

2012 Annual Report



Our mission: self-help for youth and families to end poverty worldwide.

Our methods: education, enterprise, health, infrastructure, and peace.

Our goal: an equal-opportunity world.

Three generations in rural India report a healthy birth for firstborn son Sushovan. Mama Shampa receives care in the health-protection program we fund through Freedom from Hunger. Photo by Suzanne Skees.

Our year to celebrate, collaborate, and communicate

We celebrated our 8th year of giving with \$1.3 million invested to date in equal opportunity. We shared an eventful year of triple partnership within our family foundation, among philanthropic peers, and with nonprofit programs. Highlights:

- ◆ Sold-out national conference of small foundations attended by Eddy, Jasmine, and Suzanne in San Francisco
- ◆ Director completed yearlong deep-dive program on theory of change and strategic philanthropy
- ◆ Research and courses in nonprofit communications
- ◆ Storytelling trips for nonprofits to India, Rwanda, and Peru

- ◆ First social-impact investment in education, for college microloans
- ◆ Presentations on global grantmaking, impact investing, social enterprise, and storytelling
- ◆ Second year of family programs connects us from California to the Carolinas
- ◆ New partnership with back-office support firm Foundation Source
- ◆ Launch of private Foundation Source website shows real-time financials and complete archives
- ◆ First official SFF-hosted event: social entrepreneur dinner in SF
- ◆ Local 2 Global superstar: Sandy earned the maximum grant-giving level with her volunteer work in California.

Board members gauge our progress:

“So many constructive ideas generated by the conversations among the Board members, who are very bright, uplifting and innovative. A genuine sense of purpose, unselfish dedication and expectant hope prevails at each gathering.” —Greg S, CFO

“We’ve done a great job of educating ourselves as to how a foundation with limited resources can have the most impact. Obtaining back-office help has been a huge improvement.” —Lisa I-C, secretary

“We feel that the Foundation is doing amazing work to help the human beings we feel called to help. We are always open to doing more!” —Jasmine & Hugh S, trustees

“An incredible year of learning about strategic philanthropy and getting out of the kitchen office to share ideas with others. Our partners do the real work of ending poverty: Our job is just to discover new ways to support them.” —Suzanne S, chair

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The Helly girls cheer Mike on as he races 100 miles for a cure for cancer.

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE:

Grants:

Board discretionary/Dayton	\$10,000
Dayton Int'l Peace Museum	\$10,000
Freedom from Hunger	\$50,000
Local 2 Global family grants	\$4,200
The School Fund	\$5,000
Upaya Social Ventures	\$5,000
V-Day V-Peace Scholarships	\$50,000
Village Bicycle Project	\$1,000
Total:	\$135,200

Social-impact investment:

Vittana College Loans	\$50,000
Total:	\$185,200

Expenses:

Accounting and legal	\$5,460
Communications training	\$3,484
Financial management	\$17,966
Foundation memberships	\$1,195
Nonprofit/funder dinner	\$1,777
Taxes/excise and foreign	\$1,010
2 websites setup/hosting	\$8,225
Work-study student	\$98

Total: \$39,285

Grants—% of corpus 7.8%
Expenses—% of corpus 1.7%

Corpus at yearend \$2,374,000



Jasmine & Hugh earn a room named after them at the Dayton Int'l Peace Museum; Daniel & Matt (& friends) raise root-beer-float funds for low-income Boy Scouts; Eddy (far R) sings to end bullying at Association of Small Foundations; and Kris (far R) plays tug-o-war to earn funds for Water Is Basic.

The most valuable asset we give: time.

Local 2 Global update:

Nine family members logged 170 hours of volunteer time and gave back \$2,600 in grants to charities of their choice. Membership jumped from 5 in 2011 to 9 in 2012, but grants declined from \$8,900 to \$2,600. One reason? Younger members volunteering at lower salary rates. Well done, millennials!

Our board members donated:

Lisa: 32 hours to 4 charitable foundations.

Greg: 10 hours to SFF finance committee and accounting services; also donates 300 hours to Lions Club.

Jasmine: 1,750 hours to St. Vincent De Paul Homeless Shelter, Hospice of Dayton, and her prayer shawl ministry.

Hugh: 320 hours to Dayton International Peace Museum.

Suzanne: 3,115 hours to SFF and nonprofit organizations.

Communications and stories:

We gave 1,115 pro-bono hours to nonprofit organizations in time spent researching and writing stories of social change for both grantee partners and other nonprofits we advocate: Building for Generations, Freedom from Hunger, The Ihangane Project, The Philanthropy Workshop West, The School Fund, Upaya Social Ventures, and Vittana.

Impact of our partners:

Dayton International Peace Museum: "Mortgage Burning Party" celebrates loan payoff and plans to update building. Current programs: peace camps, student mediations, and spiritual paths to peace.

Freedom from Hunger: expands reach to 4.4 million women in 20 countries (from 5,113 in 6 countries in 1992 when we began support); 1.4 million in health program; ranked #5 microfinance organization in world by Philanthropedia.

The School Fund: supports 213 students through 24 partners in 13 countries; launches a computer camp in Tanzania; hires their first two employees; and begins a strategic plan to serve more of the 115 million children not in school.

Upaya Social Ventures provides funding and technical support to create 324 dignified dairy jobs for ultra-poor women; builds investor portfolio and adds 2 more local businesses in India.

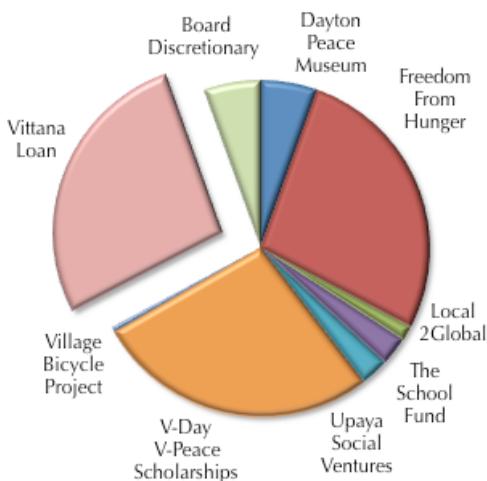
Village Bicycle Project sends 60,000 used bicycles to West Africa, trains 12,000 girls to ride and repair, donates 12,000 volunteer hours, and conducts impact study.

V-Day leverages V-Peace scholarships to educate 566 young survivors of violence in the U.S. and 6 war-torn countries. Average cost: \$88/ student.

Vittana creates debt fund to expand college loans to 6,000 students in 12 countries, with a repayment rate of 99%.

SOCIAL-IMPACT INVESTMENT

GRANTS



DeoTalSkees Grant Gives “Learn to Ride” Trainings to Village Bicycle Project

Mary, Sandy, Elisabeth, and Christina decided to renew their grant for a second year to [Village Bicycle Project](#), whose volunteers send used bicycles from the U.S. to West Africa. “Originally, this was a stumble-upon thing,” Mary says.

“We love to ride bikes in our family, and we were looking to buy bicycles and found Bamboosera Bicycles . . . from there, I found the VBP website. Their solution is very holistic: they provide the bikes and educate [men and women but mostly] girls on how to ride and maintain them.”

The family decided to channel this year’s grant into providing more one-day workshops that give schoolgirls more than riding skills—which Mary calls “empowerment that no one can ever take away”—but also repair



Christina, Mary, Elisabeth & Sandy collaborate; and a young mom in Sierra Leone learns to repair her new bike.

abilities that provide “self-sufficiency in the villages.” The moms talked together in Capitola, CA and Skyped with the daughters in New York and New Orleans to reach consensus on this grant.

Mary’s happy to maintain regular contact with the VBP director in Seattle, and said the only downside of the family grant program was the “arduous” process of completing the grant-proposal form. “Our gift includes the exuberance of bicycling, balance and speed, girl and machine,” she reports.

Cyclists spend 1 hour pedaling for every 4 hours they used to spend walking, saving precious time for homework and employment.

“You know the Chinese proverb about ‘Give a person a fish, and you feed them for a day—teach them to fish and you feed them for a lifetime’?” Mary reflects. “Well, a bicycle is like a fishing boat: It’s transportation, a prized possession, and a tool to be more productive. It allows you to feed yourself.”



KrisTonys Unite in Charlotte for Clean Water



Connor (10), Bridget, and Griffin (12), our youngest family members, worked hard on a school fundraiser to build a well for a village in the Sudan. The twins’ school, St. Matthews, hosted a “Sports Nuts” day for students and a month-long campaign that Kris and two other moms managed. They raised over \$4,000 for [Water Is Basic](#), running “Carry the Jerry” 5K races in which relay teams lug the same plastic jugs that children must fill and carry long distances in Africa.

USAID reports that 1 in 4 children dies in South Sudan before the age of 5—and half of these deaths result from drinking contaminated water.

“We showed the kids pictures, for example, of a boy pushing a wheelbarrow with cans of water,” Tony recalls. “We had them carry a five-gallon jerry can only half-full—but we explained that kids their age carry them full, every single day. It’s crazy,” he says ruefully. “They carry them 3-5 miles, just to fill them up with dirty, muddy water.”

“Because water is so basic, it was easy for young children to understand that clean water is essential to life—and that we’re lucky to have such an abundance here,” Kris comments. “Many people I spoke with here in our city didn’t even realize people in Africa had such limited access to clean water—or that so many died as a result.”

Kris, Tony, and the kids (who also prepare meals each month for their local Charlotte, NC homeless shelter) worked together to raise \$4,000—enough to build one well. They’ve provided clean, healthy water for 200 families just like theirs.

“Love is basic,” says Water Is Basic country manager Bishop Elias Taban, a former child soldier now committed to building peace in South Sudan. Kris and Tony’s family lives that motto.



Firelight Foundation works with grassroots organizations to help Africa’s most vulnerable children.



Isaac spent his summer volunteering for Africa’s most vulnerable children, interning for two months for [Firelight Foundation](#). Read some of his work [here](#). Like many family members, he hasn’t yet logged his hours in our [Local 2 Global](#) program, where he could earn \$\$\$ to give to Firelight or other nonprofits. Check out how you can double your giving!

Who Are We and Where Are We Going?—a note from the director

We're a family of 30 members across 3 generations with diverse politics, looks, sexual orientations, geographies, and goals. We're a group united by blood and choice. We make an effort to know one another across our differences. We take the time to get online, on the phone, and on airplanes—we end up surprised at the depth of connection between us, and the growth within, when we reach out.

We're a foundation inspired by the social-justice "preferential option for the poor" of our spiritual heritage; the humble work ethic of self-made multiracial ancestors; and the give-back volunteerism of our board trustees, Jasmine and Hugh. We believe that any old person can be a philanthropist by giving an hour or a dollar. We believe intention matters more than resources, so we get out there and mix up the field by playing too.

We're a charitable organization that doesn't believe in charity. Launched during dinner-table debates over how to end poverty, the Skees Family Foundation began by funding self-help programs and will not end until all youth and families have equal-opportunity tools and resources to build a life of health, happiness, and choice.

Beginning in 2013, we plan to undertake our first impact assessment and face facts about whether our good intentions have helped our nonprofit partners get anywhere in their courageous daily work to end poverty worldwide. We'll commit more of our corpus to social-impact investments and seek game-changing programs that advance our mission. Along the way, we'll share stories of hope that connect you and me to the clients we're honored to serve.

—Suzanne



This boy from a slum in Peru could be learning, playing, thriving. We believe he deserves all the same chances we've had.

Check out our new blog, **SEEDS OF HOPE**, launching soon. Sign up on Skees.org.



TRIANGLE OF INTENTION

30-member,
3-generation
family engagement
through online programs
and updates



Early-stage
seed-funding
or "pioneer funding"
of innovative nonprofits
and social entrepreneurs

Storytelling social change
sharing true stories of hope about
program managers and clients doing
the real work to end poverty worldwide