

8480 N. 87th Street Milwaukee, WI 53224

877.314.SHOE (7463) 414.365.1392



March 2017

www.SolesForJesus.org



Dear Friend,

Happy Spring! I pray that you are doing well and finding reasons to be thankful. This morning I came across the photo below, and my heart completely melted with gratitude. These are the faces of our leaders who host SOS Events, where groups Sort & Organize Shoes in our warehouse. These men and women help hold up the arms of SFJ, and we could not send a shipment (of 8,000 pairs of shoes) every six weeks without them! Many of you know them and this morning I'm overwhelmed by the faithfulness of our God. He continues to bring the most amazing people to carry out His plans through SFJ.

This month we also had several new Monthly Partners join our SFJ family to help financially support the ministry. We thank the Lord for each one, as we could not move forward in this mission without them! I am in awe of what the Lord is doing to cause His love to go forth. If you still think this is only about shoes, you're missing the pupose of this mission. Our greatest desire is to build His Kingdom one person at a time; and He's using foot-washing and shoes as a powerful demonstration of His love. To God be the glory!

Thank you for being a part of what the Lord is doing through SFJ. It's an honor to partner together to make Him known!

In Christ alone, Diane Studer

Quick Links

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We're So Grateful That Kohl's Cares!

We want to thank each of these amazing volunteers from Kohl's Corporation! We are so grateful for our partnership with Kohl's Cares, and for Erin Blum who organized the event once again. We appreciate their time and hard work, and we are also grateful for the grant dollars that Kohl's provides when their employees serve! We could not fulfill this mission without amazing volunteers like these, and we hope to see you again soon!



Kohl's Cares Volunteers at our SOS event in March.



We thank the Lord for our SOS Leaders! Not all pictured.

Sign Up Today!





Registration is now open! Choose to walk or run a 2 mile or 5k course, and invite your family and friends to join us on **Saturday, June 24th!** The event will start and end at the beautiful campus of Waukesha County Technical College, and we'll enjoy a scenic route through the streets of Pewaukee. The morning will also include medals, prizes, refreshments, exciting games and a special appearance by the

We Love a Good Reunion!

Team Tanzania enjoyed a wonderful reunion last week. This group ministered in villages outside of Arusha, during May of 2016. What a blessing it was to reconnect with those who shared amazing Godmoments together. The Lord truly knit our hearts together in a special way, and we continue to hold the people of Tanzania close in our prayers.

We are grateful for each person who joins our mission trips, to "GO" and spread the Good News of the Gospel and to demonstrate God's Love through washing feet and giving shoes!

Stay tuned next month, as we share where our next mission trip will be in May of 2018!



Team Tanzania enjoying a sweet reunion.

Distributions in Swaziland

We received a wonderful report from Swaziland on a shoe distribution that took place in the village of Mhlambanyatsi Inkhundla. Our ministry partner, Joseph Gule, shared that, "The shoe distribution got everyone so excited that they couldn't stop thanking God for such grace. The most amazing and wonderful thing is that the whole distribution was Christ centered, since we had shared the Word of God before the distribution and the people were given a chance to accept the Lord Jesus. The distribution was able to unite and bring together people from leadership, churches and politics." Joseph shared that 300 people received shoes at this distribution and 48 people gave their lives to Christ! Praise God for such a wonderful praise report out of Swaziland! *Milwaukee Brewers Famous Racing Sausages*[™]! This event is for families and individuals of all ages.

Early bird discounts are available now, so be sure to <u>sign up today</u>! Register early and you will receive a **free** "Race For Soles" t-shirt! Register online or call us at <u>414-365-1392</u>. All proceeds from this event will advance our mission of sharing shoes and the love of Jesus in Africa.

Sponsorship Opportunity - Do you know of an individual, business, or organization that would like to help sponsor the Race For Soles? There are several options to choose from, and it's a great opportunity to promote your business. To find out more about event sponsorship, contact Mark at 414-365-1392 or mellefson@SolesForJesus.org. Thank you for your support of Soles For Jesus!

Are you following Soles For Jesus on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram? Connect with us and join the conversation about the Race For Soles 2017: #RFS2017

Volunteer of the Month

We are excited to honor Laurie Neff as our March Volunteer of the Month! Laurie has been following SFJ for nearly five years, and was part of the team that traveled to Kenya in January.

"Wow, what an experience! God truly brought our team of 14 together, and it was so perfect! God knit us together, protected us, and directed every step of our mission trip in Kenya! We got to witness God's love all around us. It was amazing doing the village shoe distributions, washing their feet and just looking in their eyes, telling them that Jesus loves them! I loved washing their the feet, not because they were dirty but to show them God's love through us."

Since her mission trip, Laurie has been a huge advocate for SFJ at her church. She encourages anyone thinking about supporting



Serving precious ladies with the love of Christ!

Shipment to Liberia

A shipment of 8,000 pairs of shoes just arrived in Liberia! Please pray for this shipment to quickly pass through customs. Brother Benjamin is very excited to get out to the villages, and to begin ministry. Please continue to pray for the people who will be receiving these shoes. You can view pictures of the shipment to Liberia <u>HERE</u>.



A map of Liberia, where the shoes have arrived.

Shipment to Malawi

We are very excited that we have just sent our first shipment of shoes to the nation of Malawi! We are partnering with Pastor Blessings Mtete of Christian Revival Church, and he is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to minister to the people in his region. This is a combined shipment with Children of the SFJ to jump in! Laurie shared her heart by saying, "Soles For Jesus is an awesome organization, helping the people of Africa, yet so much work still needs to be done. How many pairs of shoes do we honestly have? Lots! Receiving shoes and hearing the Gospel brings so much joy and blessings to them! God tells us to go into the nations and spread His Love and Word. Bishop Mulea, in Kenya, told us that there's been a twenty percent growth in the village churches where we distributed shoes! I will definitely be going back to Africa, and I'll be doing everything I can to support this awesome organization!"

Laurie was also recently featured on her local news station in MN, where she shared about her Kenya Mission trip and her support of Soles For Jesus. Everyone got to see what we already knew; that Laurie has a heart of gold! Check out this clip <u>here</u>. Thank you, Laurie, for loving the people of Africa and for supporting SFJ. We love your heart and pray God's blessings over you!



Laurie Neff in Kenya.

Nations, who are also doing ministry in the area with food and other supplies. We praise God for a partnership that helps lower our shipping costs, while making amazing ministry possible.

View pictures of the shipment to Malawi HERE.



Yenh, Diane, Mark & Kris with the Malawi shipment.

Thank You from Lesotho

We have been receiving beautiful testimonies from Lesotho. These are just a few examples of the lives being touched.

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank you and appreciate the gift of shoes you have given me. As we celebrate our faith before God, you have remembered that it is better to give than to receive. May God bless you again and again!"

- Mrs. Mphonyane Mosoang

"I would like to thank EHC, SFJ and Pastor Josias Mohanoe for the special, outstanding gift of a pair of shoes. May Almighty God richly bless you. I feel so honored to receive such a gift. I promise to share the Gospel with these shoes."

- Mr. Lebohang Koele

"I would like to pass my gratitude to Soles For Jesus and pastor Josias Mohanoe for the blessing of a pair of shoes. I cannot express my thanks enough in words, but my heart can do better with the prayers I

Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

Shawn Zieglmeier in WA — We love our friend, Shawn! She traveled all of the way from Seattle, Washington with a suitcase and bag filled with SHOES! Thank you for your love and support over the years from the great state of WA!



Shawn delivering shoes from Seattle.

Cynthia Krueger in WI - Cynthia from Team Kenya shared about the mission of Soles For Jesus at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Muskego! Thank you all for collecting so many shoes for Africa. We appreciate your generous hearts! will always say for you to prosper. May God richly bless you! God bless you many times." - Mrs. Masello Makoa

You can view pictures of the Lesotho shipment HERE.



A young man being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Shipment to Uganda

We are thrilled to share that our first shipment to Uganda arrived in Kampala! Please pray for the container to quickly clear the customs controls. We are excited to start receiving reports of ministry work being done. Please contine to pray for God to open people's hearts to the truth of the Gospel. You can view pictures of the Uganda shipment <u>HERE</u>.



Young boys eagerly awaiting the shoes' arrival!



Cynthia sharing at her church, St. Paul's.

Yenh Mikolajewski in WI - Yenh had the opportunity to help kick-off Victory International Fellowship's missions focus this month. She enjoyed sharing with the Children's Ministry about her recent SFJ trip to Kenya.



Yenh speaking at her church, VIF.

Meet One of Our Partners

Meet our Every Home for Chirst ministry partner, Nicholas Mulea. Nicholas serves the Lord as a Bishop in Kenya. He oversees many churches and strives to raise and develop more leaders through church planting. His ministry goal for the year is to evangelize, so that thousands more will give their lives to Jesus.

Please pray for good health and protection for Nicholas, his wife Jennifer and their five children, Diana, Ane, Ruth, Grace and Joy. Pray that every person reached through the gift of shoes and the Gospel will grow in grace to spiritual maturity.



Milwaukee Parkside School of the Arts in WI -Thank you, Jessica, for coordinating the shoe drive at Milwaukee Parkside School of the Arts and for dropping off over 300 pairs of shoes! We appreciate the student council and parents for their overwhelming support.



Jessica delivering over 300 pairs of shoes.

Wisconsin Lutheran College in WI - Diane had the opportunity to speak at the Butterfly Brunch held at Wisconsin Lutheran College this month. They also hosted a shoe drive and collected over 500 pairs of shoes! Thank you for all of your support and for inviting Diane to be your key-note speaker. We were honored to be a part of this special day.



Kristen, Jennifer and Diane at the Butterfly Brunch.

Spring Creek Church in WI - Diane and Yenh had a fun morning helping kick-off Spring Creek's annual shoe drive. 2,030 pairs of shoes have been collected thus far! And we are also grateful for their financial support, which helps us send the shoes to Africa! We sincerely thank our Spring Creek Family for your ongoing support over the last six years. Eternity will reveal the lives that you've touched for His glory!

Please Pray for Ethiopia

Please pray for Korah, Ethiopia. Many of you have traveled with SFJ to this place, and you fell in love with these precious people. On March 11th, there was a landslide at the village dump that surrounds the area where we've washed feet and shared shoes several times. Hundreds were buried and their makeshift homes destroyed. A rescue effort began immediately, but unfortunately there was a second landslide, and many who were there to help were also buried. People worked day and night to rescue as many as they could. Reports say at least 120 were killed, but locals know the number is much higher. "We may never know how many people died, because so many that lived here had no family. No one knows they're missing," a local shared.

While the recovery effort is over, the grieving process continues, and there are over 500 people that are displaced. Please join us in prayer for those who have lost loved ones and those who don't have a place to go. God, please be near.



Pictures from the 2010 SFJ trip to Ethiopia.



Diane speaking at Spring Creek Church.

Volunteer Opportunities

SOS Events (Sort & Organize Shoes) Join us as we gather at the Milwaukee, WI warehouse to prepare shoes for shipment to Africa! New volunteers are always welcome and we will have a brief orientation before each event. Please contact us at 414-365-1392 or <u>Yenh@SolesForJesus.org</u> to set-up a time to come and volunteer.



Members of Calvary Lutheran church along with the Miller, Tegge and Monteen families.

Thank you for the Shoes Received this Month!

- Allo! Chocolat, WI
- Anytime Fitness Germantown, WI
- Bethesda Baptist, WI
- Boy Scout Troop #248, IN
- Brian & Amy Huber, WI
- Brown Deer High School, WI
- Cargo Services, Inc., IN
- Crossroads Presbyterian Church, WI
- David & Juliann Behling, WI
- Donnel Gomez, OR
- First United Methodist Church, IN
- Grace Church, WI
- Holly Porer c/o Simply Shears, IN
- Jeffrey & Yvonne Quint, WI
- Jennifer Bley, WI
- Jerrett Fernandez, WI
- Johann Mejia-Ott, MD
- Judy Quabius, WI
- Liberty Bible Church, IN
- Mark Gullicksen, WI
- Materion Corp., WI
- Mike & Christy Faase, WI
- Milwaukee Parkside Elementary School for the Arts, WI
- Nate & Emmy Leaders, WI
- Neat Repeats, WI
- Nick Kaun, WI
- Performance Running Outfitters, WI
- Poplar Creek Church, WI
- Portage United Methodist Church, WI
- Princeton Club, WI
- Shawn Ziegelmier, WA
- Spring Creek Church, WI
- Stormonth School, WI
- Victory International Fellowship, WI
- Willis Towers Watson, W.
- Wisconsin Athletic Club North Shore, WI
- Wisconsin Athletic Club Wauwatosa, WI
- Wisconsin Lutheran College/ Butterfly Brunch

April

Saturday, April 1st, 9-11am **FULL** Wednesday, April 5th, 12:30-2:30pm **FULL** Saturday, April 8th, 9-11am **FULL** Thursday, April 13th, 6-8pm Saturday, April 22nd, 9:15-11:30am **FULL** Wednesday, April 26th, 6-8pm **FULL** Saturday, April 29th, 9-11am **FULL**

May

Monday, May 1st, 6-8pm Wednesday, May 3rd, 6-8pm Thursday, May 4th, 6-8pm **FULL** Saturday, May 6th, 9-11am **FULL** Saturday, May 13th, 9-11am **FULL** Saturday, May 20th, 11:30am-1:30pm **FULL**

*You can choose a different date to serve! To learn more about this, read below.

"Business Hours" SOS: Volunteers are welcome to come during weekdays to sort shoes (Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm). Come and sort shoes when it fits your schedule. You can sort for an hour or a day - it's entirely up to you. Also, please feel free to bring friends! Training will be provided, and SFJ staff will always be available to provide support. For more details about this opportunity, please contact Mark Ellefson at <u>Mellefson@SolesForJesus.org</u> or 414-365-1392, and please let us know 48 hours in advance that you're coming.

SOS Group Event: Schedule a special date to host your own group! Are you a part of a sports team, small group, or club in your work, school, church, or community? Volunteering together to organize and pack shoes for Africa is a rewarding, 2 hour, team building opportunity for youth and adults (12+ years). Please contact Yenh at Yenh@SolesForJesus.org or 414-365-1392 to set up your volunteer group.

Join our Prayer Team!

If you would like to be a part of our prayer team, email us at <u>info@SolesForJesus.org</u>. We will send you our prayer newsletter, so you can join us in united prayer from the comfort of your home!

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24



Team Kenya praying over village pastors.

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Or Mail Your Donation: Soles For Jesus 8480 N. 87th Street Milwaukee, WI 53224

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