



Skees Family Foundation works to end poverty by partnering with social entrepreneurs building self-help models in **education** and **job-creation** and leveraging **storytelling** for social change.



Skees Family Foundation

2021 Annual Report



Is Legacy Possible?

By Suzanne Skees: Founder, Board Member, Storyteller

This year, as I step away from Skees Family Foundation, I find myself deeply questioning whether my life's work has had any impact at all.

When I launched SFF in 2004, my heart pulsed with optimism that the [18 percent](#) of the world's population living in extreme poverty (less than \$1.90/day) could be freed within my lifetime.

How?—Equality. [Research](#) proves that inequality of access to jobs, education, housing, nutrition, clean water, healthcare, safety, and decision-making, is the leading cause of poverty.

Over the past eighteen years, the number of humans in extreme poverty has reduced from 18 to [9 percent](#), but unfortunately SFF cannot take credit for that, as the work we have done is just a drop in the ocean of what's needed.

Thirty family members, and scores of nonprofit experts, have joined forces with me in fighting the injustice of poverty, but that's no reflection on me, either.--Instead, it proves the courage of each of them.

So, has my individual striving mattered in the least? I leave no legacy at all, as far as I can see.

Yet I choose to hope that every word we utter and every choice we all make—indeed, even the essence we emanate as we labor through our days—builds a foundation of love that can and will shine all around us.

Maybe you and I can leave a legacy that we may never measure or even see, but that, through all our minuscule deeds during our instant of existence in multiverses beyond our ken, adds up to human love that can change our world.

Let's strive on.

In Memoriam



Jasmine Panchot Skees sadly passed away in March of 2021. Jasmine was full of joy, optimism, and energy as a wife, mother, sister, and friend. All her life, Jasmine shared her love with the world beyond her family. Volunteering at church from the time her children were little, Jasmine later expanded her service to praying with surgery patients at local hospitals, visiting hospice patients to give caregivers a break, serving on the SFF board, and crocheting hundreds of prayer shawls for family and friends in crisis as well as women in domestic abuse shelters and women whose sons were injured or killed in gang violence. She will be missed.

Impact Investments

[Beneficial Returns](#) is an impact investment fund designed to support the growth of leading social enterprises that operate in emerging markets worldwide.

[libu's](#) mission is to ensure every person on the planet has access to a safe, affordable, and sustainable water source. They currently work in East Africa.

[Village Enterprise](#) works to end extreme poverty in rural Africa through entrepreneurship and innovation.

Seed Grants



Location: Nigeria

Mission: Tech ME is a social enterprise leveraging technology to solve social issues with particular focus on education, entrepreneurship and civic engagement.

2021 Accomplishments: TechMe increased their recruitment requests from local companies.. They also shifted their focus from self-employment to training women for technology-sector jobs with a 97% graduation rate and 70% employment rate.



Location: Uganda

Mission: Preserve International is fighting poverty and seasonal hunger through the provision of innovative, rurality-minded technology & training to reduce post harvest crop loss.

2021 Accomplishments: Preserve International was able to adapt to changing needs, delivering food to those in quarantine or with physical and mental disabilities and adjusting their programs for the various and constantly changing lockdown restrictions.



Location: Zambia

Mission: Embrace Her supports young people with programs that improve personal finance and business management skill.

2021 Accomplishments: 2021 was a year of growth for Embrace Her. They grew their reach from 12 to 40 women, increasing their diversity of business backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. They also secured an office space, hired an intern, and received a Financial Literacy award from the Bank of Zambia.



Catalyst Grants



Location: Uganda

Mission: KadAfrica empowers farmers through the cultivation of passion fruit by equipping them with training, resources, and a market for improved quality of life.

2021 Accomplishments: KadAfrica started new programs in refugee settlements and also readjusted their curriculum to fit the current needs of their clients. They are launching a mental health curriculum to fit the needs of those they serve.



Location: Rwanda, Uganda, and Liberia

Mission: Idea4Africa inspires and equips youth entrepreneurs to develop social and economic value.

2021 Accomplishments: In spite of the Covid pandemic, Idea4Africa was able to grow. In addition to working in Rwanda and Uganda, they began working in Liberia. They partnered with Mastercard Foundation and Love and Hands, focusing on projects for community development.



Location: Costa Rica

Mission: Bean Voyage provides training and market access to smallholder women so they can produce specialty coffee, and lead sustainable lives.

2021 Accomplishments: In 2021, Bean Voyage had numerous accomplishments, including filming a documentary giving coffee producers a voice to tell their stories, partnering with Starbucks Foundation on a food security initiative, and increasing their market outreach program.



Family Grants

Each year, our individual families can give a small grant to an organization that reflects their values spanning from their hometown to across the globe. 2021 was the final year of the family grants program in order to direct as much of the foundation's funds toward the SFF mission.

Christina: [Community for Youth](#)

Maertz Family: [Dragonfly Foundation](#)

Tony: [Camp Hope](#)

Sandy and Mary: [Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.](#)

Suzanne, Vincent, and Family: [VilFresh - Laymen Argo](#)

Eddy and Nelson: [LGBT Asylum Project](#)

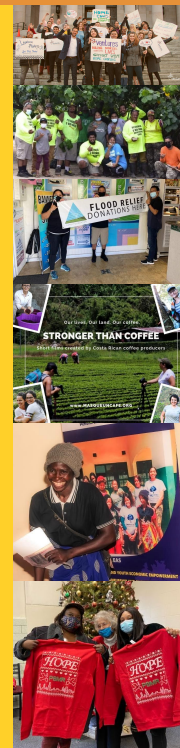
Tarullos: [Ventures](#)

Alex: [Dynamic Community Solutions](#); [Lahui Foundation](#)

Skees-Helly Family: [Bean Voyage Storytelling Documentary Project](#)

Leskos; Shelly-Rons; Bri and James: [Embrace Her](#)

Jasmine and Hugh (Legacy): [Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation](#)



Financials

20 grants issued \$88,500 total amount granted 92% job creation, 8% other 98% global, 2% US ESG Investments: 95% Impact Investments: 5%