



Skees Family Foundation

2015 ANNUAL REPORT





WHAT WE WANT | *Prosperity and equality for all.*

WHO WE ARE | *Ordinary Americans doing middle-class philanthropy.*

WHAT WE DO | *Grants, impact investments, family collaboration, and storytelling.*



SEED-FUNDING INNOVATORS

We provide startup and scale-up funds to young nonprofits and social enterprises delivering education and job-creation programs in the U.S. and 126 other countries. We put the onus on us, not them, to discover and vet new partners, track progress, and evaluate our partnership. We provide multiyear and repeat funding. And, we trust our poverty-busting partners enough that all our grants are completely unrestricted.

SOCIAL-IMPACT INVESTING

Traditional grants comprise 5% of our endowment, so we're busy moving the other 95 percent into direct debt and equity investments that extend our global mission to end poverty. Currently, we have another 6.5% invested in microloans and job-creation in Latin America, water-filtration franchises in East Africa, and women's healthcare education and services in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

We believe that love is in our DNA. Our 30 family members share a common core value—the inherent equality and dignity of all human beings—and a deep desire to level the playing field by bringing access to education and jobs to all people. Two programs formalize family engagement:

Local2Global Program

Skees family members trade their volunteer hours for discretionary grants they can direct to any charity working to end poverty in the U.S. or beyond.

Family Grants

Our eight nuclear families collaborate on one choice per year for a grant to a charity we feel is making progress in creating prosperity and equality for all.

STORYTELLING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Writing

We write about our partners' amazing work on our own [blog](#), for other publications, and in our forthcoming book *MY JOB: Real People at Work Around the World*.

Publishing

We share stories about our partners on our blog, [Seeds of Hope](#).

Funding

We offer our grantee partners "[Storytelling Grants](#)" that combine advisory and production support to enable them to share their stories.

New Website

Check out our new website at [Skees.org](#) to learn more about our grantee partners and their stories of triumph!

FINANCIALS

GRANTS | \$187,533

EXPENSES | \$69,664

PERCENT PAYOUT | 11.3%

TOTAL CORPUS | \$2,273,853

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Evolution of Our Storytelling: From They to I

By Suzanne Skees, Director

Once upon a time, a little girl growing up in Dayton, Ohio perched on a folding chair inside a refrigerator-box-turned-private-cottage and wrote fairytales about heroines and heroes braving perils and taming dragons, falling in love and leading their kingdoms into peace and prosperity.

Many decades and lessons later, she (I) launched a charitable foundation with my family. We began to form a virtuous network of social entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders effecting equality and prosperity for all. Our partners' programs were as small as our grants (a good match); yet no one knew about their courageous daily strivings to create a better world.

So, we set out to broadcast our stories about them.

During our early years, we wrote stories about the programs we supported in microfinance, job-creation, and education. However, a story scribbled into a notebook serves no one if it remains inside a cardboard

box. So we decided to go public with a website and blog to publish these gems, which we call "Seeds of Hope."

We also wrote for partners' websites, newsletters, and presentations; and other publications. Our goal was to put a face to the numbers of people in need; to narrate the impact of our partners' programs; and to elicit empathy and support for them. **We wrote about them and called them "they."**

Through time, we've shifted our pronouns. Instead of writing about "them," increasingly, we publish stories *by* our partners and clients about their struggles with and triumphs over poverty. Their experience—not our interpretation of it.

For example, Freedom from Hunger's staff use a series of quotations from their "resilience diaries" to weave together the story of Marie in Burkina Faso. Our board member Brienne writes about her experience with education as a tool to end poverty.

Program founder Karen writes about hard lessons she's learned as an American working in international development in Honduras. More and more, we shift toward a multiplicity of first-person voices: the story of "I."

Our current foundation book-project—already on our blog "Job Talk" and to come later in 2016 as the published book MY JOB: Real People at Work Around the World—culminates in a mosaic of first-person accounts of people in diverse jobs across the U.S. and around the world. Here, as with an increasing number of our stories, we ask questions and listen hard. We record and transcribe our storytellers' words, and get their voices out into the world in ways they either cannot (because of their life circumstances or remote geography) or would not (because of their modesty or shyness).

As with our philanthropy, we seek with our stories to honor each individual for who they are and what they need and dream...in their own words.

MY JOB BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT!

Announcing our publishing deal for MY JOB: Real People at Work Around the World! We spent 2015 gathering amazing stories from narrators, from technologists to environmental activists, guitarists to diplomats. We also took our time researching the ever-changing publishing realm and exploring options from self-publishing to the "Big 5." We've chosen TitleTown, a small publisher with a social mission to support SFF and our job-creation partners through the sales of the book. Look for MY JOB in autumn 2016. Sign up for updates here.



CATALYST PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS



AKILAH INSTITUTE



"With the support of the Skees Family Foundation, Akilah continues to revolutionize higher education for young women in East Africa. We've been able to invest in curriculum development and faculty professional development to better serve our students. Being a part of this community has been deeply rewarding."

- Elizabeth Dearborn Hughes, CEO & Co-Founder

JAAGO FOUNDATION



Est. 2007 | BANGLADESH

"It is an honor for JAAGO Foundation to become a partner with Skees Foundation. In total now we have 13 schools where around 2,200 underprivileged children are receiving free of cost international standard education. The grant we have received from Skees has made thousands of underprivileged kids of JAAGO smile and helped them to dream."

- Korvi Rakshand, Founder & Chairman

UPAYA SOCIAL VENTURES



Est. 2011 | INDIA

"SFF's support raised awareness of our work, attracted many other funders, and catalyzed Upaya's growth — we now have a portfolio of 10 businesses that have created over 2,100 jobs for the poorest of the poor in India. Very simply, we would not be here today had it not been for SFF's faith and confidence in our idea back in 2011."

- Sachi Shenoy, Executive Director & Co-Founder

FAMILY GRANTS

For another year in a row, we had 100% participation in our family grants program. From support for U.S. police officers to tech training for disadvantaged youth, the legacy of giving runs strong across the country and our eight family households. We're honored to announce our partners here:

JASMINE & HUGH



PBMR provides education, job-training, and restorative justice to Chicago's at-risk youth.

THE MAERTZ'S



The Dragonfly Foundation brings comfort and joy to kids, young adults, and their families enduring cancer and bone marrow transplants.

THE DEOTALSKEES



Digital NEST creates sustainable and scalable technology centers in vulnerable communities all over California, creating economic equality for all.

SHELLY-RONS



Aid Tanzania/Kiretono Resource Centre helps Maasai tribal children obtain an education and their families generate an income.

EDDY SKEES



AIDS/LifeCycle is 7-day bike ride from SF to LA to raise money and awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

SKEES-HINMAN'S



LivelyHoods is a social enterprise that creates jobs for youth in Kenyan slums through the sales of life-changing products.

SKEES-HELLY'S



WAMC/Northeast Public Radio, a regional public radio network serving parts of seven northeastern states.

KRIS-TONY'S



HEROES, Inc.® is dedicated to aid families of law enforcement officers and firefighters who have died in the line of duty in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

CURRENT GRANTEE PARTNERS

SEED		
	<u>Advancing Girls Education (AGE)</u> in Africa's mission is to provide life-changing opportunities to young women through initiatives in education, mentoring, and leadership development.	Malawi
	<u>Agora Partnerships</u> is a nonprofit that fights poverty and inequality by unleashing the potential of developing world entrepreneurs to improve their communities.	Latin America
	<u>Batonga Foundation</u> is a nonprofit that empowers young women and girls in Africa through a holistic approach to education.	Africa
	<u>Educate Lanka</u> is a nonprofit whose mission is to empower economically disadvantaged children and youth by enhancing their access to quality education, mentoring, and employment.	Sri Lanka
	<u>Aid Tanzania / Kiretono Resource Centre's</u> mission is to help Tanzanian children obtain an education and Tanzanian women to generate an income.	Tanzania
	<u>Hope for Honduran Children</u> was established to help provide a nurturing environment for children ravaged by conditions of extreme poverty in Central America.	Honduras
	<u>Anseye Pou Ayiti (Teach for Haiti)</u> recruits, trains, and equips Haitian teachers to unleash transformative outcomes for Haitian students.	Haiti
CATALYST		
	The <u>Akilah Institute for Women's</u> mission is to prepare students with the market-relevant skills to ensure gainful employment after graduation through their higher education facility for women in East Africa.	East Africa
	The <u>JAAGO Foundation</u> is a nonprofit whose mission is to educate children from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds in Bangladesh.	Bangladesh
	<u>Upaya Social Venture's</u> mission is to build the businesses that will create jobs and improve the quality of life for the ultra poor. Since its establishment in 2011, Upaya has created jobs for over 3,000 individuals.	India
PARTNER		
	<u>Global Press Institute</u> is a nonprofit that educates, employs and empowers women in developing media markets to produce high-quality local news coverage that elevates global awareness and ignites social change.	Global
	<u>The School Fund</u> is a nonprofit that connects students with individual funders via an online platform to raise funds for secondary school. TSF is increasing access to secondary school in the developing world.	Global
STORYTELLING		
	<u>Medha</u> improves employment outcomes for youth in India. It delivers a training and internship program to students on campus that connects them with the job market.	India
BOARD		
	<u>Asante Africa</u> educates East Africa's youth to confidently address life's challenges, thrive in the global economy, and catalyze positive change.	East Africa
	<u>EGF</u> raises money to support scholarships through grants and donations to help offset tuition costs for students at Emily Griffith Technical College (EGTC), the most affordable post-secondary tuition in the region.	USA
	<u>Hand in Hand</u> is an NGO building shared society for Jews and Arabs in Israel through a network of bilingual integrated schools and shared communities.	Israel
	<u>Neve Shalom's</u> mission is to promote equality and understanding between Palestinians and Jews, through educational work.	Israel
	<u>Teach North Korean Refugees (TNKR)</u> is nonprofit that focuses on assisting adults who have escaped North Korea in preparing for their future by been providing English learning opportunities.	South Korea
	<u>Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO)</u> works in disadvantaged areas of the Middle East, enabling children, youth and parents to realize their potential as healthy, active and responsible family and community members.	Palestine

GRANTMAKING BY THE NUMBERS

Grantmaking This Year

22 grants issued

\$146,788 total amount granted

82% Education: 41% Job Creation*

99.3% Global: 0.7% U.S. (by dollar amount)

55% grants to ultra poor

* over 100% because some organizations work in both areas

Grantmaking Since Inception

143 grants issued

\$1,707,093 total amount granted

42,898,722 number of beneficiaries reached

49% Education: 31% Job Creation

85% Global: 15% U.S (by dollar amount)

60.2% grants to ultra poor