

Wells
bring
Hope



Saving Lives With Safe Water in West Africa



2024 Annual Report

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Mission and Vision

Wells Bring Hope is committed to drilling wells to bring safe water and effective sanitation systems to rural villages in the West African nations of Niger and Mali. Our mission is **saving lives with safe water**. According to the 2024 UN Development Index, Niger and Mali are two of the poorest nations in the world, countries where contaminated water kills innocent victims, most often infants and young children.

There is more to this sad story. The burden of getting water falls upon women and girls, who walk back-breaking miles every day to find water and carry it back to their villages. The result? Girls are not able to go to school, and women have no time to work to generate income for their families.

This doesn't have to happen. When we drill a well deep into the ground, lives are transformed instantly and dramatically. Child mortality is reduced by upwards of 70% in areas where we work. Girls receive an education. Women receive microfinance education, start small businesses, and are empowered by their accomplishments and contributions to the community.

They have hope for the future.



Our Story

In February, 2008, Gil Garcetti, former Los Angeles County District Attorney, spoke to a group called Salon Forum, a gathering of women founded by Barbara Goldberg. Inspired by Garcetti's call to action, Barbara went on to form Wells Bring Hope (WBH), an organization dedicated to raising money to drill wells that would provide safe water to rural villages in Niger, which was at the time the poorest country in the world.

An in-country partner was necessary to oversee the practical, operational aspects of drilling wells in Niger. Based on our extensive experience and expertise in West Africa as well as a proven track record of fully sustainable projects, World Vision (WV) was selected as WBH's partner on the ground.

On July 27, 2010, WBH became a 501(c)(3). It chose to incorporate a highly responsible financial model, directing 100% of all donations to drilling wells.

In 2019, WBH expanded its mission to include the funding of mechanized water systems for rural health clinics. More and more women in West Africa are choosing to give birth under medical supervision, but many of the rural clinics lack access to water of any kind. With a mechanized system, we can provide running water to each of the treatment rooms, a hand washing station, and a tap stand in the courtyard for community use.

In September of 2021, WBH shifted from funding hand pump wells to exclusively funding solar-powered, mechanized water systems. These advanced water systems deliver water to tap stands that allow villagers to access safe water with the turn of a tap, eliminating the need for labor-intensive hand pumping.

WBH has continued to grow, and in 2024 the organization expanded to Mali, funding one health clinic and 24 taps.

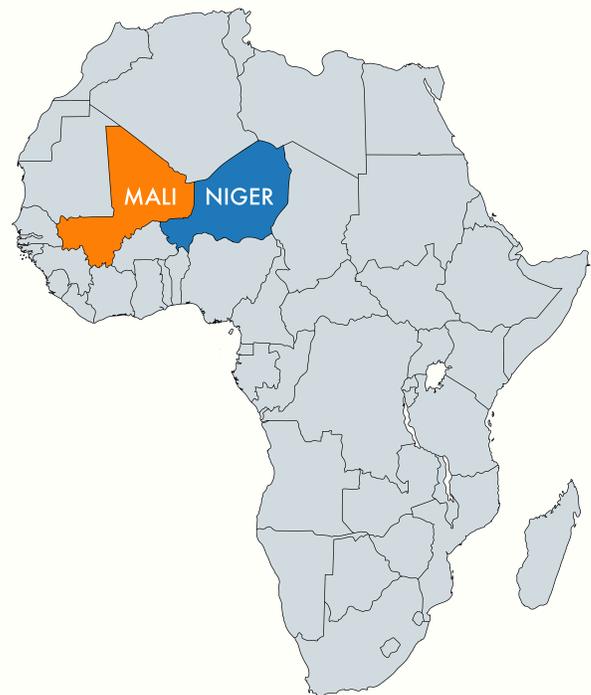
Why Safe Water?

- Water is the source of all life. Without it, we die. It is a basic human right, something that is owed to everyone on the planet.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) "No other humanitarian intervention produces a more dramatic effect on life than access to safe water and sanitation."
- Almost 80% of diseases in developing countries are associated with a lack of clean water and sanitation. Over 1,200 children die every day from diarrhea. Diarrheal diseases account for 9% of all deaths of children under five worldwide.

Why West Africa?

It is one of the poorest regions in the world
(U.N. Development Index, 2024)

- 83.5% of rural West Africans have no access to clean water
- Over 80% of rural West Africans have no access to improved sanitation
- Life expectancy is 57 years
- Maternal and infant mortality rates are some of the highest in the world



What We Do and How We Do It

The funds that we raise provide for: the drilling and maintenance of taps for fully mechanized, solar-powered water systems in rural villages in Niger and Mali. Through the on-going work of our partner, World Vision, we are able to educate villagers on sanitation and hygiene, the kind of health information and practice that is essential to improving overall quality of life. WV is one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world and we have been working with them since we started in 2008.

- With WV's help, we are able to ensure that women and girls receive the kind of education that enables them to thrive and realize their dreams. Girls are able to attend school and women are trained to start their own small businesses so that they are able to contribute to the economic well-being of their families.

We view the drilling of a well as "the entry point," the first step in transforming lives for generations to come. Once a well is drilled and latrines are built, we:

- Continue to work with every village for 15+ years. Using established Area Development Programs, we provide continuing education on sanitation, hygiene, drip farming, and more.
- Educate villagers on how to maintain the well so that it is fully sustainable. We support villagers in establishing a maintenance fund to provide for any repairs that may be needed. In this way, the villagers are able to maintain the well themselves, thereby giving them "ownership" of the well.

We know that providing safe, clean water transforms lives instantly and dramatically. However, there is another essential component in the effort to improve quality of life; people must be educated on sanitation and proper hygiene practices. In villages where we drill, latrines are constructed, and villagers are taught the importance of using them. Before the well is drilled, a committee made up of an equal number of men and women is formed. The committee's sole responsibility is to maintain the well, and they receive education in how to handle malfunctions that may occur and where to go to obtain new parts. A maintenance fund is also established, and everyone in the village contributes a small amount of money to this fund.

We are able to dedicate 100% of all donations directly to well projects because Panda Restaurant Group along with other generous donors underwrite our operating expenses.

The End Result

As a result of this concerted and communal effort, childhood mortality is reduced by upwards of 70% in the areas where we work, and this effect can be measured within the first year of a well's operation. Once a well is drilled, mothers take pride in keeping themselves and their children clean as they realize that the instruction they have received is effective.

When a well is drilled, girls are freed from the daily task of walking 4-6 miles to get water. This enables them to receive an education, something that is crucial if they are to succeed in breaking the cycle of early marriage and early child bearing. Most critically, the chance to attend school opens up new opportunities that previously they had only dreamed of. In addition to the opportunity to attend school, the drilling of a well relieves girls and women of the chronic physical pain and the risk of physical deformity that results from the daily strain of pulling up water and carrying it home.

When women no longer spend hours walking to get water, both their psychological and physical stress levels are reduced significantly. Elimination of these difficult labors results in women feeling better, both physically and psychologically, which promotes greater harmony within the family and the village as a whole.

Another key aspect of this program is educating women on how to start small businesses that provide much needed income to their families, improving their overall quality of life. The women experience a powerful feeling of accomplishment, enhancing their self-esteem. They also serve as role models for their daughters wanting to become mini-entrepreneurs just like their mothers.



What Our Supporters Say

I've been volunteering for WBH for over a year because I have yet to come across an organization that cares so deeply about its mission. This is a group of people who are looking to make a big change by thinking about helping those among us who are the worst off, and yet full of incredible potential. What could be more powerful than saving lives with clean water? On top of that, as a new father I LOVE that this organization doesn't stop at drilling wells, they go the extra mile in empowering women with newfound free time to become intelligent, savvy entrepreneurs and lift the economic spirit of their village.

Kyle M., Former Volunteer

...I have seen a lot of nonprofit organizations and even more volunteers of NPOs and I have never seen such dedication to helping impoverished women in such a poor part of the world... I don't contribute to the "big" charities but this one is on top of my list.

Lois Z., Donor

I LOVE donating to this organization. My business donates 10% to three charities each month, giving each client the option to choose. Wells Bring Hope always responds in such beautiful ways. They do NOT send me letters, with envelopes, asking for more but instead, come from a place of abundance and gratitude, letting me know how my donations have made a difference in people's lives. I love this! Instead of "More! More!" I hear "Thank you." This organization seems to operate from love and abundance and gratitude and that is in line with my mission.

Peggy J., Donor

As a member of the International Monetary Fund's Civic Program Advisory Committee from 2006 to 2012, I reviewed hundreds of requests for grants and therefore, I know well the range of nonprofits' performances and effectiveness... Since 2015, I have been supporting Wells Bring Hope because it maintains every element that I look for in supporting a nonprofit:

- 1. A clear mission and evidence of progress in fulfilling it.*
- 2. Provision of measurable results*
- 3. Little to no waste*
- 4. Sustainability*
- 5. Opportunity for complimentary programs (economic empowerment for women)*
- 6. A committed team of volunteers*
- 7. Reputable and reliable partners.*

I highly recommend supporting Wells Bring Hope!

Jennifer R., Donor and Former Board Member

Let me preface my review by noting I'm Scottish. We are a people who do not like spending money, and we squeeze every penny's worth of value out of what we do spend. It's what we do. Wells Bring Hope represents that incredible value that I naturally look for. That's why I've parted with money and time for this organization. Your donation grows in impact from the moment it reaches WBH.

Nick B. Donor/Former Volunteer

I was motivated to join Wells Bring Hope when I attended a presentation by Gil Garcetti on the plight of villagers in West Africa. I was moved by photos of young girls who had to walk many miles, sometimes several times a day, to fetch water. As a result, they could never go to school. I knew almost immediately that I had to do something to help stem this cycle. WBH offered the opportunity to join a number of like-minded folks, and we ARE making a difference!

Anonymous, Donor

Wells Bring Hope is one of the most well-managed and successful organizations I've ever worked with. I've worked with many non-profits over the last forty-two years as a professional fundraiser and board member and this one is at the top of my list.

Jan D., Former Board Member



Who We Are

Board

Barbara Goldberg, President & Founder

A native New Yorker, Barbara began an exciting advertising and marketing career on Madison Avenue. She founded Responsive Research, Inc. and spent over thirty years as a marketing consultant, conducting focus groups for Fortune 500 companies, including Bank of America, Coca-Cola, American Airlines, Johnson & Johnson, General Motors, General Mills, IBM, and 3M, to name a few. In 1975, she moved to Los Angeles where she continued to work and raise two children. In 1993, she founded Salon Forum, a non-business venture, to bring women together in her home for events that support personal enrichment and connection.

In March of 2008, Barbara and other women of Salon Forum were inspired to start Wells Bring Hope after Gil Garcetti spoke at one of their meetings. She saw WBH as an opportunity to “give back” and so decided to devote her full time to saving lives in West Africa. In January of 2009, she was one of six women who went on a life-changing journey to Niger. She began speaking to community groups and schools to inspire others to take up this cause. She is the mother of two and grandmother of three young girls who live close by.

Lawrence Johnson, Treasurer

Lawrence R. Johnson is a seasoned investment banker and strategic advisor with over 30 years of experience, specializing in the food, beverage, and consumer products industries. He has led numerous buy- and sell-side transactions, helping Fortune 500 companies and middle-market businesses expand distribution, grow revenue, and strengthen their brands.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Lawrence has been a dedicated member of Rotary International for over 20 years, reflecting his deep commitment to service and ethical leadership. He also serves as a lay leader in the Episcopal Church, where he supports ministry development and contributes to the spiritual and organizational life of the community.

Lawrence holds an MBA from Columbia University and a BS in Economics from Boston College. He brings a strategic mindset, a collaborative approach, and a strong sense of mission to his work with nonprofit organizations.

Ida Harding, Secretary

A native Georgian, Ida worked as Project Manager for IBM and Federal Contracting Services for 20 years. Prior to that, she was Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Academic Skills Center at two Wisconsin universities.

She has an MBA from the UCLA Anderson School, as well as an MA in English Literature /Linguistics and an AbD in Higher Education, from University of Wisconsin-Madison). She also graduated from the Project Management Institute (PMI) Leadership Master Class and has earned her Project Management Professional (PMP) credential.

She has been an active member and volunteer in PMI for 25 years. She was President of the LA Chapter for two terms and was selected as the PMI Chapter President of the Year for both. Ida joined Wells Bring Hope shortly after its start and has traveled to Niger a number of times, serving as videographer interviewing women.

David Girard, Director of Donor Development

Although he is originally from Minneapolis, David spent much of his childhood on his grandmother's farm. The farm house had no indoor plumbing, and he had to hand pump water from a well. Whether it was 90 degrees or -30, it was David's job to bring water into the house.

Immediately upon graduating from high school, David enrolled at the Aveda Institute for Cosmetology where he graduated with honors. At the age of 19, he moved to Marina del Rey, California where he opened his salon at the age of 20.

In the years since, David has grown his business and now has more than 30 employees. He served four years as the president of the National Association of Salon Owners. David has also been an international platform artist for Aveda and a motivational speaker, teaching real estate investment to hairstylists. When David was introduced to Wells Bring Hope in 2011, he felt an immediate connection with the cause because of his childhood years on the farm.

Leslee Greathead

Leslee was born and raised in Los Angeles. After receiving her degree in psychology, she worked as a counselor at Hathaway Family Services, a child welfare and behavioral health facility.

Following the birth of her two children, she changed direction and began working in Human Resources, eventually specializing in benefits management. Following her retirement from NBCUniversal, Leslee volunteered at Hope Gardens Family Center, a branch of Union Rescue Mission. She formed a group which focused on activities for senior women who had been brought off the streets and given permanent supportive housing at the facility.

Leslee treasures her family and enjoys spending much of her time with her four precious grandchildren. They are a principal reason for her interest in Wells Bring Hope. No child should be without the most basic, essential element for their survival - clean water.

Marsha Hierbaum

Marsha Hierbaum was born and raised in New Jersey and graduated from Upsala College in East Orange New Jersey. Her first job was in advertising in Philadelphia, PA. In 1972, she moved to Los Angeles where she worked as a Branch Financial Analyst for Xerox Corporation.

She married Mark Hierbaum, and in 1980, they started their own company, DML Marketing Group, LTD, located in Van Nuys, California. Marsha retired in 2017, and Mark is still running the business. Marsha is President of the Bel Air Crest Homeowners Association, and serves on many committees for the association.

Marsha and Mark have contributed to many charities but Wells Bring Hope has been a very special charity for the Hierbaum Family, and they have been matching donors since 2017. They have one daughter, Stephanie.

Lene Martin

Dr. Lene Martin is the founder and director of the Blockchain at Pepperdine program at Pepperdine University, an academia meets industry initiative providing blockchain courses, certificates, consulting, conferences, and collaboratories for blockchain research and development worldwide. As an adjunct professor, she also teaches blockchain business applications and digital asset analytics at the Pepperdine Graziadio Business School.

Dr. Martin is the founder and CEO of a Malibu consulting company, an entrepreneur and investor in tech startups, an advisor and director of several boards, including the International Visitors Council of Los Angeles and the International Blockchain Real Estate Association, a published author and international speaker, and a leader in innovative solutions in media and emerging technologies at organizations such as Lockheed Martin Corp., Amgen Inc., and Blockchain Training Alliance.

Dr. Martin also leads the [Work-Life Integration Project](#), a global advocacy initiative focused on the research, publication, and presentation of women's work-life-family experiences, and is the founder and host of its [Breaking Balance Speaker Series](#). She recently co-authored two books on social impact and women's empowerment: [Women in Leadership: Work-Family Integration](#), published by Cambridge Scholars, and [Work from Home: Multi-level Perspectives on the New Normal](#), published by Emerald Publishing.

Dr. Martin holds master's degrees in mass communications and women's studies, a doctorate in organizational leadership, a Ph.D. candidacy in global leadership and change

at Pepperdine University, and is the recipient of a Pepperdine University Waves of Innovation grant award. As a Norwegian-American scholar, her research agenda focuses on Nordic leadership models of socio-economic growth and sustainability, specifically the convergence of emerging technology strategies and corporate social responsibility standards.

Eduardo Robles, Director of Special Events

Eduardo Robles was born in Venezuela as the 11th of 12 siblings. His childhood was challenging due to a lack of financial resources and parents who were not well-equipped to create a loving or peaceful home. Eduardo faced the adversity of his early years by cultivating his imagination and using it to create worlds in his mind that offered an escape from a difficult reality. Discovering the power of creativity at a very early age allowed Eduardo to transform limitations and conflict into opportunity.

At 13, he began working to help his family, and by age 19, he had started his first business painting handmade posters and signs, which earned him enough money to develop his career and open his own graphic design studio. With the unconditional support of a professor, Eduardo himself became a vocational professor, teaching at three well-known Venezuelan universities.

In 2002, Eduardo decided to emigrate to the United States to pursue the American Dream. Here, developed a fulfilling career as a graphic artist, author, entrepreneur, and motivational speaker. Currently living in Marina del Rey, California, Eduardo has spent the last 16 years as CEO of Cre8ions Unique Events, an international event planning company. He is also committed to helping others to activate and nurture their innate creativity.

Carol Rosen

Carol Rosen received a degree from USC in dental hygiene and was engaged in that practice for fifteen years. During that time, which included raising two girls, she developed her passion for cooking, which she turned into a business of custom cakes and catering.

The catering business evolved into event planning—Party Designs by Carol-- for both individuals and corporate entities. As a Certified Special Event Professional (CSEP) Carol enjoyed a fulfilling career and served as the president of several event industry organizations, including the International Special Events Society and International President of Wedding Industry Professionals Association. Carol has also been a mentor for many young people just starting out in the field.

Now that she is officially “retired,” Carol has the time to devote to non-profit organizations like Wells Bring Hope and to her family. Carol has lived in Los Angeles her entire life, married for 50 years with two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Patricia Vick

Patricia Vick was an employee benefits attorney for over 34 years, and until her retirement at the end of 2018, was a partner in the Law Offices of Shardlow & Vick in Pasadena. Patricia graduated from USC with a BA in history and has an MA in European history from UCLA. She went to law school at night when her younger son Kevin started first grade and received a JD from Loyola Law School.

Patricia has been a member of the Board of Directors of AbilityFirst for 40 years and is a former chair. She has a personal commitment to its work with individuals with developmental disabilities because her older son, George, now deceased, was born with spina bifida. Participation in AbilityFirst's programs, especially his 14 years as a camper at his beloved Camp Joan Mier, tremendously enriched George's life.

Patricia also was a member of the Zonta Club of Pasadena and served as its President. It was at Zonta that Barbara Goldberg first introduced Patricia to Wells Bring Hope. Patricia is a passionate supporter of the mission of Wells Bring Hope and joined the Board in 2018. She is its Director of Strategic Planning. Her retirement plans include more travel and spending time with her three fantastic grandsons.

Gil Garcetti, Special Advisor to the Board

Gil Garcetti spent 32 years in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, including eight years as Los Angeles County District Attorney. His interest in bringing safe water to the people of West Africa began in January 2001, when he visited West Africa as the guest of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

The most startling fact he learned on this trip: roughly 70% of rural villages do not have access to safe water. He made four subsequent trips to West Africa; during those trips, he took the photographs that would eventually become the book "Water Is Key. Since 2006, he has worked tirelessly and successfully to raise awareness and funds to drill wells in West Africa. His life goal is to continue to fund wells to save lives with safe water.

Gil is an internationally acclaimed photographer, having published five photo books since 2002. In the fall of 2007, the UCLA Fowler Museum had an exhibition of his photographs, "Women, Water and Wells." In 2009, many of the photographs that inspired the founding of Wells Bring Hope were on exhibit in the visitors lobby of the United Nations in New York. Gil continues to publish books, and in 2018, published his ninth book of photography, Protea: The Magic and Mystery.

Operational Support

Kate Cusimano, Director of Operations

Ida Harding, Director of Volunteer Management

Hadiara Diallo, Director of Economic Empowerment for Women

Todd Bentjen, Director of Public Relations

Patricia Vick, Director of Strategic Planning

Eduardo Robles, Director of Special Events

Nadya Jauza, Director of Social Media

David Girard, Director of Donor Development

Charles Gooley, Web Master

Tawanda Mukwekwezeke, Manager of the Blog Team

Brent Lewis, Web Developer and Web Design Consultant

Laurie Reemeyer, Organizational Management Consultant

James Golding, Financial Consultant



Our Current and Past Partners & Supporters

Foundations

| | |
|--|--|
| Aaron Marks Foundation | Joseph and Fiora Stone Foundation |
| Arthur and Edith Stern Family Foundation | L.A. Clippers Foundation |
| Andern Educational Research | Laura and John Arnold Foundation |
| Benenson Family Foundation | Margaret M. Bloomfield Foundation |
| Benevity Community Impact Fund | The P.E.A.C.E. Fund |
| Cornelia Hodge Fund | Panda Restaurant Group |
| Dame Family Foundation | Permacity Foundation |
| Erich and Delia Koenig Foundation | Red Leaf Foundation |
| Friese Family Foundation | Reed Foundation |
| Greenberg Foundation | Robert and Lois Jacob Philanthropic Foundation |
| Haynes Family Foundation | Rothstein Kass Foundation |
| Horne Family Foundation | Stanley and Joyce Black Family Foundation |
| International Monetary Fund | Waters Foundation |
| Jalali Foundation | Weingart Foundation |
| Jonathon Port Foundation | Zimmer Family Foundation |

Corporations, Community Groups, and Schools

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| American Business Bank | Manhattan Beach Rotary Club |
| Atlantic Commercial Group | Mastery Circle |
| Avitas | Matador Records |
| Bliss Car Wash | Orange Aluminum |
| Chadwick School | Palos Verdes Sunset Rotary Club |
| City National Bank | Pasadena Rotary Club |
| EmEmpowered | Philoptichos Society of St. Anthony |
| Exquisite Caribbean Resorts, LLC | Resourceful Paths Consulting |
| The Food Lawyers | Santa Barbara Rotary Club |
| Hairstory | Self Love Cosmetics |
| Hermosa Beach Rotary Club | South Church |
| Hope Actualized | Texas Instruments |
| Intex Solutions | Turkish Airlines |
| Jonathon Port Foundation | Warren Woods Baptist Church |
| Kendra Scott | |

Our Accomplishments in 2024

- Raised over \$520,000 in donations and operating sponsorship.
- Funded 49 taps and one solar-powered water system for a health clinic, transforming over 36,000 lives.
- Based on success in Niger over 17 years, WBH decided to expand its efforts beyond Niger. In September, it funded 24 taps in Mali, Niger's eastern neighbor. It will continue to support Niger with solar-powered water projects.
- Maintained a 4-star rating (their highest) from Charity Navigator, the premiere evaluator of US-based charities.
- Received grants from foundations totaling over \$160,000.



Financials

Wells Bring Hope financial position for the year ended December 31, 2024

| Revenue | 2024 |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Donations | \$340,812 |
| Investment Income | \$2,298 |
| Sponsorship | \$173,503 |
| Total Revenue | \$516,613 |

| Expenses | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| World Vision Funding | \$358,700 |
| Operating Expenses | \$94,379 |
| Total Expenses | \$453,079 |