March 3, 2015

Dear Friends,

2014 has been a year of deeper connections and learning. We strengthened our engagement with villages and partners across the globe, developed strong cooperation in remote regions and continued to learn and replicate approaches that improve the quality of life for communities, families and individuals. We are now investing in 38 villages in 22 countries around the world. Our program expenditures grew by 51% in 2014, totaling $3.3 million.

Over the course of this year, I have been inspired by stories from our partners that demonstrate how small changes can result in significant improvements in the well-being of individuals and their families. In Tanzania, Africa Bridge introduced us to a family who drank milk for the first time, as a result of their participation in a cow cooperative. In Nicaragua, Green Empowerment’s water project has empowered women as leaders in their village. These are just a few stories captured in this year’s report.

In 2014, we invested more to build and support the monitoring and evaluation of our programs. We set out to better understand how programs impact individuals and families in each community. In Ghana, we initiated a baseline assessment to measure the health and hygiene in households throughout Fielmuo. This survey will help us assess the outcome of our train-the-trainer program focused on hygiene and sanitation. SurfAid, our partner in Indonesia, is a leader in a highly participatory monitoring and evaluation process and will assess the impact of their maternal health program. Our hope is that this information-gathering and data-analysis will reveal what components of our programs are the most critical for success and where we need to adapt and improve programming to better meet the needs of communities.

We are excited to further our work around monitoring and evaluation in 2015 and to continue learning what approaches, both big and small, lead to significant changes in the lives of people. Our program directors will be on the road more in 2015 to see the projects first hand and to continue strengthening our partnerships around the world. We look forward to the reports from these field visits and sharing our findings with you.

I want to thank you for your continued interest in our work and invite you to stay connected to us through social media, our website and newsletter. We will continue to share stories that inspire us.

Sincerely,

Ken deLaski
Founder & President