the younger generation is so important for sustainable development. The youth are the future.

Our 2017 year is here. And just like every year I'm excited for the ambitious goals our project work is setting out to do as we look to more work in Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Haiti. In a way, we start over, with the task in front of us of having to work hard to reach the new targets we have set out in front of us. But I know with the hard work of everyone who is a part of Ryan's Well that we can truly make a difference, from our supporters, to volunteers and to those who we have yet to engage in our dream. I can't wait!

*Ryan*  
**RYAN HRELJAC**  
 FOUNDER



Above: Ryan working in the field with our partner Deleo Ocen Moses from Divine Waters in Northern Uganda

**892,725**

people now have access to  
clean water



**16**

countries we've worked in over  
the history of the Foundation



**1,166**

total water projects completed  
by Ryan's Well



**MILLIONS**

inspired by Ryan's story and  
message



# A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our Fiscal Year ended on March 31st, 2017. 2016 was a very special year indeed. A long time donor from the Western United States, who prefers to remain anonymous, covered the foundation's administration costs for seven months, not including a separate generous donation at the start of the year. The KW Cares Foundation, a Texas-based, and longtime supporter of Ryan's Well, was incredibly supportive. Without their gifts, Ryan's Well could not have accomplished nearly as much work.

We continue to thrive due to the generous support of many companies, foundations and individuals, some of whom we are recognizing in this report while others prefer to remain anonymous. This past year was financially our most successful year to date. This will allow us to begin funding the 2017-18 project work immediately, which is beneficial should we encounter unexpected delays such as extreme weather events in the countries in which we work.

We currently have 105 monthly donors, a significant increase from the past. Regular monthly donations are extremely helpful in budget planning. In the coming year, we will be working hard to keep the momentum that we have garnered this past year, and will focus on making it easier for individuals and corporations to support our vital work.

In the past year alone, we have completed 76 water projects, as well as dozens of latrine and hand washing stations at many schools in East Africa, West Africa and Haiti. Our work continues to expand and to improve with experience. Our partners are not only thriving in the work that they are completing, but they are also training and supporting one another, which adds to their own experience in service delivery and increases sustainability. We are currently concluding a "look back" review of work we have completed in Western Uganda since 2004. I look forward to sharing this information as it is compiled. We hope to increase the amount of work we are able to do this coming year. The progress of our current projects will be posted on our website as we begin work in each country.

As for Ryan, he is busier than ever. He has delivered a large number of motivational talks throughout Canada, the United States, Mexico and Taiwan this past year. Our school challenge program continues to grow, with schools from around the globe now participating. Our most recent addition to the Ryan's Well team, Megan Glenn, has complemented our small but enthusiastic staff team very nicely.





ABOVE: Mark Hreljac accepts beaded gifts from Maasai women during a monitoring trip in Kenya.

On behalf of almost twenty-five thousand people who have recently gained access to clean water, I would like to personally thank each and every person who contributed financially to Ryan's Well this past year. Many communities have now received organizational and management training. They have participated in WASH training (water, sanitation and hygiene education). As a result, they are not only in control of their water sources, they now have much greater control of their lives. Our partners do not take the easy road in the communities in which we work. We work together with them to focus on and support areas that are often ignored by local government and larger NGOs.

I am now working with a new complement of additional volunteer board members, including a new board chair, Sarah Gore. I would like to thank Shawn McCarthy, past chair and now secretary, for the significant amount of time and energy he has given and continues to give to Ryan's Well.

Ryan's message is one of hope and optimism. He still very much believes

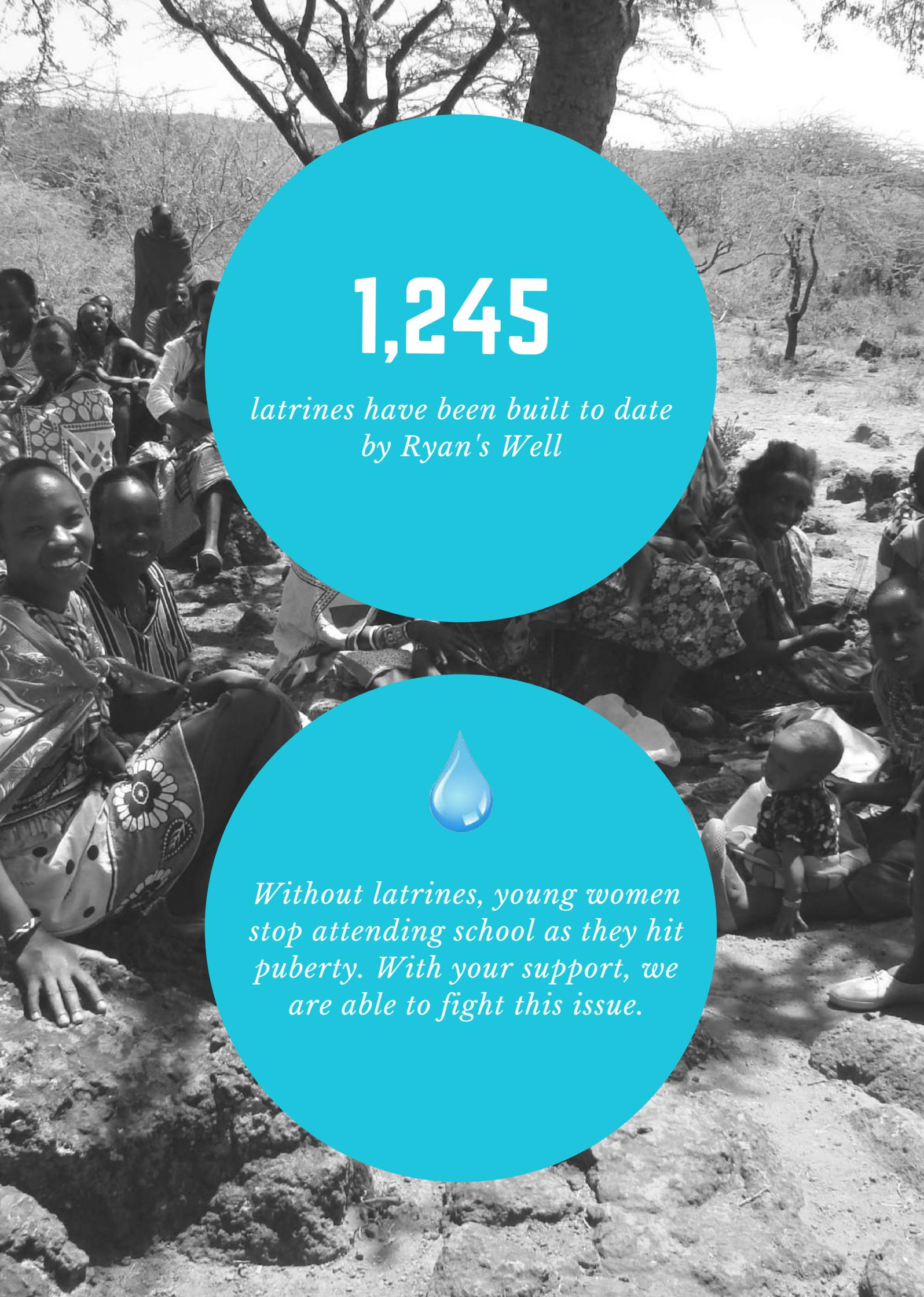
*"On behalf of almost twenty-five thousand people who recently gained access to clean water, I would like to personally thank each and every person who contributed financially to Ryan's Well this past year."*

that anyone can make a difference, no matter their background or age. This message has spread around the world. I encourage you to visit our website and our various social media sites, where you can find information on current and past projects, the countries where we work and the people with whom we work. Because together, we are building a world where people can indeed thrive and follow their dreams. Please do join us and follow along so that you can witness the incredible impact your gift is making in the lives of so many.

With deep appreciation,



**MARK HRELJAC**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



1,245

*latrines have been built to date  
by Ryan's Well*



*Without latrines, young women  
stop attending school as they hit  
puberty. With your support, we  
are able to fight this issue.*

# A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Over the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of watching and being a part of the Ryan's Well Foundation. While the environment for international non-for-profit organizations remains extremely challenging, I have seen the Ryan's Well family come together, demonstrating determination, tenacity and a renewed sense of purpose. This past fiscal year was our most successful ever, thanks in large part to the hard work of Mark Hreljac, our Executive Director and his small but agile team at the Ryan's Well office. While obstacles such as a persistently tough fundraising climate remain present, Mark and the rest of the Ryan's Well team demonstrated a steadfast commitment to bringing clean water and sanitation to some of the poorest people on the planet. In addition, Ryan Hreljac travelled tirelessly around the globe in 2016-17 to promote the work of the foundation and to encourage people to affect their own positive change and, as Ryan himself would say, "To make the world a little more equal." Our build and inspire efforts are stronger than ever!

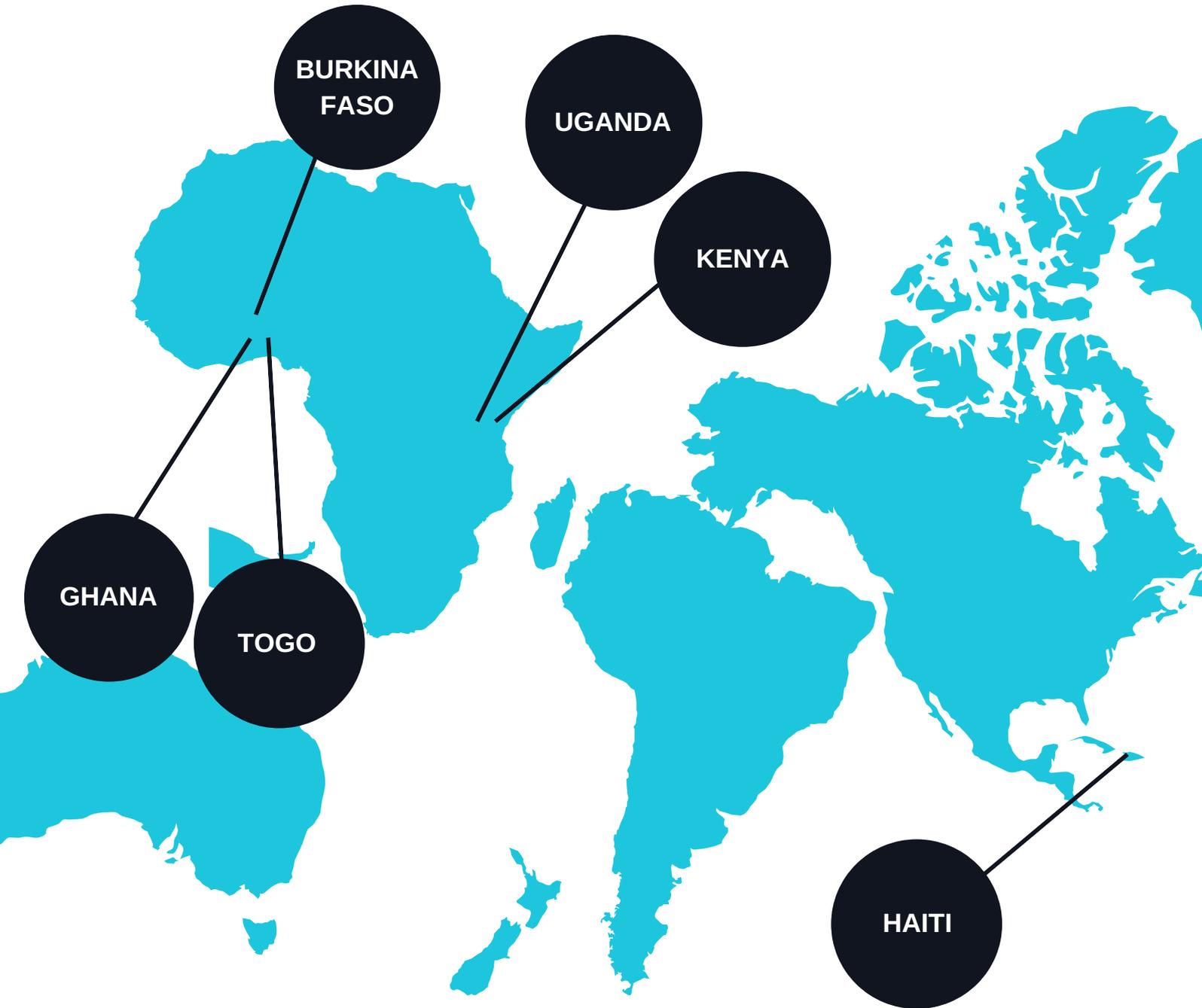
In February 2017, I had the opportunity to see the incredible work of the foundation in Haiti. Although it was heartbreaking to see the devastating effects of Hurricane Mathew, like the spread of cholera and the slow recovery, I did come away with a sense of hope. I was heartened to see the good work of our partners at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in the rural and extremely rugged countryside of the Artibonite Valley. We travelled to 15 of the projects that RWF has supported. We visited wells, latrines and hand wash stations in schools and community centers as well as in the greater community. Here I witnessed firsthand the children and the community members who are now able to access clean water and education on the importance of latrines and hand washing. Without our efforts in this remote and desperate area of the country, I wonder how these distressed folks might survive. But joy on the faces of the young people who are now able to attend school because they have latrines, water and sanitation warmed my heart. They now have hope for a brighter future.

As we move forward into 2017-18, toward the completion of our 17th year as an organization and Ryan's 20th year as a young philanthropist, I am fiercely proud of what the Ryan's Well family has been able to accomplish and I am eager to see what lies ahead. I want to send out my heartfelt thanks to our donors, to our indigenous partners, without whom any of our work would be possible, and to the staff and volunteers who are the vital heartbeat of our small but mighty little organization. May we all continue to work together to deliver access to safe water and sanitation as an essential way to improve the lives of people in the developing world. And may we also continue to empower citizens of all ages to take action to make the world a better place. Thanks so very much for being an integral part of the Ryan's Well Family!



  
**SARAH GORE**  
BOARD CHAIR





# WATER PROJECTS

This map shows where project funding goes around the world. This year we completed 76 water projects in 6 different countries.

# COMMUNICATIONS

I am so proud and fortunate to be working with the Ryan's Well Foundation and am excited to help grow and expand the communications department.

In the past year, our followers on social media have risen on all accounts. We have seen a rise in interest from the younger generation showing social activism online, as we now have 53,514 Facebook followers, 1,241 Instagram likes, 5,287 followers on Twitter, and 1,004 YouTube subscribers.

I have had the pleasure of working alongside Ryan to inspire people of all ages to be agents of change. In January, Ryan traveled to Taiwan to work with students to develop thinking, innovation, and business models to solve social problems. On World Water Day, Ryan and I spoke with students at the Aquatarium in Brockville, ON about youth activism. And due to a generous Air Miles donation, Ryan was able to visit two schools involved in the school Challenge: St. Pascal

*"You're never too young, or too old, to make a difference."  
-Ryan Hreljac*

Baylon in Florida and Burns Middle School in LA.

We have had a very successful School Challenge this past year, engaging 40 schools from 9 countries. We are looking forward to revamping the program with improvements for the 2017/2018 Kenya School Challenge!

Every day here is spent getting one step closer to bringing clean water to every person in the world, and we couldn't reach that goal without your generous support. You're the real MVP.



 **MEGAN GLENN**  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

# STATISTICS

- Surpassed 1000 subscribers on our YouTube Channel
- Saw an increase in followers across all social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube
- Followers on Instagram increased significantly by 55% in the past year
- 180,331 page views on our website from April 2016 to April 2017
- Used Facebook to promote multiple events throughout the year and engage attendees
- Used social platforms to connect with teachers around the world to connect with Ryan via Skype

# SCHOOL CHALLENGE: GLOBAL YOUTH EDUCATION ON WORLD WATER ISSUES

## THIS YEAR...



**127** Schools from **11** countries participated



We visited **35** schools and inspired thousands



Ryan Skyped with **83** Schools around the world



Together, we provided water to **5,250** people in Burkina Faso



The 2017/2018 School Challenge will be in **KENYA**

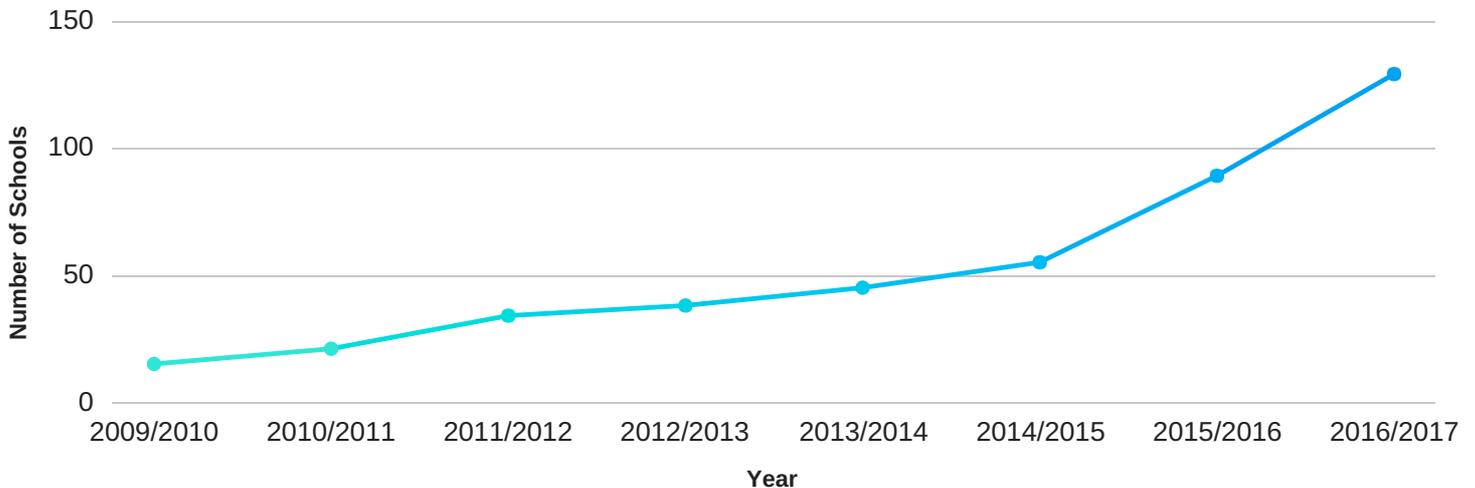


Figure 1. Participants in the Ryan's Well School Challenge from 2009 to 2017.



**ABOVE:** Ryan and Megan visit students at Denton Avenue School in Long Island, New York who dedicated numerous hours to learning about world water issues and fundraising for the School Challenge.

# FINANCIALS

During this past fiscal year, 85% of every dollar spent was used to directly support our charitable BUILD ( water, sanitation and hygiene) and EMPOWER(Education and Motivation) 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 inspiring positive change in the world. Our small and efficient team is critical to keeping our overall fundraising costs at 6% and our average administrative cost at 9%.

The foundations 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.

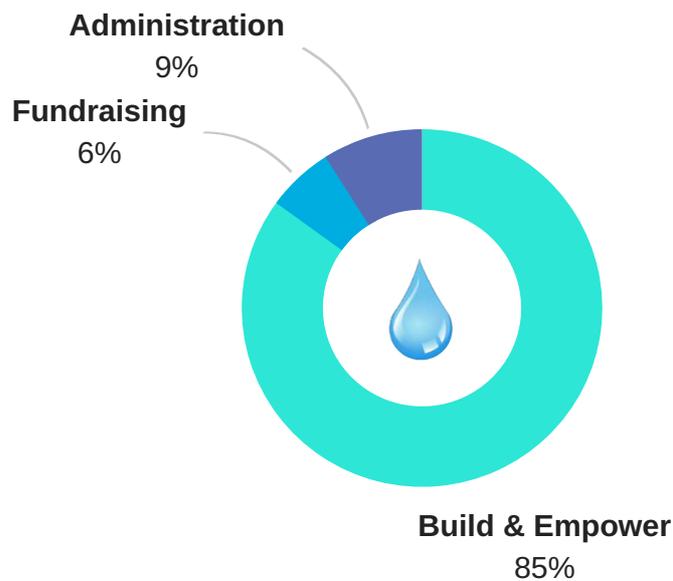


Figure 2. Program, admin & fundraising allocation as a percentage of total expense for 2016/2017

# SPONSERS

Thank you for your generous support. We couldn't do it without you!



The Blossom Foundation

Govfest



# VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHAIR** - Sarah Gore **VICE CHAIR** - Susan Hreljac **SECRETARY** - Shawn McCarthy  
**TREASURER** - Devan Pennell

**BOARD MEMBERS** - James Ball, Kelly Arnott, Kyle Acres, Mark Nowell, Sheldon Wyse, Wendy Zhang

# STAFF

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PROJECT MANAGER** - Mark Hreljac  
**FOUNDER/OUTREACH** - Ryan Hreljac **COMMUNICATIONS/FUNDRAISING** - Megan Glenn  
**ADMINISTRATIVE** - Connie Jensen