# ANNUAL REPORT: 2016 / 2017

CHANGING LIVES
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES
BUILDING HOPE

fields of life
CHANGING LIVES, BUILDING HOPE

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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

On a visit to Uganda in 2016 I had the most wonderful experience of meeting some of the former students at the first school that we built, "Fields of Life Academy". These particular young men and women have finished school, studied at university and are now working in the Ugandan office of Fields of Life. Individually, as they shared their stories with me tears of joy flooded my eyes. To hear the stories of how they got through their studies, how they were introduced to faith and continued on that journey and to look at where they are now was incredible. One shared with me, "I had no hope of school but then my grandmother heard about Fields of Life Academy and the sponsorship programme they ran. My grandmother asked could I have a place on that scheme and eventually I joined the school. If that had not happened I would never have received an education and I would still be in the same village with no hope for a future."

Friends, the future is bright for these young people, because you made all this possible through your generous giving, praying and determination to make a difference and see lives changed. These young folk are already making a difference in their own society and they have formed the "Fields of Life Alumni Association" to raise funds to build a school in Karamoja, Northern Uganda. In their own lives they have experienced how one person has made a difference for them. Now they want to give back and let others experience the transformation from hopelessness to hope.

I was humbled as I listened to their stories and I thanked God that I listened to His leading all those years ago. We are now seeing much fruit for all the labour over many years. Thank you all for standing with us and let's keep going so we can see many more lives changed and transformed.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Stevenson

**Trevor Stevenson**
Chairman and Founder, Fields of Life
June 2017

# EDUCATION

## FIELDS OF LIFE ALUMNI TO BUILD A SCHOOL IN KARAMOJA

What do you get when you put together a team of 44 Fields of Life staff, five spirited musicians and 400 committed partners? The foundation for a primary school in Karamoja, Northern Uganda.

At least that's what happened at the first ever Fields of Life East Africa Showcase which took place on Friday 11th November 2016, at the Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala, Uganda. The day kicked off with an exhibition of the Fields of Life programmes and presentations covering the scope and impact of our work over the past 24 years as well as the strategic plan for the next five years.

However, the highlight of the day came in the evening through "The Showcase Fundraising Dinner and Concert". This was planned and organised by the "Fields of Life Alumni Association", which was set up in 2015 by an inspirational group of Fields of Life former sponsored children. These young people are actively contributing towards the Fields of Life vision by becoming committed ambassadors and giving back, as they once received. This showcase was their first fundraising event and was a huge success.

Over 400 guests gathered with one objective; to raise money for the construction of a school in Karamoja and have a bit of fun while at it! The evening included performances by various gospel artists including Nathan Jess, Levixone and a collection of past Fields of Life choirs. One highlight was when Parenta Trust Founder, Allan Presland, purchased a Karamojong Chief's hat at the cost of a nursery school.

Although the day came to an end, the generosity did not. Fields of Life continues to receive contributions towards the Karamoja School. On behalf of the people of Karamoja, we say a heartfelt "alakara" (thank you) to our new, current and future supporters.

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

We are overjoyed that there are now 4,400 children supported through our Child Sponsorship Programme. We are constantly inspired and encouraged by the stories of lives being transformed forever through the precious gift of education.

## BEATING THE ODDS

"Sometimes it is not easy being a girl. My dad left my mum when I was a young girl. He stopped paying our fees and buying food for us.

As a housewife, my mum was stranded. No house, no land, no food, no fees and six young daughters. Life was miserable, we were hungry and we couldn't go to school.

When my mum heard that Fields of Life Academy was providing sponsorship for needy children, she immediately took me there. I am so grateful that in the second term of Primary three, in 2000, I got a sponsor! This was my life-changing moment. My school fees and requirements were taken care of. I had the opportunity to focus wholeheartedly on my education.

I now hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and have been blessed to get a job as an accountant. Now I can support my family.

My mother is proud of how far we have come, making it against all odds.

I am so grateful that Fields of Life came to my rescue, provided for me, educated me and filled the huge gap my father left.

At my graduation in March, I wore a black dress imprinted with stars because, thanks to Fields of Life, I now sparkle like a star."

Doreen Nanono, Fields of life Sponsored Child

ONE CHILD

## BUY A CAR, HELP A CHILD!

We are delighted to partner with The Peter Vardy Foundation for the "One Child" Campaign. "One Child" aims to ensure that some of the most vulnerable children in East Africa are given the opportunity to go to school and receive an education.

Peter Vardy, the fast-growing, Scottish automotive retailing group, is committing itself to a major aid project worth £1.26 million to support children in East Africa.

For every car purchased from Peter Vardy and for every car serviced, they will make a donation on behalf of the customer which will feed, educate and clothe a vulnerable child in East Africa for one month. The customer will also have the opportunity to match the donation, extending this life-enhancing gift to two months.

This exciting partnership was launched in early 2017 and Fields of Life CEO, Richard Spratt said: "We are delighted to be partnering with the Peter Vardy Foundation on the "One Child" campaign and believe that, supported by its customers, we can make a real difference to the lives of thousands of marginalised children. By educating children living in extreme poverty we are providing the skills to help them break out of the cycle of poverty."

Peter Vardy, Chief Executive, said: "It always feels good to buy a new car and now, with our "One Child" campaign, our customers can also do good. Our aim is to assist 5,000 children and I believe that members of the Scottish car-buying public will back our ambition to bring much desperately needed help to vulnerable children who, once educated, can then go on to help themselves and their communities."

# SOUTH SUDAN

## WHAT IS IN A NAME?

On Friday 13th January 2017, the first Fields of Life primary school was officially opened and dedicated in Maridi Diocese, South Sudan.

Those who have been following the development of the school will know that the school was called Onjirima. However, as we prepared to organise a plaque for the school opening, Bishop Justin emailed to say; "We have decided to change the school name to Tandira, meaning very good, instead of Onjirima which means abandoned."

Fields of Life was to be represented by its founder Reverend Trevor Stevenson, board member Dolway Johnston and International Development Manager David Gough, at the opening in January 2017. Sadly, due to insecurity, their visit had to be postponed at the last minute. Trevor explains; "We were very sorry that we could not be there for the opening of the school. However, we are very much with our partners in spirit and will continue to pray for all involved. Personally, I am delighted that the name of the school has been changed to Tandira, meaning very good and it is my prayer that 'very good' things and 'very good' students will come from this school."

Bishop Justin contacted Fields of Life after the opening to explain that three State ministers attended the function including the Minister of Education, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Agriculture as well as the County Commissioner, other dignitaries, local community leaders, church leaders and others.

He continued; "In many of the speeches, much appreciation and thanks was given to James and Maeve Farrar for giving their money to people whom they have not seen, as well as to Fields of Life for their services to these needy communities."

Tandira Primary School is located in an Archdeaconry of Maridi Diocese, seven miles from Maridi town. The permanent eight-classroom building replaces temporary, locally made classrooms, some under mango trees. Bishop Justin concluded by saying; "Thank you all for making this possible by giving hope at this challenging moment we are experiencing in South Sudan."

Since July 2016 there have been many hardships and challenges experienced by Fields of Life partners in South Sudan. As opposing forces fight for control, ordinary people have been facing tribal conflict resulting in thousands of deaths and injuries, tens of thousands of displaced people, and a mass exodus of hundreds of thousands to surrounding countries. This has resulted in a severe famine in the northern states of South Sudan and as people flee for the safety of refugee camps in bordering countries, they leave behind ghost towns and deserted villages.

Despite this bleak picture, Fields of Life and its partners have continued to assist the people on the ground, for example Tandira Primary School. In addition to this, Fields of Life has supported several other projects including the building of Town Nursery School, the refurbishment of Town Primary School and the erection of a compound fence as well as providing latrines for Haddow Primary School in Maridi. We also provided emergency relief to the displaced residents of the Eddie and Amaki districts. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have already started work on constructing four new classrooms at Haddow Secondary School in Maridi.

We continue to pray for a return to peace in South Sudan as the world's newest country faces a catastrophic famine and the loss of one million people who have fled their homeland for safety.

# I AM GIRL

## I AM GIRL PROGRAMME UPDATE

This year, the I AM GIRL Programme was implemented in 48 Fields of Life partner schools in Uganda, with the aim of reducing barriers to women's empowerment, promoting gender equality and providing girls with the opportunity to attend school and complete their studies. This involved educating them around menstrual hygiene management and child protection, providing access to clean water sources, improving sanitation and hygiene infrastructure such as girl's washrooms and also educating the school management and surrounding community on gender issues.

The ultimate objective is to develop safer, child-friendly environments where girls will be given a better opportunity to attend and complete their education. The I AM GIRL programme this year also involved skills training in schools which focused on liquid soap making and tailoring. These skills have enabled women and young girls to generate an income and many are now engaged in making uniforms for schools within their communities.

This year, in order to achieve sustainable impact, Fields of Life moved the I AM GIRL programme further into local communities because the challenges faced by girls are often driven by various problems like a lack of resources in households, government and social norms as well as cultural beliefs and attitudes.

Fields of Life utilised educational drama in the communities to explore the underlying drivers of girl's marginalisation and were excited to see audiences of 5,879 people. The excitement and emotional appeal of the drama performances have filled an information gap that training could not fill. At the show in Kiwumpa village, Luwero, central Uganda, the audience crouched in their seats as scenes of children being beaten were shown. An elderly gentleman in the audience concluded: "This is what really happens in our homes and we are glad that the drama has taught us what child protection is really about".

## JACKLYN, THE I AM GIRL CHAMPION!

"My name is Jacklyn Nakashaka, I am 12 years old. I am in primary seven at a Fields of Life supported school in Mityana, Central Uganda.

For the past ten months I have received training and gained knowledge and skills in how to protect myself and other girls. I have learnt how to manage my monthly periods, and my own sanitation and hygiene at school and at home.

I don't just know these things, I also tell others and that is why I am an I AM GIRL champion! I have taught my friends and classmates about handwashing, keeping their bodies clean and I even told the boys not to laugh at girls anymore during menstruation, as it is a normal and natural body function.

However, most importantly, I have learnt and taught others how to make reusable menstrual pads so that they can have something safe, clean and affordable to use when they need them.

At our last parents day in school, I formed a group of fellow pupils and we made liquid soap and other crafts in our I AM GIRL club. The parents and visitors were very happy and promised to bring more children to our school so that they could learn these things as well.

I am glad to be a champion of change!"

Jacklyn Nakasha, I AM GIRL Champion, Mityana

# WASH

## WASH PROGRAMME UPDATE

This year Fields of Life continued to contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal which aims to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030." The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme focused on the provision of safe, clean water through the drilling of 82 boreholes, the construction of five protected springs and the installation of rain water harvesting tanks in six Fields of Life partner schools. As a result, Fields of Life has changed the lives of over 21,400 people by significantly reducing the consumption of unsafe water which often leads to ill health and sometimes death.

In a bid to improve the functionality and sustainability of these constructed water facilities, we also placed more emphasis on strengthening community based management through equipping 28 hand pump mechanics and 17 water user committees with the knowledge and skills to carry out day to day pump operation and maintenance.

Within our schools, Fields of Life engaged in the construction of hand washing facilities and ten latrines with washrooms to enable girls to manage their menstrual hygiene. The WASH programme also educated and built capacity of 21,539 different stakeholders including school children, teachers, school management committees and village health teams in sanitation and hygiene.

## IRISH CHURCHES WORKING IN UNITY

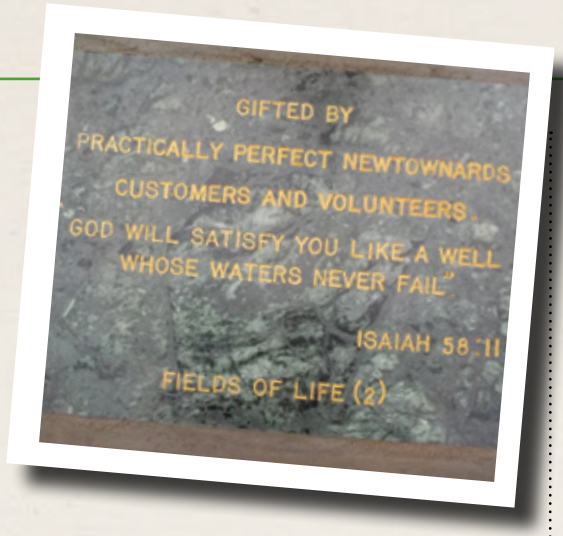
From 10th February 2016 to 24th March 2016, six churches across Dublin and Cork joined together to raise money for clean water in East Africa. Throughout Lent 2016 these committed congregations, through sacrificial giving, filled a jerry can each week with the money they saved. In total, an incredible €4,750 was raised.

The commitment and generosity of these churches resulted in the drilling of a borehole at Bridge Primary School in Kiwoko, Luwero District, Central Uganda. The Luwero District is one of the most water strained districts in Uganda, and many people have no choice but to consume contaminated water.

This was the 538th well drilled by our drilling team and will now support over 300 pupils at this school and also the surrounding 120 households in the community. This gift of clean water will ensure that pupils can stay healthy and receive an education. They will no longer have to walk long distances for water and therefore will not miss valuable school hours.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone at: Calvary, Cork; Radical Life, Cork; Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cork; Dun Laoghaire Evangelical Church, Dublin; Nazarene Church, Greystones and Ballycullen Baptist Church, Dublin.

Thank you for building hope and changing lives in this community!




## OOSION WELL FUNDED BY PRACTICALLY PERFECT

On 14th November 2016, the Oosion community in Kumi, North Eastern Uganda, received their new borehole and the gift of clean, safe drinking water.

Previously, this community had been walking 1km to collect contaminated water from a shallow well which harboured many parasites and diseases. Life had been extremely difficult for people living in this area and the consumption of dirty water had become a way of life. Now, however, 216 households are supported by this gift and can access clean water for the first time.

The Oosion well was funded by Practically Perfect Newtownards as a result of the generosity of all who have continued to support our charity boutiques. Thank you to all of our Practically Perfect staff, volunteers, customers and all who have donated items. Your commitment has truly transformed this community through the precious gift of fresh water.

## BIG STRIDE OUT PROVIDES FRESHWATER WELL IN EASTERN UGANDA

Two inspirational businessmen from Kent decided to celebrate their milestone birthdays by undertaking a mammoth walk to raise funds for water. David Bracey, co-founder of The Fountain Workshop, and Desmond High, Chartered Accountant and director of EMC Management Consultants, decided to walk 150 miles along the Grand Union Canal, from Birmingham to London - in just five days. From fountains in England to wells in Africa, the two intrepid friends slipped on their walking boots and embarked on their Big Stride Out.

The community in receipt of this precious gift is Bumwami, located in Butaleja District in the Eastern part of Uganda. This was the 558th well to be drilled by our dedicated drilling teams and was completed on 20th March 2017. Prior to the installation of the well, the nearest water source was located 1km away. The consumption of contaminated water was a way of life for this remote community, causing much sickness and loss of life. With thanks to Desmond and David this well provides clean, fresh water for 130 households.

Desmond High said: “Supporting Fields of Life helps to impact so many people and has a direct improvement on their quality of life. Access to fresh water is something we take for granted in the Western world which is why we are delighted to work with Fields of Life to help them in their campaign to give the gift of fresh water in East Africa.”

We would like to give thanks to David and Desmond for their support for this vital project. Their tremendous effort has had an immediate, direct impact on the communities we seek to serve. The gift of clean water makes such a difference, and providing sustainable community development can be achieved through partnerships with companies such as The Fountain Workshop and EMC Management Consultants.

# TEAMS

## MORE THAN JUST A LINK WORKER

If you have travelled on one of our teams to Uganda, you will know the value of the link workers who accompany you on your trip. These dedicated Fields of Life staff members and volunteers take care of all of the practical details in country such as: travel, food and language translation.

But, as you may already know, it is much more than that! A link worker quickly becomes part of the team, joining in with all aspects including the programme work, devotions and team down time.

Bridget Nakate was the link worker for Christ Church, Lisburn in January 2017, and she shares her experience: "I first wanted to be a link worker so that I could be a mediator between teams and the communities they visit, gain experience in relating with different people and also improve my knowledge on how certain things are done.

My time as a link worker with Christ Church was the best. The team itself was very hospitable and loving towards me. During my time with them I experienced how devoted and hardworking each of the team members were.

I was challenged by the men and their carpentry project, as a link worker it meant that I needed to be very focused and really work hard to ensure they had everything they needed to complete their work successfully.

The Bible teaching, drama and songs were amazing. They were short, sensible and very educational and I was inspired by the team to now get involved myself in teaching children in Sunday School. The team kindly shared their songs and drama scripts with me which I hope to use in Sunday school.

Ultimately, what I enjoyed seeing the most was the love the team members had towards the children and community members. Their generosity was exceptional and everyone was very happy as they worked tirelessly. This taught me a great lesson in loving unconditionally."

Bridget Nakate, Water, sanitation and hygiene Officer

## CORK EASTER TEAM

"Easter is always a special time of year, but this year it was particularly special for our team of seven, from Cork, who spent it in Uganda.

During our trip we visited Manze Secondary School, Central Uganda and Green Pastures Secondary School, Eastern Uganda. We had a very busy programme planned for both schools which involved running workshops in child protection; water, sanitation and hygiene; CV writing and interview skills; computer training and menstrual health. We also carried out various games, outdoor activities, crafts and painting. The programmes were a great success and we couldn't have achieved what we did without our link workers, Prossy and Justine, who were professional, polite and a huge benefit to the team.

We were thrilled to see the kitchen structure at Manze Secondary School take form, from its foundations to completion. This will now enable 600 pupils to receive a meal each day at school. A huge thank you to everyone who supported our team and got involved in fundraising for this kitchen. In particular we want to thank one of our key sponsors Glenilen Farm.

As a team we were also excited to visit four communities in Uganda where wells had been drilled. The parties that sprung into life in these places were incredible to experience and will live long in the memory of all involved, this was a truly special experience.

To sum up our trip: relationships were formed, projects were completed and Heaven touched Earth as we saw the gift of clean water bursting forth from the deep to the joy of an expectant crowd."

Alex Gason, Head of Development and Fundraising, ROI

## CULTIV8 2016

"On 18th July 2016, the Cultiv8 team set off for two busy weeks in Uganda. For many on this team, it was their first experience of Africa and the excitement and anticipation was evident as we waited to board our flight.

The team of 20 brought with them many diverse skills which enabled us to build a fantastic programme. Each team member, with the support of our brilliant link workers Caleb and Scovia, worked hard to ensure the programme was successfully implemented.

We spent time in two Fields of Life partner schools; Maranatha Primary School and St Marg-Lex Primary and Nursery School. The welcome we received at both schools was overwhelming, we were greeted by hundreds of pupils with big smiles, hugs and lots of singing and dancing! Each morning we shared the story of Joseph through teaching, drama, songs and quizzes. This theme was reflected in our crafts, with multi-coloured bracelets, bookmarkers and tambourines, which the children were delighted to take away with them. In addition to this, we taught sports, first aid, oral hygiene, I AM GIRL sewing classes, study skills and teacher training in child protection and business management. The men on our team also had the opportunity to do some painting and light manual work.

At the end of our two weeks we were exhausted but still smiling. It was a privilege to be so warmly welcomed into each of these school communities and to share the love of

There were many highlights during our trip including providing meals at both schools, giving Bibles to 400 children and purchasing mattresses and bunk beds for the girl's dorm at St Marg-Lex School. However, for many team members their lasting memory will be getting to meet their sponsored children. This is an experience that is difficult to put into words, but seeing the smiles on the team members and their sponsored children spoke a thousand words.

On behalf of the team, I want to express our sincere thanks to all who generously supported the Cultiv8 2016 team. This enabled us to fund the drilling of three boreholes; providing clean, safe drinking water to approximately 3,000 people. We had the privilege of meeting the community and officially opening one of these wells in Pallisa District.

In summary, as a team we were humbled, challenged and blessed immensely. We give all the glory to God for what was achieved on our trip and do pray that He will continue to the communities we visited."

Katie Laverty, Cultiv8 Team Co-Leader

# FINANCE

The financial accounts for Fields of Life in Northern Ireland (NI), Great Britian (GB) and Republic of Ireland (ROI) are audited by PKF-FPM Accountants Ltd. Our audit ending 30th June 2017 is finalised and all figures are from these signed accounts. Total Northern Ireland income amounted to £2,547,933 with expenditure of £2,387,358 We are pleased to report that our Great Britian office generated an income of £253,537 during the 12 months. In the Republic of Ireland an income of €469,114 was generated with expenditure of €458,431. Overall consolidated income of £3,214,290 which was a positive achievement in the challenging funding environment.

We are delighted to maintain a modest cost income ratio and continue to send 90% of all restricted funds to East Africa. Fields of Life continues to strive to ensure our administration, staffing costs, operating costs and overheads remain favourable when compared to other charitable organisations whilst ensuring appropriate levels of good governance and administrative capability are maintained at all times. Thanks to specific administrative donors and the receipt of benefit in kind such as cost neutral office accommodation for both our NI & GB offices, we are delighted to maintain cost recovery at only 10% of restricted donations with the balance funding for costs being met by gift aid reclaim.

Investment in fundraising is essential to ensure we maintain and grow our income levels. This will enable the organisation to deliver effective and sustainable projects and programmes in East Africa through our school networks and with the local partner communities.

The Directors' are thankful to our faithful and generous supporters and donors who have funded our work during the course of the year.

**Richard Spratt, Chief Executive**
**Maurice Donaldson, Honorary Treasurer**

## RESERVES AS AT 30TH JUNE 2017

**Combined Unrestricted Funds**
£294,488

**Combined Restricted Reserves**
£857,779
(Designated for specific projects in East Africa)

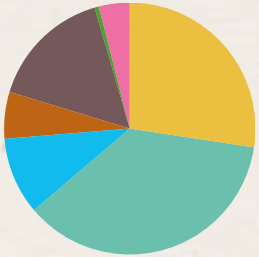
These financial highlights are for the year 1 July 2016 – 30th June 2017. They have been taken from the audited accounts.

Full annual accounts and Directors' / Auditor's Reports are available on the website www.fieldsoflife.org

Exchange rate for Euro to Sterling was taken as 0.88 as at 30.06.2017

## CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE

**INCOME**
Total - £3,214,290



Child Sponsorship
£880,281

Schools / Education
£1,169,585

Water
£318,525

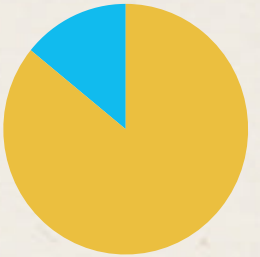
General Donations
£193,073

Other Income
£507,769

Income Generation
£17,331

Health Education
£127,726

**EXPENDITURE**
Total - £3,012,673



Charitable Activities
£2,586,890 (85.78%)

Raising Funds
£425,783 (14.13%)

# CEO REPORT

As we move towards the 25th anniversary of God stirring vision in the heart of our founder, Rev. Trevor Stevenson and his wife Ruth, it has been a remarkable journey for the organisation. From our origins and roots in Uganda to working with the local church and partners through East Africa in places such as Burundi, Rwanda, DRC, Kenya and South Sudan.

We believe passionately that God is at work in our world, in and through some amazing leaders that we have the privilege of working with and serving alongside. I feel that the last 12-18 months has been a time of real transition for Fields of Life with many new, exciting projects and initiatives in the pipeline as articulated in our 2016-2021 strategic plan. We have a wonderful programme staff team, which has been built and led by Ednar Nyakaisiki, Executive Director, East Africa, who are committed to standing up and speaking out against injustice and suffering, as well as ably supporting and working with our many partners to serve marginalised and vulnerable communities. I would like to thank our staff team and family from right around the world for their ambitious energy and focus to serve as many people as we can and to see hope and transformation breakthrough in real and powerful ways in the communities that we have come to love and serve.

In closing, one of the most special things happened when a group of young people who had been supported by Fields of Life as children, self-formed an alumni group and have decided to give back and become the change they want to see in their nation by committing to build a community of Fields of Life alumni and raise funds for a school in Karamoja, Northern Uganda.

What a story to be told, one that only God could write and to Him be the glory and the honour. This is hope breaking through, change becoming possible and lives being changed. Let's not stop now though, there remain many more stories to be written and many more stories to be told about the good news of the Kingdom coming in East Africa.

In Christain partnership,

**Richard Spratt**
Chief Executive

fields of life
CHANGING LIVES, BUILDING HOPE

## OUR MISSION

Fields of Life is committed to sharing the Christian faith by collaborating with local communities and churches in East Africa to bring about positive change through the provision of quality education, clean water, health promotion and other community based projects.

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