



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION & VISION

The Skees Family Foundation works to end poverty worldwide by:

1. partnering with social entrepreneurs scaling self-help models, and
2. leveraging storytelling for social change.

The Skees Family Foundation – family helping families – extends self-help to youth and families to end poverty worldwide. We support organizations in the U.S., Africa, Central and South America, India, and the Pacific to advance education, enterprise, infrastructure, health, and peace.

We value love in action to create equal opportunity for all. And as a diverse multigenerational group with limited time and funds, we believe that we – and you – can change the world for good.

OUR GRANTMAKING STRATEGY

Fueling Opportunity—\$1, One Village, One Person at a Time

Our grantees across the U.S. and around the world have won millions of battles this year against poverty and inequality—one person, one project, one village at a time.

Incorporating our new grantmaking plan to seed-fund grassroots social enterprises and innovative programs combating poverty via education and job-creation, we selected both nascent and mid-stage programs we believe combine the highest integrity and creativity with pragmatic outcomes for real people—the clients for whom we all work—our kin at the bottom of the pyramid (BOP).

We sought out nonprofit leaders who embody relentless commitment and integrity, client-based programs designed to care for whole people and ecosystems, and innovative solutions that take a fresh stab at ancient social problems. Our partners reach over 6 million clients in the U.S. and 124 other countries. Every single person they reach matters to us; plus, their increased freedom and prosperity impacts their families and communities. Stay tuned to Seeds of Hope for stories by and about these game-changing organizations.



GRANTEE IMPACT

2014 FAST FACTS

Total grants: \$125,680

Average grant size: \$4,655

%U.S.: % Global:

By dollar amount: 16% U.S.; 84% global

By number of grants: 41% U.S.; 59% global

% to Ultra Poor: 63%

Number of grants: 27

Number of beneficiaries reached: 6, 228, 497

SEED

WHAT THEY DO

WHY WE CHOSE THEM



Advancing Girls Education in Africa's mission is to provide life-changing opportunities to young women in Malawi through targeted initiatives in education, mentoring, and leadership development.

AGE supports education comprehensively, from tuition and supplies to leadership development, life skills and career guidance.



The Destiny Foundation's mission is to end human trafficking and slavery in Kolkata, India.

The Destiny Foundation teaches relevant skills and provide employment for women who have been victims of human trafficking and forced sexual slavery.



The JAAGO Foundation's mission is to educate children from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds in Bangladesh.

JAAGO provides free education and housing for former street children and orphans living in extreme poverty.



The Kiretono Resource Centre's mission is to help Tanzanian children obtain an education and Tanzanian women to generate an income.

KRC provides secondary school women with educational and life skills support and helps them find local jobs in the cottage industry.



Lumana's mission is to empower community members at several levels of poverty to create better economies for all.

Lumana provides business education, access to savings accounts, loans, and investments for small and medium sized business owners in Ghana.

CATALYST



The Akilah Institute for Women's mission is to prepare graduates with market-relevant skills required for gainful employment through their higher education facility for women in East Africa.

Akilah works closely with the local private sector to develop market-relevant curricula and to ensure job placement for graduates.



Upaya's mission is to build the businesses that will create jobs and improve the quality of life for the ultra poor.

Upaya provides early-stage entrepreneurs with financial resources and support to launch and scale their businesses.

STORYTELLING



Freedom from Hunger's mission is to bring innovative and sustainable self-help solutions to the fight against chronic hunger and poverty.

FFH pairs microfinance with services in health and education through adult education programs in health, nutrition, business and money management.



Gardens for Health International's mission is providing agriculture solutions to childhood malnutrition.

GHI focuses on fighting malnutrition through education.



Global Press Institute's mission is to use journalism as a development tool to empower women in the developing world to produce high-quality local news coverage.

GPI runs a training-to-employment program that teaches professional journalism and provides graduates long-term employment to report on their local communities.



The School Fund's mission is to ensure any student has the opportunity to attend school and any school has the chance to offer a full range of engaging learning experiences.

TSF works from the ground up to reduce poverty and inequality worldwide through the power of secondary education.

BOARD



Educate Lanka empowers economically disadvantaged Sri Lankan children and youth by enhancing their access to education, mentoring, and employment opportunities.

Their online global-community crowdfunding model raises scholarship funds that provide long-term support for students, while local staff and volunteers also provide leadership and job-skills training for success long after graduation.



The Firelight Foundation supports the power of local communities to create lasting change for children and families affected by poverty, HIV, and AIDS.

SFF seed-funded Firelight's new Fund Her Village program, which supports job training and enterprises for ultra poor women in rural Malawi.



BOMA replaces aid with sustainable income, helping ultra poor women "graduate" from extreme poverty by giving them the tools they need to start small businesses.

BOMA works in Kenya's toughest remote areas impacted by climate change and turns beggars into business owners through training, education, and investment.



Voice of Witness publishes first-person accounts by men and women most closely affected by injustice, and provides curricular and training support to educators and invested communities.

Publishes high-caliber narratives by low-income, incarcerated, oppressed, and traumatized citizens of the U.S. and the world; trains students and inmates in storytelling to empower and heal.



Working Narratives works with social movements to tell great stories that inspire, activate, and enliven our democracy to build power, envision new democratic possibilities, and change culture and policy.

Working Narratives provides training, technology, production, and networking to nonprofits and foundations to create social change through storytelling.

OUR FAMILY REACHES OUT TO THE WORLD WITH LOVE



All eight nuclear families rallied to investigate causes in our home communities and beyond. Each family discussed, debated, and directed their small annual grant (\$1,000) to these worthy causes. Far more than money, we've become volunteers, board members, and friends of these organizations for whom we have so much respect. These are the quiet heroes who drive in the snow to deliver needed food; who stay late evenings to care for children of overworked parents; who pedal in bicycle throngs long hours to cure cancer and AIDS.

- Jasmine & Hugh: Kentucky: [St. Joseph the Worker Mission](#) to assist ultrapoor Americans
- Maertzes: Ohio: [The Dragonfly Foundation](#) to comfort terminally ill children
- DeoTalSkees: California: [Mini-Mermaid Running Club](#) for low-income/at-risk teen girls
- ShellyRons: Kentucky: [M&M Food Pantry](#) crisis food intervention
- Eddy: San Francisco: [Castro Country Club](#) sober café for recovering addicts
- Skees-Hinmans: East Africa: Asante Africa youth [Leadership and Entrepreneurship Incubator](#) program
- Skees-Hellys: New York: [North Star Church](#) outreach programs
- Kris-Tonys: Charlotte: [Charlotte Secondary Alternative](#) high school

This list of eight "Family Grants" for 2014 shows the diversity of causes near and dear to our hearts. It also shows the common ground on which we stand for liberty and justice, nourishment and tenderness, for all.



BOARD NEWS

From grandparents to grandchildren, meet our brand-new family board and see what they've been up to this past year!

BRIENNE SKEES - VP, Research & Data Management



Supports: Grantee research and vetting, website management, landscape analysis, grantee impact metrics measurement.

Board Grant: [Fund Her Village](#) job-creation program for ultra-poor rural women, Firelight Foundation, Malawi.

"Working on the SFF board has brought me closer to my family. It's also given me the opportunity to gain work experience, knowledge, and connections within the field I aspire to join full-time."

ELISABETH SKEES DEOGRACIAS - VP, Communications & Grantee Relations



Supports: Grantee partner relations, Seeds of Hope story advising and [writing](#), annual report graphic design.

"It's a privilege to join the empowered network of family members, partners, and colleagues we're building in the hopes of creating a more just world for all."

JASMINE SKEES - VP, Giving



Supports: Prayer-shawl ministry, board-grant advising, board-member mentoring, operations advisor to director.

Board Grant: Job-skills training program for at-risk and incarcerated youth, [Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation](#), Chicago, IL.

"I have been with the SFF for several years and have been inspired, excited and blessed to play the roles I have played, and I have learned so very much. A significant advance is the new Board: A new beginning!"

SALLY SKEES - Secretary



Supports: Board and foundation compliance oversight, board meeting minutes, family engagement and family-program facilitation.

Board Grant: Job-creation program for ultra-poor rural women, [The BOMA Project](#), Kenya; and storytelling resources for nonprofits, [Working Narratives](#).

"During this first year on the SFF Board, the whole world of philanthropy has opened up to me and I have just begun to grasp how smart, dedicated and compassionate the individuals are who make up this community. I love it!"

SHELLY SKEES - Chief Financial Officer



Supports: Advising on investments and expenditures, board retreat planning, foundation introduction video.

Board Grant: Emergency assistance to low-income families, [M&M Food Pantry](#), Mt. Sterling, KY.

"It has been amazing to work/collaborate with these inspirational, smart, and fun women and to learn more about the philanthropic world!"

SUZANNE SKEES - Director / Board Chair



Supports: Daily operations and administration, Seeds of Hope story writing and sourcing, grantee-partner relations, reporting, industry networking.

Board Grant: Nonprofit publishing and education program, [Voice of Witness](#).

"Our new three-generation, all-family board has shifted our grantmaking toward collaboration at the grassroots level and transformed our leadership. The talent and dedication I witness from this team fuels my own relentless efforts to end poverty: Together, we can."



The Past: Top-Down Philanthropy

When I was growing up in Ohio, it seemed to my young eyes that there were three types of people: the haves, the have-nots, and the who-cares.

Philanthropists lunched at exclusive clubs and wrote large checks to support local education and the arts. Social activists demonstrated on the streets with placards pleading for peace and equality. These days, however, many of us self-identify as both givers and activists: We're informed citizens who wish to impact our world in positive ways, *right now*.



We have the information, technology, and collaborative ability to create real change. From the smallest purchases we make to the ways we spend our weekends, our choices matter. Thinking about everyday impact doesn't make me feel burdened or guilty; rather, it makes me excited about the possibilities for us truly to evolve as a species.

At the [Skees Family Foundation](#) (which we fondly call "the world's tiniest foundation with the mightiest ambitions"), we're impatient for change. Our [mission statement](#) inspires and motivates us; it also can make us a little crazy. We dream, 51 years later, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., of a time when all people will be equal and free. We dream with our Nation's forefathers of a land where people have the ability to strive for life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness; to cultivate farms, build products, sculpt art, nurture families, and fulfill our ambitions. It's not just the American dream: We want this for all our global neighbors.



The Future: A Post-Poverty World

Everyone has the power to effect real change. We can join forces within like-minded communities to volunteer our time and crowdsource our funds for exponential impact. The upcoming \$30 trillion transfer of wealth from Baby Boomers to their children will shift investing forever, as young people turn all investing into "impact investing." Meanwhile, 90 percent of kids and 75 percent of Millennials give to charity, and not to the large, traditional 501(c)3s to whom their grandparents wrote checks. Young people give through their mobile phones, crowd-sourcing for social justice at the grassroots level, supporting cancer treatment for a kid in Indiana or buying seeds for farmers in Guatemala.



Philanthropy, the "love of mankind," has expanded to include people of all genders and cultures, as well as all income levels. The tools of the trade have opened up possibilities for investing, collaborating, and communicating. It's going to be exciting to see how we use them to reshape our world, together.

2014 FINANCIALS

Grants: \$125,680*

Expenses: \$68,964**

Percent payout: 7.4%

Corpus: \$2,575,931

My Job Book Announcement

My Job: First-person stories of real people at work around the world, edited by Suzanne Skees and a project of the [Skees Family Foundation](#).

Join us on a journey through the U.S and around the world to experience jobs held by vibrant individuals in all sectors, from farming to information technology, to midwifery, to the military, to sex workers, to filmmakers and more. Coming in 2015! Get updates [here](#).

myjobstories.org



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