



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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We thank our key supporters and, of course, our on-the-ground partners.





RYAN'S WELL FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The contents of this report will give you an in-depth look at everything we've managed to accomplish during the 2020-21 year. While previous reports have focused almost exclusively on our BUILD program, we're working to increase transparency in all three of our charitable programs: BUILD, EDUCATE, and MOTIVATE. This year, you will see an increase in content on the number of presentations we've conducted, the number of people educated by these presentations, as well as the numbers from our annual School Challenge project. You will also see even more details regarding how our work this year compares to previous years.

While the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have had an impact on the ways in which we operate, we're happy to report that we have provided clean water to over 60,000 people - 27% more than our 2019-20 fiscal year - in two countries: Uganda and Ghana. Ryan's Well staff also conducted 30 virtual presentations to 5,255 people in six countries. These presentations not only educate on the importance of access to clean, safe water and sanitation, but also inspire people young and old to follow their passions and make a positive difference in the world.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our work, and read on for more information on each of our programs.

THIS YEAR AT A GLANCE:

40

water projects
completed

4

latrines
completed

61,803

more people
with clean
water

30

presentations
given

59

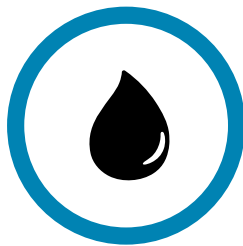
schools
involved



FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

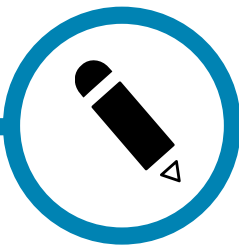
The Foundation grew from the passion and courage of one 6-year-old boy, Ryan Hreljac. Ryan was inspired to take action as a grade one student when he learned of the devastating consequences for people without access to safe drinking water. He was remarkably determined as he succeeded in rallying his community to help him raise the funds needed to build a well in Uganda, Africa – one well that has changed everything. Now, more than 20 years later, Ryan's Well Foundation is a small but mighty team of people committed to providing access to safe water and sanitation as an essential way to improve lives in the developing world. We also educate people about the importance of accessing safe water and sanitation services and look to motivate people of all ages to take action and effect positive change in the world.

OUR PROGRAMS



BUILD

Clean Water, Sanitation,
and Hygiene Projects



EDUCATE

On the Importance of
Access to Safe Water
and Sanitation



MOTIVATE

Others to Get Involved
and Make a Difference

OUR MISSION

Ryan's Well Foundation, together with local partners, provides access to clean water and sanitation projects and hygiene education in the poorest regions of developing countries. We educate and motivate people to share our passion and contribute to changing the world.

TO DATE...

**1.1
MILLION
PEOPLE**

now have access to
clean drinking water
and sanitation

**1,531
WATER
PROJECTS**

completed to provide
clean water

**1,267
LATRINES**

built to provide
sanitation, hygiene, and
dignity

**17
COUNTRIES**

have benefited from the
work of Ryan's Well
Foundation



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

You're never too young or too old to make a difference.

Ryan's Well Foundation began with the idea that anyone, even a six-year-old in grade one, can have a positive impact on the world. In hindsight, I don't think I ever would have raised my hand with the idea of bringing clean water to the entire world had I thought like many adults. It was both naïve and impulsive to think I could but, when tackling big goals, sometimes a dream is the only place to start. I definitely wasn't thinking like a knowledgeable adult with a detailed plan of action. Someone who perhaps had a better idea of the scale of the world's water problems may have seen an insurmountable hurdle and may have never even begun. But I shared my lofty dream with my community. They wholeheartedly took up the cause, and the dream continues to grow and proliferate. Over the last year, we've had the privilege of

speaking to over 5,000 people in classes, groups, and businesses across the world who may be "ordinary" like I was in my grade one class, but realize that a dream shouldn't be shelved just because it seems impossible to realize. Because we shared that passion and dream, over the last year, we've been able to provide 61,803 with access to safe, clean water and sanitation! That dream is kept alive by seniors, youth, and everyone in between. Since our inception, we've been lucky to have countless volunteers, as well as staff, board members, and donors, who reject apathy, raise their hands, and bring their own passion to change the world for the better and render it a little more equal. We're so excited to start our next year with bigger plans to provide clean water to even more people, and empower more to make the world a better place no matter where we come from, or how old we are. Even six!

Ryan

“
A dream
shouldn't be
shelved just
because it
seems
impossible to
realize.

”



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

This past year has been a difficult one for charities and non-profits; not only has the pandemic disrupted our regular operations, but controversies in the charitable sector have led to widespread distrust of charitable work. Despite this, we carry on. With ongoing support from donors, the resiliency of our team, and efforts from volunteers, we've managed to provide clean water and sanitation to even more people this year than the previous one. In 2020-21, over 61,000 people have been empowered through the improved health and economic opportunities that our clean water and sanitation projects provide.

While we have always been steadfast in our governance and transparency, we continue to seek improvement. We are now reporting how our work compares to what was achieved in previous years - showing how we met performance targets, identifying where we need to adapt, and answering any questions as to why this is the case. As always, we are sure to include the results of our annual financial audit on our website, so that you can feel confident in your decision to support the Foundation's work.

The meetings of the volunteer Board of Directors have all been virtual, but this has not impacted our ability to make meaningful decisions about the Foundation's work, including, but not limited to: making sound financial choices; confirming project work locations and partners; and discussing back-up and succession planning for the organization. In this regard, we recently welcomed four new Board Members, and we look forward to expanding our role - including the addition of an Education Committee, which will continue our work to widen and deepen our connection with schools and help educate students on the importance of clean water and making positive change in the world.

While this year was a challenging one, it also allowed the Foundation's Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers to re-evaluate how we do things. We look forward, through continued reporting, to sharing our progress, our initiatives, and our successes with all of you.

Sarah Gore, Board Chair

AND A NEW BOARD MEMBER

In the summer of 2019, I got a call from Ryan asking if I would like to be a member of the Board of Directors for Ryan's Well. I wasn't sure what being a Board Member involved. What would I have to offer? How did it work? What were my responsibilities? But what better place for me to begin my retirement than back to where it all began: devoted to the Ryan's Well cause and working with Ryan and the team. I said yes!

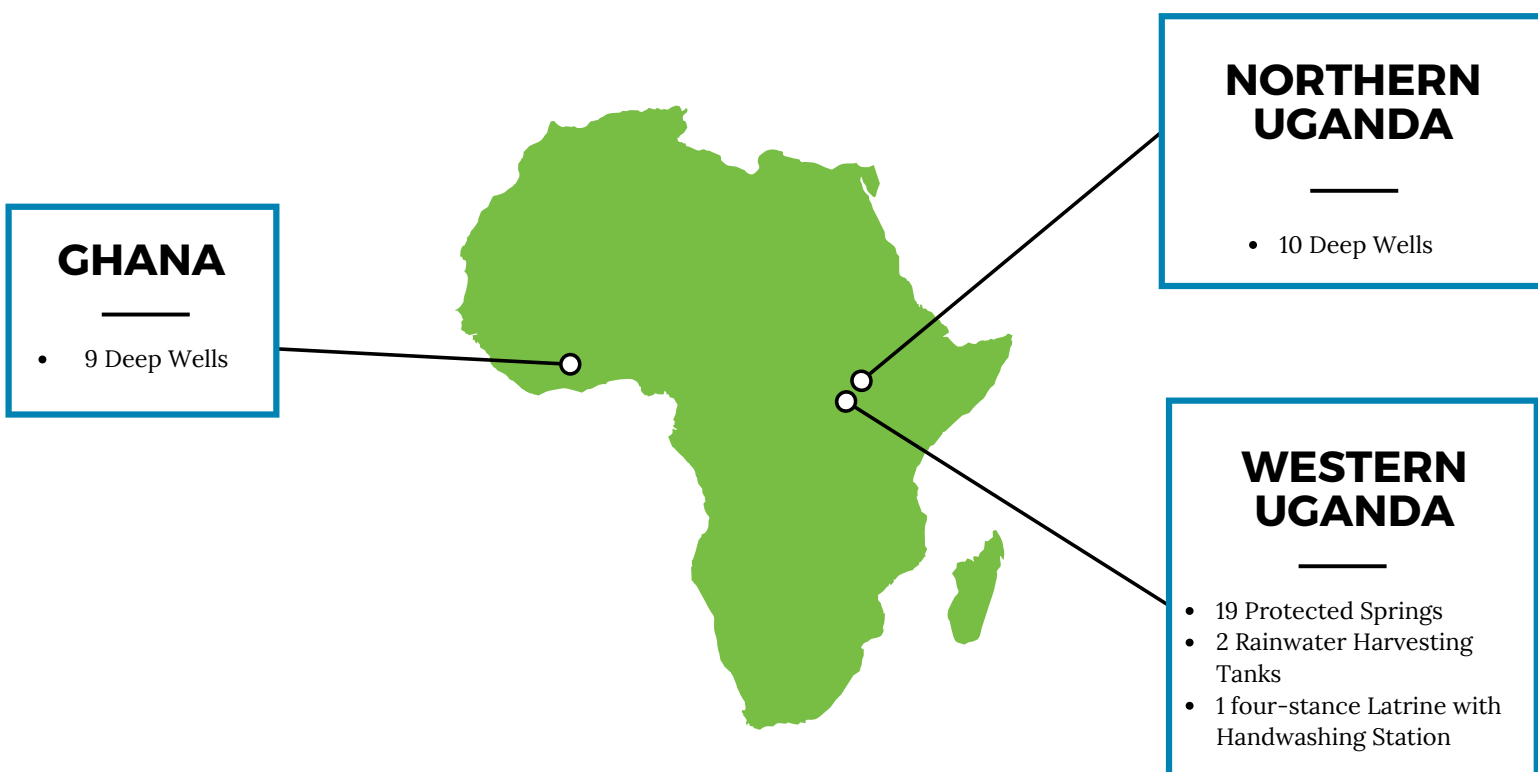
My first meeting was in November 2019. I met the other members of the Board, each with unique skills and knowledge, and all deeply dedicated and committed to Ryan and the mission. It was truly inspiring! I learned about the different facets of the Board and the Foundation - getting to know the people and learning how the very streamlined administration worked. The 4-6 meetings a year get the formal business done, but I wanted to do more. I decided to work with my former school board on a Ryan's Well project in conjunction with the existing Ryan's Well School Challenge, to renew, revisit, and re-introduce the Ryan's Well story, mission, and website to K-6 schools in our school board. Mike Glofcheskie (a fellow Board Member and educator) and I produced a monogram that contained a visual and virtual history of Ryan's Well, highlighted ten read-aloud books (each with a short synopsis, suggested activities, and higher order thinking questions), and fundraising ideas for both school and home.

We recognized that there were many educational opportunities that would further spread the Ryan's Well mission to Build, Educate and Motivate. A new Education Committee has thus been created, which includes Mike, Kerry, and me (all Ryan's Well Board Members and retired educators), plus three new young, keen Board Members with varied educational experience. We are just beginning, but with this kind of energy, enthusiasm, and expertise, we will definitely have an impact! I am looking forward to the next year with delight!

Nancy Prest, Ryan's Grade One Teacher

WHERE WE WORKED

A quick look at how many projects we completed in each country during our 2020-2021 fiscal year!



THIS YEAR, WE...



Completed **40 WATER PROJECTS**.



Connected **5 HEALTH CENTRES and 3 SCHOOLS** to a clean water source.



Built **1 LATRINE** with 4 stances.



Provided clean water to **61,803 PEOPLE**.



PROJECT REPORT

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to fund the construction of **40 water projects** and **four latrine stances** in two countries, providing **61,803 people** with sustainable access to safe water and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) education.

We constructed ten deep wells in Northern Uganda, 22 water and sanitation sources in Western Uganda, and nine deep wells for communities, health centres, and schools in Ghana.

We consider ourselves very lucky to have such long-standing and trusted relationships with our local partners; we have worked with our three current partners for over 15 years and have evaluated all of their Ryan's Well funded project sites completed since the early 2000s. These trusted relationships enabled us to continue with our mission last year, despite being unable to travel to project sites. By increasing the frequency of updates and improving our methods of communication and reporting with each local partner, we successfully completed our project plan for the 2020-21 fiscal year. All of our local teams are safe, healthy, and have begun project activities for 2021-22.

One of my favourite stories this year is from Allen, Chair of the RWIDF Board in Western Uganda, and a local nurse and midwife in Burombe village. Her clinic serves thousands of people each year, and Allen is one of the few certified midwives in the area. With so many people relying on Allen's services, I was shocked to learn that the Burombe Health Centre had no proximate water source, and that every time Allen needed to deliver a baby or clean her medical equipment, she had to walk 1 km to the nearest community well. We are happy to report that Allen's Health Centre received a rainwater harvesting tank this year! Allen said, "This tank will be very helpful for people around this area. Water is life, and we will be forever grateful to Ryan's Well Foundation and its supporters for giving us this tank. Thank you very much for thinking of us!"

We plan to evaluate every site completed last year as soon as it is safe to travel internationally, and we anticipate some double monitoring trips in 2022. Be sure to check out the active projects page on our website, and remember – WASH your hands!



CHALLENGES FACED IN 2020-21

Our local partners experienced a few issues in the field during the 2020-21 fiscal year – beginning with a global lockdown! After 2-3 months of strategic planning and gathering personal protective equipment for each team, all three local partners began project work. A notable procedural change for all partners this year was the inability to work on multiple sources simultaneously. Typically, our local partners begin with construction work for all targeted sites, moving from one village to the next, and then returning to each community to conduct the WASH education training sessions. This past year, all three partners decided to complete each site in its entirety before proceeding to the next, in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 contraction and spread. Other risks and challenges experienced by our local partners include the increased costs for materials, supply issues at local hardware stores, and over-scheduling for drilling companies. Finally, our three local partners reported heavy rainfall and bad road conditions throughout 2020-21, which meant that they could not reach construction sites on certain days. Despite these challenges, our local partners pushed through, and managed to finish all projects by March 2021!



BUILD GOALS

(and how we measured up)

2020-21 Fiscal Year

	Goal	Actual
Number of Water Projects	50	40
Number of Latrines	0	4
Number of Beneficiaries	50,000+	61,803
BUILD Budget	\$660,890	\$564,668

Given all the unexpected challenges in 2020-21, our small team here at Ryan's Well Foundation has dedicated a lot of time to planning for the future. Part of these strategic planning sessions includes setting goals for our BUILD program and, ideally, working towards a larger impact each year through set objectives.

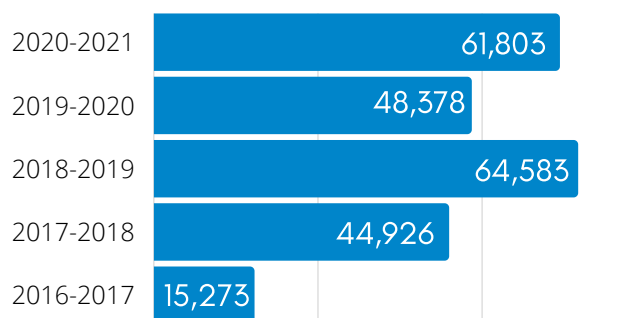
You will see above some of our successes from the 2020-21 fiscal year, such as exceeding our goals for the number of latrines constructed and people helped. We did not specify the number of latrines we want to build each year, as our funds are primarily focused on the construction of safe water sources; however, we did provide a primary school with a 4-stance latrine, as we noticed during our January 2020 evaluation that this school was in desperate need of improved sanitation facilities. In terms of the number of people we helped, we focused a lot of our project work on health centres and schools, in addition to communities, which is a reason we were able to help even more people.

Other BUILD program goals, such as the number of water projects we wanted to construct and sticking to our set BUILD program budget, were missed slightly. In this case, we had originally planned to work in Mexico in 2020-21; however, we were unable to get this project started due to COVID-19 and safety concerns in the working region. The inability to work in Mexico during this fiscal year significantly impacted our BUILD program outputs in terms of the expected budget and total number of water sources constructed.

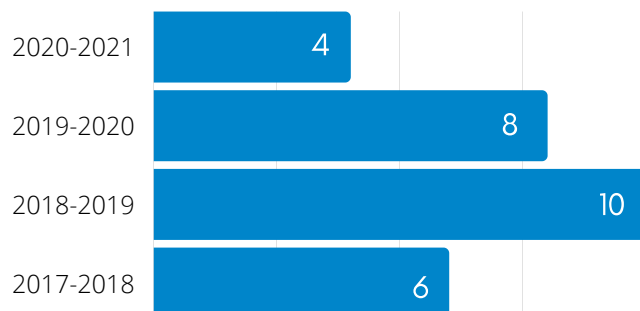
BUILD: HOW WE STACKED UP IN 2020-2021

Here's a snapshot of how we held up in 2020-21 against other years for our BUILD program. Have any questions about our project work? You can always send an e-mail to Keely, our Project Manager, at keely@ryanswell.ca.

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES



NUMBER OF LATRINES



We helped

+27%

more people this year,

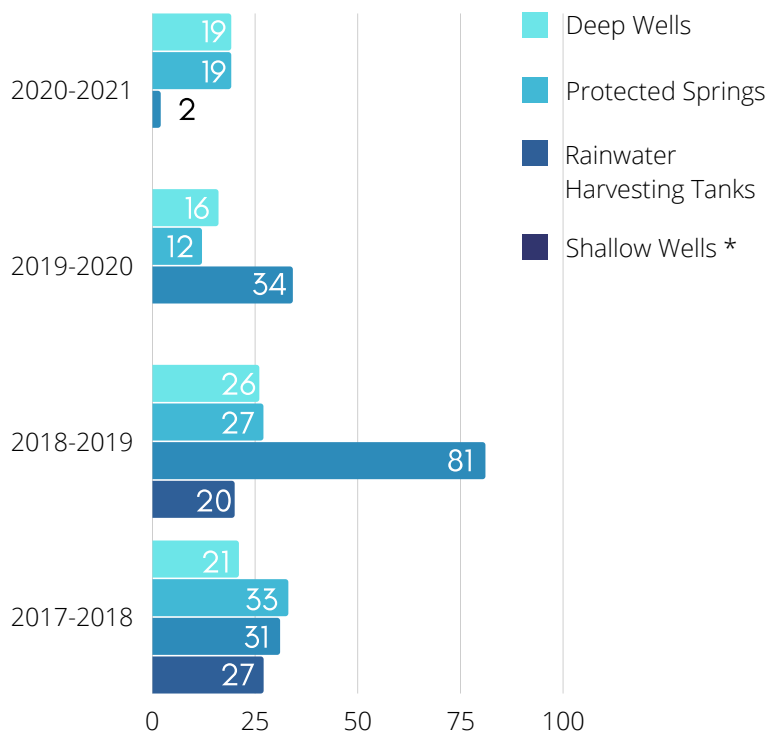
But built

-38%

fewer projects than in 2019-2020.

Why is that? Take a read below!

NUMBER AND TYPE OF WATER PROJECT



*Shallow wells have been phased out by local governments of the countries in which we work, as they are no longer considered an effective solution to combat the global water crisis.

WHY ARE FEWER PROJECTS HELPING MORE PEOPLE?

Local governments in the countries in which we work are phasing out shallow wells, as they are not as effective as once thought (climate change has made the water from shallow wells less reliable). Now, our local partners are focused on building deep wells where we previously built shallow wells or rainwater harvesting tanks. Deep wells produce more water, so that even more people are able to use them.

WHY ARE WE BUILDING FEWER LATRINES?

In the last few years, we have shifted our focus from building latrines to encouraging more communities to build or improve their own pit latrines in conjunction with the construction of our water projects. In this way, we are indirectly improving sanitation services, without including these in our project outputs. We are using this same strategy for garbage pits, drying racks for dishes, and building handwashing stations. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, more communities have begun taking on these initiatives themselves. However, for the 2021-22 fiscal year, we will be building **44 latrines!**

+5%

participants in the School Challenge

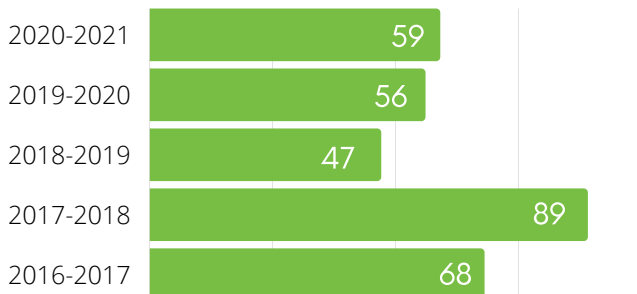
-61%

donated towards the School Challenge

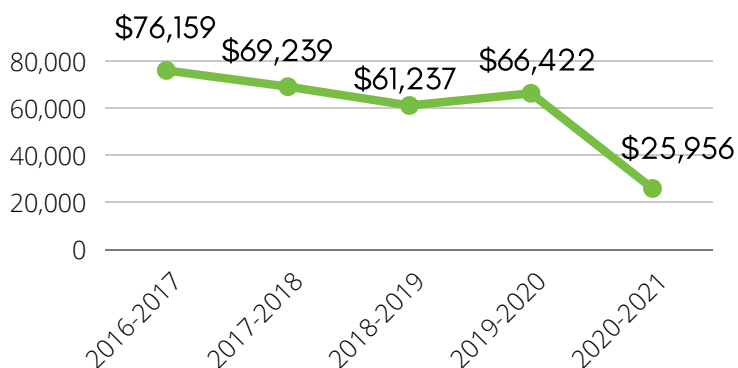
EDUCATE/MOTIVATE: HOW WE STACKED UP IN 2020-2021

This year's global pandemic made our EDUCATE and MOTIVATE programs a little more difficult, as we were unable to travel and speak to schools and communities in person. However, we still managed to make a difference, and people young and old from all over the world heard our message, and made a difference in so many ways! Take a look.

NUMBER OF SCHOOL CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS



TOTAL DONATIONS FROM SCHOOLS



THIS YEAR...

5,255

people educated through presentations

30

presentations given by Ryan's Well team members

6

*countries given presentations
(Brazil, Canada, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, United States).*

WHY DID SCHOOL DONATIONS DROP THIS YEAR?

The COVID-19 pandemic affected charities and not-for-profits around the globe, and we were no exception. Unfortunately (but also understandably), we did not receive as many donations from schools this year, as they were less able to take part in fundraising activities - both because they may have been physically in and out of school, but also because social distancing requirements made fundraising much more difficult. However, next year we hope to re-engage schools virtually by providing more educational documents, updates, and stories.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SCHOOL CHALLENGE?

This year, we're working with teachers to create resources that other educators can use to teach about the water crisis and Ryan's Well Foundation while following the curriculum. These will include lesson plans for each major subject. We will also be creating an Education section of our website that will provide students with their own resources to make a difference, such as information on how to conserve water, fundraising ideas, inspirational stories from other students who made a difference, and much more!

SCHOOL CHALLENGE UPDATE

Every year, in keeping with the Educate component of our mission, we offer the annual School Challenge project: a fundraiser in which we invite schools from all over the world to participate in funding a specific project. We realize that, because of the restrictions of the global pandemic, students would have fundraising challenges. We offered suggestions and tools to help with this and, of course, were always available to answer any questions. Even with these challenges, 56 schools participated in our 2019-2020 School Challenge (the previous year's challenge), and our project in Western Uganda was fully funded! Because of the ongoing pandemic, we decided to change things up for the 2020-21 Challenge by eliminating the need to sign up and designating all donations received from schools towards the Ghana School Challenge project - with a fundraising goal of \$27,179 CDN. As of August 2021, schools have almost met the 2020-2021 goal! From April 2016 to March 2020, school fundraisers have contributed close to \$300,000 for clean water and sanitation projects! Not only have students learned creative and valuable ways in which to empower those who need support, they were also educated on the importance of sanitation and hygiene in the fight against disease. We never cease to be amazed by the commitment and dedication students show in wanting to join us in making a difference - both online and off.

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE STORIES THIS YEAR...



North, 9, from Wisconsin, surpassed his goal of \$100, raising \$500 through a virtual M&M count and read-a-thon!



Maverick, 8, from Cobourg, Ontario, raised \$1,849 by accepting donations to pick up garbage along the road!

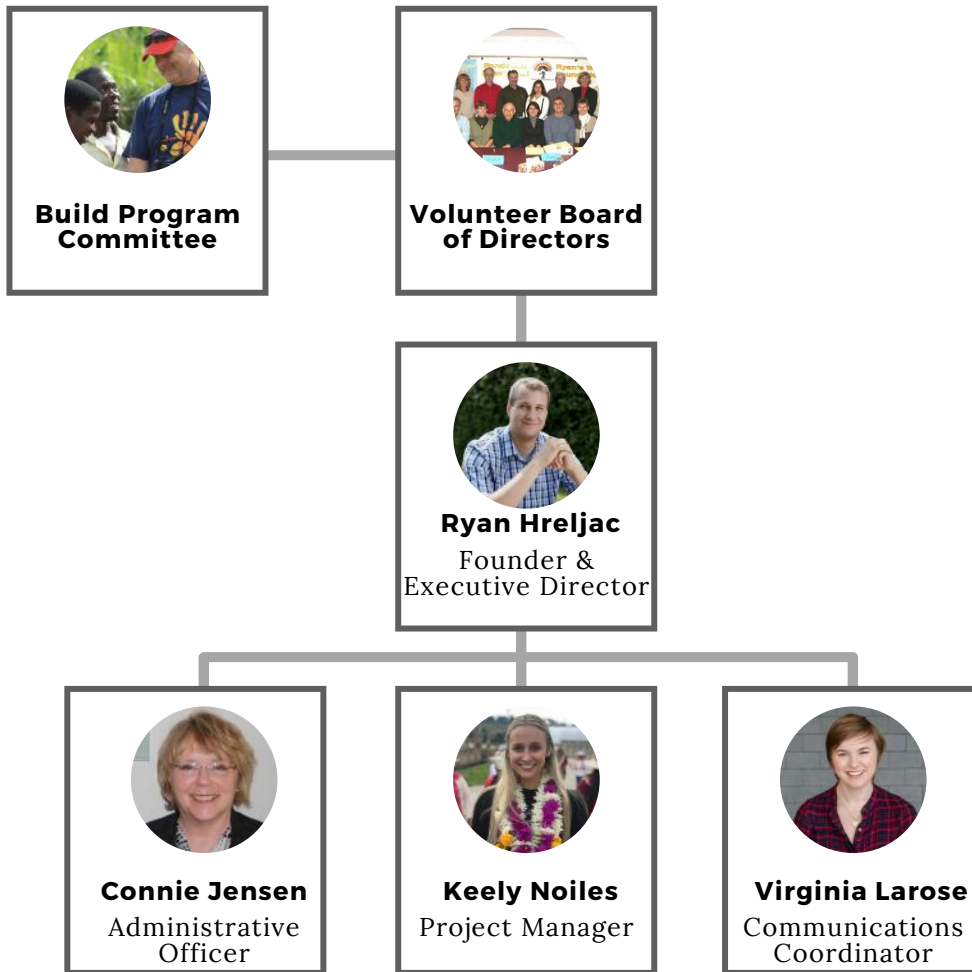


Andrea Clarke's Grade Six Class at St. Augustine's in Newfoundland, raised \$253.40 by organizing a change drive!



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

RYAN'S WELL FOUNDATION TEAM



OUR PARTNERS



Volunteer Board of Directors: Our volunteer Board of Directors is our governing body. It provides oversight, insight, and direction to the organization, and plays a pivotal role in both project planning and fundraising. Its role includes approving recommendations from Ryan's Well staff (such as operating and project budgets), serving on sub-committees (such as the Build Program Committee and the newly formed Education Committee), and working on long-term goals and direction for the Foundation. The Board currently consists of 11 members (five Executive Committee Members and six Board Members), and meets at least four times every fiscal year

Build Program Committee: The Ryan's Well Foundation's BUILD Committee is composed of six members, and meets bi-monthly (approximately six times a year); however, due to the disruptions to our project work associated with COVID-19, the committee met 20 times in 2020-21. Specifically, the committee provides oversight in support of the Board of Directors to ensure alignment of the Build Program with Board-approved plans, provides strategic advisory services to support the execution of the Build Program by staff, and enables staff augmentation. Committee members can volunteer additional time to engage in a specific initiative (i.e. researching or vetting potential partners, analyzing data, or joining monitoring trips).

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

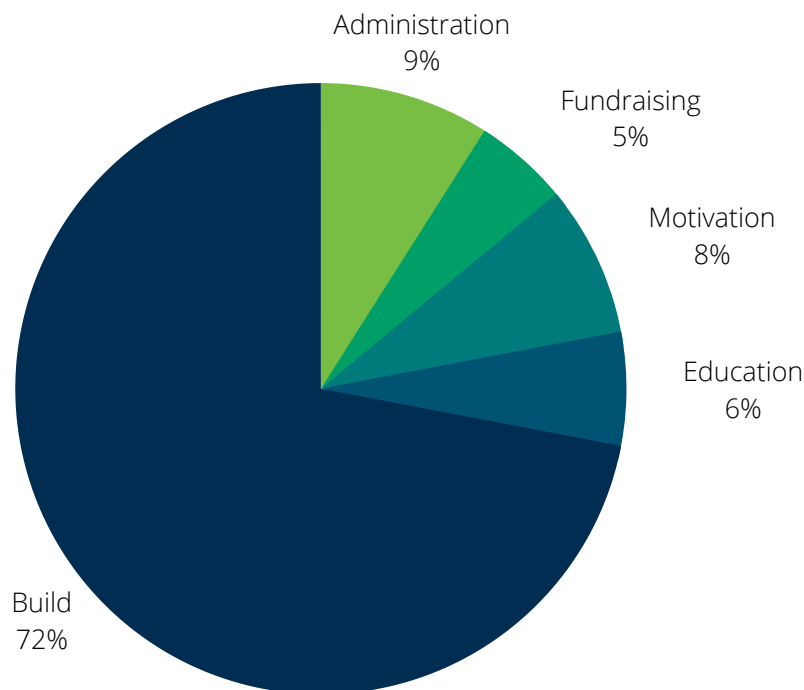
Over the past three years, an average of 84 cents of every donation dollar spent has directly supported our charitable programs (Build - Educate - Motivate). As we continue to examine ways to grow and diversify our revenue stream, we are deeply committed to ensuring donations are directed towards our mission of improving lives and effecting change in the world. Our small and efficient team is critical to keeping our overall fundraising costs at 5%, and our average administration costs remain nearly unchanged over the past four years at 9%.

The Foundation's fiscal year runs from April 1st to March 31st. Our annual audit and financial statements were completed this year (2021) by the firm of Hendry Warren LLP. This audit can be found under 2019-20 Audited Financial Statements on the Ryan's Well Foundation website at www.ryanswell.ca.

HAVE ANY FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS, OR COMMENTS ABOUT HOW WE CONDUCT WORK AT RYAN'S WELL FOUNDATION?

Please feel free to get in touch with us anytime by:

E-mail: info@ryanswell.ca
Telephone: 1.613.258.6832
Mail: 40 Campus Dr.
P.O. Box 1120
Kemptville, Ontario K0G 1J0



BUILD: Build clean water, sanitation, and hygiene projects, facilitate the accompanying WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) training, and monitor the project upon completion to evaluate level of sustainability.

EDUCATION: Educate on the importance of access to safe water and sanitation to raise awareness about the global water crisis. Includes Foundation's conference and travel expenses.

MOTIVATION: Motivate people, especially youth, to get involved with their passions and make a positive difference in the world. Includes Foundation's travel expenses to schools and other groups locally and internationally.

FUNDRAISING: Internal fundraising efforts within Ryan's Well Foundation to maximize our donor reach and potential impact (for example, printing costs to mail our annual general reports and newsletters).

ADMINISTRATION: Much of our Administrative fees this year went towards technical advancements to allow the team to work remotely (i.e. BRIA, tech support, etc.).

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Blossom
Foundation



Christa Ng
Professional
Corporation

EMC Industries
Corporation

FK Morrow
Foundation



JSCharting

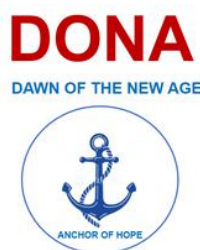


Mohammad
Kanwal Family
Foundation



We would also like to thank all of our generous individual donors - including those who make legacy donations and those who honour loved ones and special occasions. We couldn't do what we do without the help of many.
Thank you!

AND OUR INCREDIBLE PARTNERS



VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR - Sarah Gore

VICE CHAIR - Nancy Prest

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Mark Nowell

SECRETARY - Susan Hreljac

INTERIM TREASURER - Devan Pennell

BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Glofcheskie Rosemina Nathoo

Kerry Lamming Kevin Rogers

Spencer Mulvaney Megan Underwood

BUILD PROJECT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR - Kevin Rogers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jane Baird

Mark Hreljac


Shawn McCarthy

Chris Radziminski

Barry Westby



Recipient of the highest charity rating possible (★★★★★)

from  **Charity Intelligence Canada**

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