

*“Aqua-Africa envisions a day when durable water towers, powered by solar powered pumps, will dot South Sudan...”*

**WE ARE CREATING THAT REALITY.”**

**-Buey Ray Tut**



**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

# Executive Director’s Letter

Greetings!

In spite of continuing civil strife in South Sudan, I am optimistic and excited about Aqua-Africa’s clean water mission. Important changes are taking place in South Sudan, including a treaty with Uganda that could lead to electrification of communities along that country’s southern border. Each new development brings renewed hope for unity and healing. So we press onward.

Several years ago, I dreamed of a day when durable water towers, powered by solar powered pumps, would dot South Sudan supplying clean running water to towns and villages across the country year round, even during the dry season. These “Village Suppliers” would boost local economies and produce healthier lives for the people. With your help, and the help of business partners like Lamp, Rynearson Engineering and Empower Kids South Sudan we are making that dream a reality.

A photograph of the Malakia Village Supplier is shown on the adjacent page. Completed last fall and standing 12 meters in height, the tower possesses a storage capacity of 50,000 liters and can serve 5,000 people per day.

In the coming year we will complete the construction of a Village Supplier system for the community of Nzara and the Episcopalian diocese located there.

As you will read in this annual report, Aqua-Africa’s strategic plans include ongoing joint development work with Water for South Sudan, with non-government organizations who share our water mission, and with Rotary International.

I humbly seek your continued prayers and financial support.

Appreciatively,



**Buey Ray Tut**  
Executive Director



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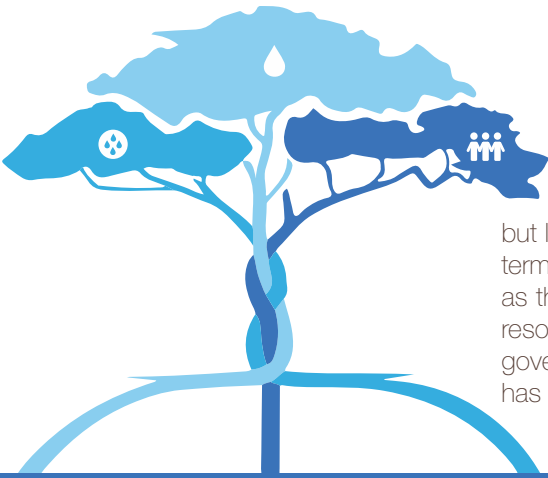
Sustainable development  
begins with  
**LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

**Water  
Committee  
Elections**

Women of Malakia  
community take part  
in Aqua-Africa's  
MicroDemocracy  
training to elect their  
water committee.



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Aqua-Africa provides access to clean water for communities in need — but lending this support is only the beginning. With the ultimate goal being long-term, sustainable development, our approach starts with access to clean water as the foundation. From there, we are able to implement micro-democracy and resource management training and mobilize entire communities to manage and govern their water supply. This type of infrastructure and grassroots democracy has the power to impact the future of the nation as a whole.

# WITHOUT WATER, NOTHING CAN GROW

## CLEAN WATER

Without water, nothing can grow. Yet the distressing fact remains that 345 million people in Africa live without access to clean water. We are committed to changing this. Using two types of delivery systems—hand-pump wells and Village Suppliers that have the capacity to serve 500 and 5,000 residents respectively— we plan to reach a total of 50,000 people by 2022.

## MICRODEMOCRACY

We view our water well projects as just one piece of the plan to help improve life in the communities we touch. Every time we drill a new well, we also facilitate the election of a water committee tasked with maintaining the well. We then train these autonomously-elected committee members to draft and enforce their own policies. Aqua-Africa's microdemocracy starts with governing water usage, but we expect this grass-roots effort to lead to more political participation and better governance overall.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Every time we drill a new well, we need residents to fully understand how best to employ and maintain their new resource to ensure it works properly. Similar to microdemocracy training, we use videos, pamphlets and lectures centered on water extraction and availability. This resource management training is administered community wide, introducing practical methods and environmental awareness that will carry over into other areas of everyday life.



A group of women in a village are working together to dig a long, straight trench in the dry, reddish-brown earth. The women are dressed in traditional and modern clothing, including colorful patterned dresses and headwraps. One woman in the foreground is wearing a light blue dress with a floral pattern. Another woman in the middle ground is wearing a black top and a yellow skirt. The background shows more women working further down the trench, and a thatched-roof hut is visible on the right. The scene is set in a rural, hilly area with some green vegetation and trees in the distance.

## It Takes a Village

Hundreds of Malakia, South Sudan community residents, from all walks of life, came together to manually dig nearly a mile of trenches so clean, running water could be piped to five distribution points, including the local hospital.



**A JOINT INVESTMENT:**

Each local community FUNDS 15%  
of well construction costs.





## Engagement of Omaha Area Youth



Buey Tut prepares to present Aqua-Africa's story to a packed auditorium at Omaha Public School's Lewis and Clark Middle School. Buey's story not only exposes students to African geography and culture, it encourages students who may be dealing with issues of acceptance and assimilation. As an immigrant and a naturalized U.S. citizen, Buey is able to share important perspectives.



# OUR REACH IS EXPANDING



## Telling Aqua-Africa's Story

For the last two years, Aqua-Africa has actively presented Buey Tut and Aqua-Africa's story to schools (elementary, middle, high), youth organizations and service clubs throughout the Omaha metropolitan area. It is believed that Buey's story as an immigrant can:

- Encourage disadvantaged youth to be hopeful about their future prospects
- Expose youth to immigrants and immigrant contributions
- Educate others about the needs of people outside America's borders

Both in his personal life and professional career, Buey explains that opportunities are not solely the product of hard work and perseverance. In addition to these elements, the support and guidance of others is very important. Buey discusses his family's escape from a war-torn nation, their struggles with acceptance and assimilation, and his personal journey to U.S. citizenship.



## Village Supplier 2 Construction

In September, Aqua-Africa was pleased to welcome Mr. Manohar Reddy of The Great Ruaha Water Drilling Company to Omaha. Headquartered in Juba, South Sudan, Mr. Reddy's company completed drilling of the Malakia, South Sudan water well and the construction of the Village Supplier 2 system (photo on page 1) installed there during 4th quarter. Mr. Reddy met with Omaha's Village Supplier design engineers, dined with Aqua-Africa Board members and enjoyed a guided tour of Omaha. The Ruaha Drilling Company has been one of Aqua-Africa's most reliable water drilling contractors in South Sudan and we're excited about our future projects with them.



## Chamber of Commerce Recognition

In October, Aqua-Africa was one of a handful of Omaha businesses to be spotlighted in the Chamber of Commerce's annual report. We were thrilled to receive this honor, because we love being headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. Here in the heartland, we are more than a cozy place to live. We are a great place to be alive. Low unemployment, affordable living, clean air, and a small town feel.

OMAHA  
WE DON'T COAST®



# CLEAN WATER IS **JUST THE BEGINNING**

Over the next five years, Aqua-Africa plans to provide clean, accessible drinking water to 50,000 people or .4 percent of South Sudan's total population. This will be accomplished by constructing thirty hand pump water wells and seven Village Supplier water systems.

But that's just the beginning... Aqua-Africa's vision is to see a self-sustaining South Sudan. While pursuing our mission of providing access to clean water for targeted communities, we will work with other sectors of development to support communities to become autonomous. Using water as ground zero, we plan to work with organizations specializing in our four focus points, agriculture, health, education and governance. Working with organizations with different missions, but sharing the same vision of a self-sustaining South Sudan, will allow our impact to be much greater.

Aqua-Africa is also very excited about an expanded grass roots peace and reconciliation program that it is undertaking with its partner organization, Water for South Sudan, which is headquartered in Rochester, New York. This grass roots program will build upon The United Peace and Development Project (UPDP) model used in past years, by incorporating micro-democracy training as well as a "Well Side Chat" initiative. By implementing these UPDP water projects in three major regions where the tribes of Dinka, Nuer and Barea live, Aqua-Africa and Water for South Sudan, partnering together, hope to demonstrate the value of inter-tribal cooperation for development.

In November, members of Aqua-Africa's Board traveled to Rochester to meet with Water for South Sudan's Board (see photo at left). Because our two organizations' missions also align with the causes supported by Rotary International, we are aggressively seeking ways to help South Sudan Rotarians resolve the issues that have recently prevented their qualification for Global Grant funding.





## Planning Meeting

Salva Dut (first from left) of Water for South Sudan and Buey Tut (second from left) of Aqua-Africa meet with team members to strategize.

We work with other organizations  
to build a  
**SELF SUSTAINING**  
South Sudan



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**AWARENESS EVENTS**  
like the Aqua-Run help us  
**MOBILIZE THE COMMUNITY**  
to support our mission



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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## 2017 Aqua-Run Event

On August 26th, Aqua-Africa and corporate sponsor Greater Omaha Packing Company hosted the third annual “Aqua-Run” in Elmwood Park. Nearly 300 people attended the event. A five-person 10K water relay race & 2K family fun walk, the event helped to raise awareness of the problems that women and girls face while gathering, transporting and purifying water in developing countries. Music, an awards ceremony, a pancake breakfast in the pavilion, and fruit smoothies from Wowie Mowie's food truck, all contributed to the event's festive atmosphere.



## Picture This!

The Aqua-Run event provided opportunities for participants to imagine how they could fit into Aqua-Africa's “mission picture.” Our organization is always seeking volunteers and new ways to engage the community. Do you have ideas or suggestions for us? Do you need a guest speaker for your upcoming event? Contact us. Let's do mission together!



## 2017 Laugh for Africa

Some of Omaha and Lincoln's top stand-up comedians hosted a fundraiser for Aqua-Africa on December 9th at the Pella Building in the heart of Omaha's Blackstone Development District. Nearly 50 people were hilariously entertained. Many thanks to the comedians who donated their time and humor to Aqua-Africa's clean water mission.



## STAFF & SUPPORTERS

### Staff

Executive Director: Buey Ray Tut  
In-Country Director: Beatrice Safari Karlo  
Program Director: Mabior Acouth  
Operations Director: Dana Bradfield

### Board of Directors

Chair: Dr. Lyn Graves  
Treasurer: Dana Bradfield  
Secretary: Don Royer  
Advisor: Lindsey Rai Reasner  
Advisor: Mike McMeekin

### Committee Leaders

Public Relations Committee: Dave Campbell  
Finance Committee: Craig Hoekstra  
Operations Committee: Mike McMeekin  
Events Committee: Mabior Acouth  
Legal Committee: Dan Reeker  
Strategic Committee: Lance Graves

### In Kind Donors

Craig Hoekstra  
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates  
Thrivent Financial

### Organizations

Amazon Smile Foundation  
American Endowment Foundation  
American National Bank  
Anonymous  
Arizona Community Foundation  
Centersphere  
DGR Engineering  
Empowering Kids South Sudan  
Faith Charitable Trust  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Greater Omaha Packing Co.  
Greenslate Development  
Healing Kadi Foundation  
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.  
Network for Good  
Presbyterian Church of the Master  
The Community Foundation For Greater Atlanta  
The Giving Back Fund - Luol Deng Foundation  
Valmont Foundation  
Warren Distribution

### Individuals

Aaron Duncan  
Aaron Hoekstra  
Achok Akuar  
Adam Yale  
Alexis Seader  
Allison Seyler  
Alvin and Suzanne Townley  
Anonymous  
Autumn Sky Burns  
Barbara and Bill Engebretsen  
Becca Schollaert  
Blair and Julie Metzger  
Bonnie Andersen  
Caitlin Tremblay  
Carrie Hoarty  
Cary Clark  
Catie Zaleski  
Claire Buddenberg  
Claudia and Tony Deeb  
Cortney Lefler  
Craig and Katherine Hoekstra  
Dale and Joy Ausdemore  
Dan and Kyle Rose  
Dana and Jodeen Bradfield  
Darcie Dingman  
Dave Dobbertien  
David and Jody Filipi  
David Campbell  
David Nyamuoch  
Donald Swanson  
Elizabeth Meyers  
Ellen McGurk  
Emily Lowndes  
Erica Heiden  
Farrah Grant  
Holly West  
Hy Hoang  
Jack and Judy Pagel  
James and Maureen Nemetz  
James Deng  
Janet McCrae  
Janet West  
Jason Jackson  
Jerome Patten  
Jessica Jarosh  
Joe Champion  
Joey Wolfe  
John and Stephanie Koraleski  
John and Wende Kotouc  
John Parker  
John Parker IV  
Joseph Cox  
Judy Cline  
Julie Rix

Julie Wasser  
Justin Mac Nair  
Kara Eastman  
Kimberly Curington  
Kirk Howard  
Kyle and Meghan Kuvin  
Lance Graves  
Leah and Shane Waters  
Leanne S Tirpak  
Lewis and Winifred Pinch  
Linda and Terry Gadwood  
Linda Summerer  
Lindsey Rai Reasner  
Lydia Sand  
Lyndon and Pat Graves  
Mabior Accouth  
Margaret A Moore  
Mark and Suzanne Cooley  
Mark Bingham  
Marlin and Shelli Overman  
Matt Dwyer  
Melanie Peltz  
Melissa and Peder Rice  
Michael Timmins  
Mike White  
Mindy Ruffalo  
Mogens and Cindy Bay  
Molly and John Campbell  
Nancy Anderson  
Nancy Thompson  
Nicole Smith  
Noel and Jane DeKalb  
Nyamuong David  
Pamela Bauer  
Paul and Cherri Cronen  
Paul Doeschot  
Pendo Duku  
Priscilla Peter  
Rachelle Kamrath  
Rebecca Firestone  
Regan Toews  
Sean Stoughton  
Sergio and Teresa Ferreira  
Shana Martinez  
Steve Lloyd  
Steven Jerina  
Steven Stebbing  
Suzzie Kwek  
Tajjiah Loguda  
Thrivent Financial  
Todd and Jessica West  
Todd West  
Toni Donohoe  
Victoria Harker  
Virginia Lakin



## Another Solid Financial Year

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and volunteers, Aqua-Africa set a new annual record for infrastructure construction in 2017; completing two hand-pump wells and a Village Supplier water system. This new infrastructure serves more than 6,000 South Sudanese. 2017 Expenditures were \$269K vs. \$219K in 2016; an increase of 19%. Program costs associated with well-drilling, water system installation and South Sudanese community education, accounted for 72% of all organization expenditures. Aqua-Africa had \$209K in its financial accounts at year-end. As we enter 2018, we're incredibly excited by the opportunities that our work provides to bring unity and healing to South Sudan, and we ask that you join us in this mission.

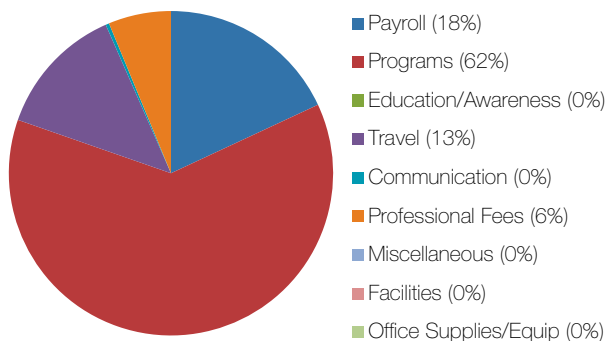
## 2017 Expenses

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Programs              | \$140,010        |
| Programs Payable      | \$52,200         |
| Overhead              | \$58,201         |
| Fundraising           | \$18,404         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$268,815</b> |

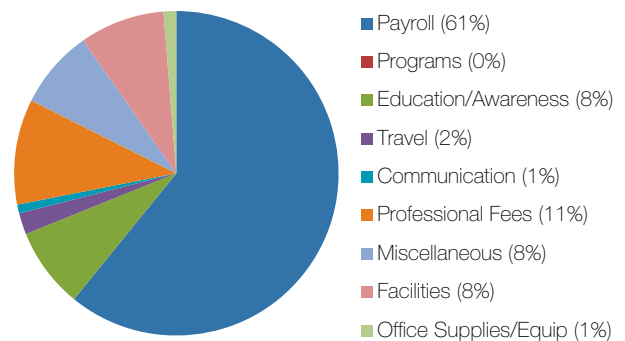
## 2017 Donations

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Cash Gifts            | \$297,542        |
| In-Kind Contributions | \$18,000         |
| Other Revenue         | \$425            |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$315,967</b> |

## Programs



## Overhead







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