



soteni

*All of us together*

**SOTENI 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

## Our Mission

We are working in rural Kenya to prevent and mitigate the effects of diseases, especially HIV/AIDS.

We accomplish this through three programmatic areas.

*We're making a difference, together!*



## Our Programs



### CLEAN WATER

In partnership with P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water Program, our AIDS Barefoot Doctors provide access to safe drinking water to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.



### AIDS BAREFOOT DOCTORS

The AIDS Barefoot Doctors program allows community health workers to provide home-based care, group therapy, and education to people living with HIV/AIDS.



### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Villages of Hope are communities in which SOTENI delivers need based programming, such as health clinics, community centers, and income generating activities.

## a letter from... SOTENI International

We are delighted to share SOTENI's 2019-2020 Annual Report with you which captures the essence of SOTENI, **"All of us together."** Even amidst a global pandemic, we have enjoyed remarkable success. First, our dedicated and committed staff, volunteers, and other supporters of SOTENI have helped us to stay true to our mission of preventing the effects of diseases through community-based programs, and through online training programs related to infectious disease prevention, including COVID-19.

SOTENI International and SOTENI Kenya (SK) are in excellent alignment following the reorganization of the SK Board in 2020. **This will help to foster and continue SOTENI's growth in Kenya.** We are also thrilled to announce the

launch of Swazi SHEROES, officially established as a program of SOTENI International in April 2020 under the direction of a steering committee. This program in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) is designed to combat HIV/AIDS through the economic empowerment of women and will help us expand our reach in Africa.

**We seek your support as we continue to grow in Africa, to bring the best quality health services and support to people living with HIV/AIDS. Thank you for all that you do!**

With deep gratitude,

*Hema Krishnan, Ph.D. Chair & SOTENI International Board of Trustees*

*Jenny Brady, Executive Director*



## a letter from... SOTENI Kenya

Thank you to the SOTENI Kenya Board, our 39 staff members, and all our partners who have supported our mission in the past year. This year, **16,000 families accessed safe drinking water, 3,000 patients received quality affordable medical care from our Mbakalo Health Clinic, and over 16,000 women of reproductive age were reached with comprehensive sexual reproductive health and rights information in Ugunja.**

A special thank you to Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater and Shiloh Baptist Church Old Site, and the University of Cincinnati for the final round of funding needed to complete the Mbakalo clinic renovation.

Key undertakings for the year includes **promoting organization sustainability and strengthening systems in response to unforeseen challenges such the COVID-19 pandemic.** SOTENI's goal of addressing the HIV pandemic is still advancing through the provision of psychosocial support and safe drinking water to HIV positive clients and their families. SOTENI Kenya has a new Board of Directors that will serve until 2023. We would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the previous board under the leadership of Dr. Kennedy Ramani.

I hope this report is an encouragement and affirmation to all SOTENI supporters in the US and Kenya for your generous contributions to the lives of the people we serve. **I salute you and pray that you will continue to lead us in this life changing journey.**

*Tyrone K. Yates, Chair & Noreen Obilo, Programs Manager*



## Voices from the field...

Since Elizabeth and her family started using P&G packets to purify her drinking water, **incidence of water borne diseases have reduced in her home.** The availability of clean drinking water has influenced her adherence to medication, now she takes her medicine on time, with water, and as per her doctor's regulation.

Economically, **Elizabeth can now channel the money used to treat water related health ailments to other areas in the home such buying groceries and paying school fees for her children.** She is most appreciative as she does not need to buy charcoal to boil her drinking water. She is proud that she is contributing towards the global green movement of saving trees in community.



# 786,164

P&G Purifier of Water  
Packets distributed



# 2,535

People with HIV/AIDS  
are actively receiving  
support in AIDS Barefoot  
Doctors support groups



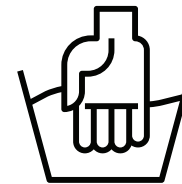
# 16,000

Families received access  
to safe drinking water

## Clean Water

Since 2010, P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water Program has provided support to SOTENI's AIDS Barefoot Doctors Clean Water outreach. Sustainable support from P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water Program has proven to have life-saving, long-term impacts in the villages SOTENI serves, reducing and alleviating water-borne illnesses, improving the health and quality of life of mothers, children, their families and entire communities. Over 16,000 people in SOTENI Villages of Hope received access to safe drinking water through the P&G Purifier of Water packets, distributed by SOTENI AIDS Barefoot Doctors through support groups last year.

**Elizabeth Nambura**  
SOTENI Ithune Support  
Group Member



*Life-saving impact!*



## AIDS Barefoot Doctors

SOTENI AIDS Barefoot Doctors are community health workers that are committed, compassionate champions of their communities. Not only do they distribute water purification supplies in their monthly support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS, but our doctors also provide education on life skills including HIV prevention and treatment; personal care and health; personal and family hygiene and nutrition; group communication skills; personal banking; and food and water sanitation.



SOTENI has a talented team of 21 AIDS Barefoot Doctors and supervisors.

*Meet George, Henry, and Millicent!*

*"SOTENI has impacted my life in several ways. First, I've gained knowledge on health matters. Socially, it's enabled me to interact with community members during project outreach, and understand the challenges that they undergo. Financially, I've been empowered from stipends I've received during project implementation. I am able to provide for my family, and I am grateful for that."*

**George Oduor**



*"During home visits, I am able to reach community members who are willing to listen to me, and help them take the steps to know their HIV status at the Naitiri health center. Those who test positive return to me to seek for more information and psychosocial support."*

**Henry Unani**

Henry Unani is pictured in the center with fellow AIDS Barefoot Doctors.

## Voices from the field...

*"Through SOTENI training, I am now more empowered than when I joined the organization."*

Millicent is now able to:

- 1 Address a crowd without fear,
- 2 Be recognized as a "doctor" and health teacher by community members,
- 3 And be proud that she is the bread winner in her family.



**AIDS Barefoot Doctors provide emotional support in a community setting of acceptance and compassion.**

Millicent Akinyi is pictured on left, working with one of the support group members.



## Village of Hope: UGUNJA

*Strengthening agriculture resources for health...*



For the past seven years, the Positive Action for Children's Fund has supported SOTENI Village of Hope Ugunja through a sexual reproductive health rights project, providing education and resources on HIV/AIDS, sexual reproductive health and agriculture. The Strengthening Agriculture Resources for Health (STAREHE) project was implemented between 2017-2019, where it achieved:



- 16,208** Women reached indirectly with sexual reproductive health info
- 7,132** Women and men directly reached with sexual reproductive health info
- 1,775** Women and men tested for HIV
- 1,525** Women educated on modern family planning methods
- 39** Support groups received dairy goats and paw paw seedlings

### Voices from the field. . . . .

Through the STAREHE project, community members and support group attendees learned the importance of family planning, and which family planning methods that are compatible with their bodies. **Unwanted pregnancies have reduced in the community due the STAREHE Project.** In addition, community members gained awareness of different kinds of sexually transmitted illnesses, how they are contracted and prevention methods. **Community members are always free to consult with me!**

**Milka Anyango**  
*Ugunja AIDS Barefoot Doctor*

Milka Anyango (back row, second from the right) pictured with the Ugunja team and Cincinnati Magazine writer, Bob Driehaus (second from right) and SOTENI founder, Vic Wulsin (center).



## Village of Hope: MITUNTU

SOTENI Village of Hope Mituntu sits on 50+ acres in the county of Meru. This acreage hosts agriculture activities, a community center, and is home to Mituntu Mixed Day Secondary School - SOTENI. The school has 100 students from underprivileged families who are not able to afford school fees in regular schools. Alongside our partner Friends of Kianjai Kenya (FKK), SOTENI

supports 30 students by paying part of their fees. In 2019, the first graduating class took their national exams, a great achievement for the school and the students!

In January 2020, the students enjoyed a presentation from SOTENI Founder, Dr. Victoria Wells Wulsin when she visited Mituntu Mixed Day Secondary School - SOTENI (pictured above).

SOTENI support groups have motivated members to start income generating activities which is commonly known in Kenya as "Merry go-round banking"- where members pool and invest their savings. **This has led to economic growth among group members which has subsequently improved their quality of life.** The members reported that they are now able to save money since they do not visit the hospital often due to water borne diseases and buy charcoal to boil their drinking water.

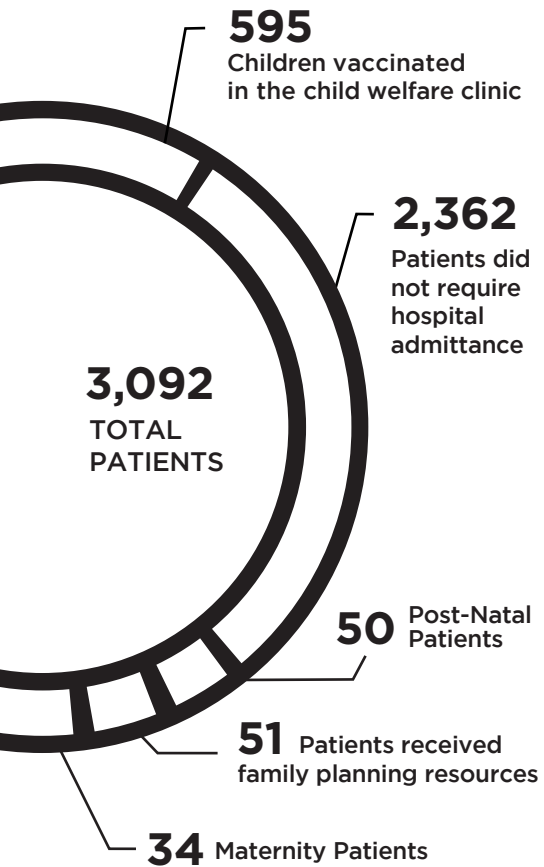
**Members of**  
*Mituntu Support Group*



Mituntu AIDS Barefoot Doctor Supervisor Severio (left), with Village Coordinator Kelly Mutwiri (center), and SOTENI Kenya Program Director Noreen Obilo (right).

## Village of Hope: MBAKALO

In 2019-2020, the Mbakalo Health Clinic served:



## Voices from the field...



Greetings,

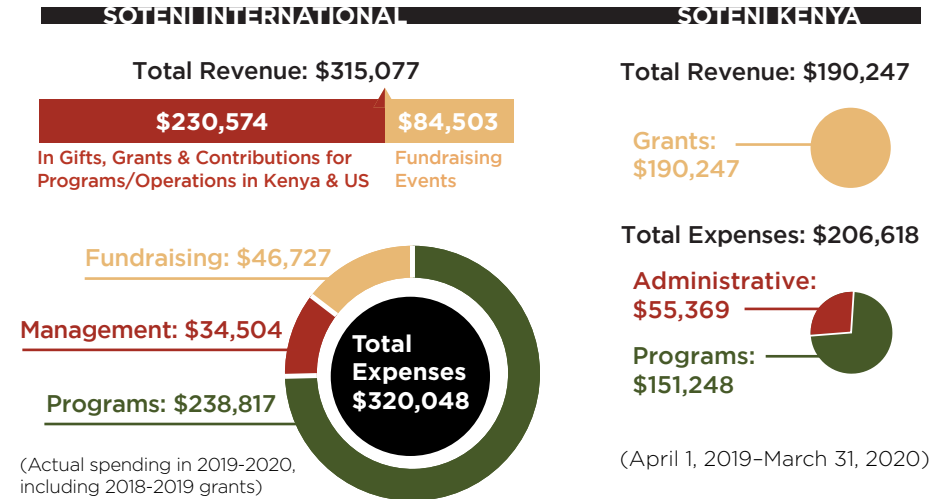
My name is Centrine Wekesa. I am the clinical officer in charge of the Mbakalo clinic since 2018. The services provided from the facility have been of great value to the community. Our clinic is a level one facility but due to its close proximity to the community we have handled several complex cases as it is the nearest well equipped health facility in the area.

We operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This allows us to be of great service to the community and to attend to emergency cases. Recently, we cared for a mother who was brought into our facility already in labor. She was unaware she was pregnant with twins. The second twin was breach making the case even more complex but despite the challenges our team safely delivered both babies.

This is just one of the many complex cases that our health care workers have successfully attended to over the past year. It is a privilege to be part of an organization making an impact in the community through the provision of affordable quality health services. Our hope is that we can expand the health clinic to provide x-rays, ultrasounds, tuberculosis tests and many more services needed by the community.

Thank you!

## Financials



## Leadership

### SOTENI INTERNATIONAL BOARD

**Hema Krishnan**, Chair  
**Victoria Wells Wulsin**, Vice Chair  
**Bryan McCleary**, Secretary  
**Joseph Ruter**, Treasurer  
**Ashley Clonchmore**  
**Lynn Deasy**  
**Timothy Deasy**  
**Steve Driehaus**  
**Daniel Odipo**  
**Andrea Schaaf**  
**Immaculate Wanyonyi**  
**Lawson Wulsin**  
**Tyrone K. Yates**

### SOTENI KENYA BOARD

**Tyrone K. Yates**, Chair  
**Boaz Chimasia**, Treasurer  
**Gilbert Wangalwa**  
**Churchill Saoko**  
**Ann Ichungwa**  
**Lynnette Njeri Mugai**  
**Waihiga Muturi**  
**Kathy Burlew**  
**Immaculate Wanyonyi**  
**Consolata Wambui Mureithi**  
**Victoria Wells Wulsin**  
**Noreen Obilo**, Secretary Ex Officio  
**Jenny Brady**, Ex Officio

### SOTENI HEADSTAFF

**Jenny Brady**, Cincinnati Executive Director  
**Noreen Obilo**, Nairobi Program Director  
**Luke Baraza**, Nairobi Program Manager  
**Peter Kihuria**, Nairobi Business Consultant  
**Calvin Aloo**, Ugunja Village of Hope Coordinator  
**Raphael Barasa**, Mbakalo Village of Hope Coordinator  
**Kelly Mutwiri**, Mituntu Village of Hope Coordinator



### SOTENI INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

<b>Jason Allen</b>	<b>Sadie Healy</b>	<b>Michael Nugent</b>
<b>Jerry Bedford</b>	<b>Charles Hollis</b>	<b>Sandra Spinner</b>
<b>Kathleen Burlew</b>	<b>Inayat Malik</b>	<b>Musa Wafala</b>
<b>Joseph Dehner</b>	<b>Jennifer Mooney</b>	<b>Alexandra Vrazo</b>



## Jeremiah Munyi Limung'i Memoir

SOTENI is mourning the loss of Mr. Jeremiah Munyi, a key Local Management committee member of SOTENI Village of Hope Mituntu. Mr. Munyi served as the LMC secretary for SOTENI Village of Hope (SVH) Mituntu from 2005 until the time of his death, October 15, 2020.

Throughout his tenure at SOTENI he was always available and thoughtful. He will be best remembered for his extensive involvement in charity work in his community where he served in several organizations.

He was first diagnosed with colon cancer in 2016 but even then the disease did not deter him from his role as the LMC secretary and his passion for charity work. Instead he shared his experience through educating his community about



cancer under the SOTENI umbrella. With his signature smile he would say, "I have to work hard for the people since it's God who has given me a second chance to accomplish some of my unfinished assignments."

SOTENI extends its sympathy and support to Mr. Munyi's family. Above, he is pictured here with SOTENI volunteers, brothers Stanley and Marvin Hildebrand and SVH-Mituntu Coordinator, Kelly Mutwiri.

SOTENI believes in working together to affect change. Your support makes us part of the same village, united in a common vision and cause.

**5,300+**

Volunteer hours of leadership, capacity building, operations and communications support



**334**

Donors helped sustain the programs and meet operation expenses between 2019-2020

Become part of our village... 

### MAKE A GIFT

Our collective efforts for global health are more important than ever! Your gift will directly support our programs mitigating HIV/AIDS and COVID-19.

Visit [soteni.org/donate](http://soteni.org/donate) today!

### GET INVOLVED

Be part of our growth and outreach by visiting [soteni.org/geti-nvolved](http://soteni.org/geti-nvolved).

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