



# Skees Family Foundation

## 2019 Annual Report

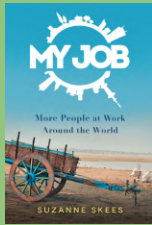
Skees Family Foundation works to end poverty by partnering with social entrepreneurs building self-help models in **education** and **job-creation** and leveraging **storytelling** for social change.



## Financials

24 grants issued  
\$74,500 total amount granted  
68% job creation, 29% education, 3% other  
89% global, 11% US

## My Job: Look Out for Book 3!



The future of work is NOW. Young people face an entirely different reality--working numerous gig jobs with no benefits or security, yet with freedom to invent and collaborate beyond any previous generation. We'll explore these factors in book three of our series, MY JOB GenZ, and we'll profile real people striving toward, or already in, their dream jobs. Look for MY JOB GenZ, coauthored by Suzanne Skees and Sanam Yusuf, in summer 2020. Get updates [here](#).

## Welcome to the Board, Vincent!

Vincent grew up in Los Angeles, California and studied psychology, nonprofit management, and macro-social work, earning a MSW from the University of Southern California. He has worked with gang-related juveniles in group homes and young adults' in acute-psychiatric facilities; with veterans at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration, where he applied individual and group therapy to address a wide assortment of military-related issues; and in nonprofit management at the City of Pasadena, studying policy and public administration, writing grants, and the administration of contracts throughout the city.



Vincent later honed in on affordable housing for low-income seniors and currently works as relocation manager at [Humangood](#), providing services for adults who are displaced. He also works as a [licensed therapist](#). He lives with his partner, our founder Suzanne Skees, on California's Central Coast. As a new board member, he is excited about the opportunities and purpose of the Skees Family Foundation.

## Impact Investments



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



Jibu'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.

# Celebrating the Unique Way We Work



Skees Family Foundation recently celebrated our [fifteen-year anniversary](#). Over the years, we have learned so many lessons about fighting poverty, and are always trying to improve our impact. Of greatest importance to us is the respect and trust we hold for our nonprofit partners. We have formed, and continue forming, our grantmaking and investing structures in our best attempt to honor these values. What follows is the methodology we've come to in our own careful considerations, primarily in the angel or pre-angel phase of organizational development.



- **No Restrictions:** Unrestricted funding shows trust and respect for our partners. They know where the money is most needed, and we don't have the burden of keeping track of specific projects.



- **No Applications:** All the information we need is found through our own research. This helps us keep our workload lighter by not having to go through hundreds of applications, and it provides our new partners a welcome surprise, with infinite return on investment.



- **Limited Reporting:** We have calls once a year with our partners to discuss how they're doing and their plans for the future. We don't ask for written reports - we talk to our partners and create enduring relationships.
- **Multi-Year Grants:** Two to six-year grants give us the opportunity to build relationships with our partners and for them to have the security of longer-term funding.

- **Storytelling Assistance:** Through our [Seeds of Hope](#) blog and the [My Job](#) social mission project, we tell the stories of our partners. We get to shine a light on their work, and they get a bit of free promotion!

- **Direct Impact Investments:** For many of our partners, the ability to scale rests on access to capital, and we often maintain relationships through direct impact investments. This allows us to stay in touch with our partners and invest in someone we trust, while giving them access to affordable debt and a reasonable return to the Skees corpus.

- **100% ESG Market Investments:** Beyond impact investments, the remaining majority of the corpus is invested with an Environmental Social Governance screen, ensuring our corpus is working for good. This helps us increase our impact substantially while avoiding investments that are working in contradiction with our mission, all while maintaining strong returns to support our grantmaking.

# 2019-2020 Nonprofit Partners

## Seed Grantees



Costa Rica

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



Nicaragua

CREA provides Nicaraguans with educational resources.



Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ghana

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



Uganda

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



Nepal

Women LEAD provides young women with the skills, support, and opportunities to become change-makers.

## Partnership Grantees



Haiti

Anseye Pou Ayiti's mission is to raise education outcomes in disadvantaged areas in Haiti by recruiting and training outstanding teachers for existing schools.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Agora Partnerships is an organization that is accelerating the shift to a more sustainable and equitable world through the visionary social impact entrepreneurs it supports.



Palestine

Tomorrow's Youth Organization works in the Middle East, enabling children, youth, and parents to realize their potential as healthy, active, and responsible family and community members.

## Catalyst Grantees



Sri Lanka

Educate Lanka empowers economically disadvantaged children and youth by enhancing their access to education, mentoring, and employment opportunities with long-term micro-scholarship funding and targeted guidance.



East Africa

Resonate uses storytelling to build self-confidence and unlock leadership potential.

## Generational Grantees



South Sudan

Education Bridge works to create flourishing South Sudanese communities through holistic education and peacebuilding.



Kenya

Eggpreneur is a social enterprise working in remote Kenyan communities to build sustainable egg farming ventures that help families end the cycles of poverty.



Burundi

Tujenge Africa Foundation creates educational hubs to incubate a national network of innovators, leaders, entrepreneurs, and peace agents.

# Family Grants

Each year, our individual families have the opportunity to give to an organization that reflects their values. Family grants have become a unique way for Skees generations across the country to engage directly with nonprofits in their communities or support causes they're passionate about internationally.



## Jasmine and Hugh



Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation works as an agent of reconciliation and healing with those in their community and Church who have been impacted by violence and conflict.

## The Tarullos



Ventures provides access to business training, capital, coaching, and hands-on learning opportunities for entrepreneurs with limited resources and unlimited potential.

## Sylvia-Gary Family



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

## Kris-Tony Family



Charlotte Catholic High School helps their students develop a strong foundation of Catholic values through prayer, study, and outreach.

## Sandy-Mary Family



The Mini Mermaid Running Club teaches girls to lead a healthy life by listening to their inner voices, valuing their uniqueness, and learning to love movement.

## Sally-Mike Family



Voix et Actions is geared toward the development of the Haitian community and the physical and moral relief of the disadvantaged people who live there.

## Ali and Landon; The Leskos; Shelly-Ron Family



Project Hawai'i enhances the lives of homeless children throughout the year by providing interactive programs to help them escape the cycle of poverty.

## Bri and James; Suzanne-Vincent Family



Reach aims to address the ongoing needs of the most disadvantaged youth across Vietnam and empower them through education and personal development.

# 2020: What's Next?

If you had a chance to read our recent Seeds of Hope [blog](#), you know 2019 brought many improvements to our organization. It was a year of reflection, growth, and hope. We have had a very insightful and exciting year and can't wait to begin implementing all of our changes in 2020. Read on to see how we're changing and becoming more intentional and impactful with our grantmaking and investing opportunities.

- **Theory of Change:** After several meetings throughout the year, reflecting on our organization's mission and values, we developed a new Theory of Change.
  - We revised our mission to reflect our future goals: SFF works to end global poverty by partnering with community-based organizations to create fulfilling jobs and build job readiness through vocational or entrepreneurial training.
  - We realized that our vision has not changed very much: SFF envisions a world in which every person has the opportunity to lead a self-determined, prosperous life.
- **Strategic Re-Boot:** We spent a large part of 2019 taking a deep dive into what we hope to become and where we want to be in the next five to ten years. And, what steps to take to make that a reality.
  - **Skees Impact Methodology:** Our nonprofit partners have always let us know how much they appreciate our method of grantmaking, and wish others would follow us. So, as part of our “re-boot,” we decided to let the rest of the philanthropic world see how we operate.
  - **Co-funding:** We are hoping to reach out to other foundations, big and small, to go in together to help our small grants go further for our nonprofit partners. This will also help to create a funding pipeline for our nonprofit partners as they “outgrow” our organization.
  - **Crowdfunding:** SFF is planning to pull in our “fans” to help us make our grants go further. We plan to develop a format so that anyone who wants to contribute to one of our nonprofit partners can do so though our website with a few simple clicks.
  - **Advisory Board:** Having started as a family foundation, we have been concerned about our lack of diversity and narrow world views, so, we are building an advisory board. We hope that the addition of an advisory board will provide on-the-ground expertise and can help make us aware of community- or country-wide red flags, new trends, etc.

