



Soles For Jesus, Inc.

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Milwaukee, WI 53224

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April 2017

www.SolesForJesus.org



Dear Friend,

My heart is heavy, as I share this update with you. Benjamin Holder, our dear brother and EHC National Director in Liberia, just passed on to his eternal home. Benjamin had not been feeling well lately, and last week the Lord called him home. Last December, I invited our SFJ family to help send a shipment of shoes to Benjamin; and many of you helped us reach our goal to send it! Well, that shipment of shoes just arrived at the same time of his passing! I am amazed at God's timing, and the Liberia office has thanked us for the timing of this encouraging gift.

Brother Benjamin was a compassionate evangelist with strategic, God-given plans. Six months ago, he submitted a detailed report of his plans to me, including names of unreached villages where he planned to use the shoes to share the love of Jesus. I was thrilled to send this shipment to him, and although he won't be able to help distribute these shoes, Benjamin's team is deeply committed to fulfilling his strategy and continuing his passion of helping the lost find Jesus. Would you please keep them and the Holder family in your prayers?

Liberia means, "land of freedom," and we believe that the Lord has great plans to set this nation free in Christ! Many of you may also remember when we sent two shipments to Liberia during the peak of the Ebola crisis and we deeply love these people. Benjamin was involved in importing and distributing all of our shipments to Liberia, and

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Join SFJ in Zambia in 2018!

We are now accepting applications for our mission trip to Zambia, which will take place in May of 2018. This team will wash and put shoes on feet, provide feedings and share the love of Jesus in the remote villages of Zambia. Contact Yenh to request an application at Yenh@SolesForJesus.org. We are excited for what God has in store and we're amazed at how quickly He is building this team! To view a photo album from our last mission trip to Kenya, click [HERE](#).

Q & A

What are the dates of this trip?

We are aiming for May 3rd through May 12th. Dates may slightly flex, but you can plan for a 10 day trip.

Who is this trip available to?

We will consider all men and women over the age of 17 who submit an application. (Phone interview and references will follow.) This trip will

we know that his legacy will continue.

I invite you to take a couple of minutes to read about the many things that are happening. Also included is a special announcement regarding our next mission trip in 2018! I am excited about all that the Lord is doing, and I can't thank you enough for your support and prayers.

In Christ alone,
Diane Studer
Founder/ Executive Director



Benjamin Holder and a recent shipment to Liberia.

Sign Up Today!

IN BENEFIT OF
SOLES FOR JESUS, INC.

2017
RACE - FOR - SOLES
FAMILY FUN RUN
5K RUN/2 MILE WALK

// SATURDAY, JUNE 24
8:30am - 11:30am

// WCTC in Pewaukee
Special appearance by:
Milwaukee Brewers Famous
Racing Sausages™

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EVERY \$1 RAISED SENDS A SHOE TO AFRICA!

REGISTER at SolesForJesus.org			
	Mar 17-May 15	May 16-June 5	June 6-24
INDIVIDUALS	\$30	\$35	\$40
CHILDREN (12 and under)	\$10	\$10	\$15
FAMILY RATE	\$75	\$85	\$95

@solesforjesus | 414-365-1392

deeply impact your life and walk with Christ! You may be stretched physically, emotionally, spiritually, and maybe even financially. But there is something life-changing about working together, ministering in Jesus' name, and humbly washing and putting shoes on the feet of those we are serving.

What will the schedule include?

This trip will include traveling to villages and serving communities who are in need of shoes and the love of Christ. We will also serve at a children's center (or orphanage) to do a feeding and play with the children, attend church on Sunday, and we'll enjoy a safari together as well.

What should I expect for accommodation?

We will be staying at a hotel, and you will have a roommate that you'll meet at our team meetings.

What is the cost?

The cost of this trip is \$3,500 and many team members fundraise for it. Airfare and in-country expenses are included. (Hotel, transportation, safari, most meals, team t-shirts, and plenty of bottled water are all included.)

What should I do if I'm interested in going?

Contact YenH to request an application at YenH@SolesForJesus.org. Applications for this trip are due by Friday, May 12, 2017, however, the trip may fill up prior to this date.



Team Kenya washing feet and distributing shoes.

Register Now

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 **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 sign up today! Register early and you will receive a **free** "Race For Soles" t-shirt! Register online or call us at [414-365-1392](tel:414-365-1392). 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](tel: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



SFJ Board of Directors

We are extremely grateful for our Board of Directors, and we thank the Lord for their strong commitment and Godly leadership! We enjoyed a special evening and dinner together last week, and we missed those who couldn't make it. Please pray for these leaders, as they serve and honor the Lord in this role. We deeply love and appreciate each one!



Jason Held, Kyle & Jen Hanson, Diane & Jon Studer, Wynne & Kent Loehrke.

New Shoe Collection Site!

We are thrilled to introduce a new SFJ Collection Site on Main Street in West Bend! Stop by Consider The Lilies and pick up the most beautiful bouquet of flowers you've ever seen. You'll also receive \$1 off for each pair of donated shoes (up to \$5)! We love Amanda Strassburg and we pray God's blessings on her new store and venture. Many of you recognize her, as she's the face behind the gorgeous flowers at our annual luncheon and she's extremely talented. Thank you, Amanda and CTL!

Volunteer of the Month

We are excited to honor Lesa Gutenkunst as our April Volunteer of the Month! Lesa is the owner of Lakeside Fitness Fit Body Boot Camp, which is a shoe collection site for SFJ. Lesa's heart for serving others grew from her relationships with her daughter and father. While losing both to cancer, Lesa learned a lot about life from them and developed a passion for people.

"Having a strong faith in God, Soles For Jesus has given me the opportunity to "Pay It Forward." I really like the fact that I am able to help people who I have never met. I love the comradery with other volunteers as well as the idea that someone may benefit from my actions. I know and feel in my heart that I have made a difference in someone's life. That is my goal every day of my life."

Lesa's passion for helping people is evident in her business and volunteering and she shares, "Soles For Jesus is a great organization. Volunteering there is always a wonderful opportunity and an incredible experience for me to be a part of an ineradicable cause. It is so well organized. If you are thinking of volunteering; just do it. You'll love it! I volunteer because, 'To whom much is given, of him shall much be required.' — Luke 12:48."

Thank you, Lesa, for being such a blessing to SFJ and everyone around you!



Lesa Gutenkunst



Amanda Strassburg in front of her new store in West Bend, Consider The Lilies.

Thrivent Action Team Benefits SFJ!

We are so thankful to the Koepke family for starting a Thrivent Action Team to benefit Soles For Jesus! This includes a grant from Thrivent that will be donated to SFJ. Thrivent's unique approach to blending faith, finances and generosity helps its members thrive, but that's only part of the story. They also support programs that help build stronger families, churches and communities. That's where the Koepke family and SFJ come in, and we wanted to hear more about this great opportunity, so we asked Jill to share more information about it.

How did you hear about Thrivent?

I was aware of Thrivent through our church, Calvary Lutheran Evangelical Church, in Thiensville, WI. This Christian organization, which used to be focused on serving Lutherans, now reaches out to all Christians to help them with their financial needs. Thrivent also puts a big emphasis on supporting the community and various charitable organizations, and one of their programs for its members is "Thrivent Action Teams."

How did you become a Thrivent Action Team?

Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

Girl Scout Troop #8084 in WI - What a great shoe drive by the McKinley 5th Grade Girl Scout Troop #8084, in Wauwatosa. Way to go girls, and thank you for the many shoes that will be sent to Africa!



Girl Scout Troop #8084.

The Sound Conference in WI — We were honored to share Soles For Jesus at The Sound Conference in Milwaukee last weekend. What a blessing to worship with several areas churches and so many talented vocalists and musicians. During their two-day conference, they also wanted to “give back” and so they collected shoes and funds for Soles For Jesus. Thank you, friends, and we believe that the Lord has great plans for the city of Milwaukee!

Our twin boys attend middle school at First Immanuel Lutheran School in Cedarburg, WI. For their religion class, the students complete "Living Stones" throughout the year, which are service projects for the church, school, and the community. John and Jeff wanted to do a shoe drive for SFJ, and I had the idea of starting a Thrivent Action Team to help with the shipping cost of the shoes we're collecting.

What steps are involved in getting the grant and how does that come?

Any Thrivent member can think about an unmet need in their community and how he or she can help. They can simply apply online at Thrivent.com to lead their volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once the project is approved, they'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, which includes a \$250 Community Impact Card that can be used as seed money to get the project off the ground, or donate to the charity. I encourage them to think about starting an action team for SFJ. It's easy and can make a big impact!

Thank you, Koepke family, for finding a new way to support SFJ! We appreciate you!



The Koepke family.

Noah in WI — Look at all of these brand new kids shoes! Diane shared with a homeschool group, and one sweet boy brought them all for kids in Africa. Thank you, Noah, for having such a huge heart!



Brand new shoes from Noah.

Easter with SFJ!

The Strassburg family held their 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Shoe Drive for SFJ on April 15th. There were 1,800 eggs filled with candy, crafts, endless desserts, a dozen raffled gift baskets, lots of donated shoes for Africa, and a whole bunch of happy kids and families! Thank you for another amazing Easter event and shoe drive, Amanda and Joel Strassburg!



Everyone had a great time at the event!

Danae Hezlep & Liberty Bible Church in IN -

We appreciate Danae Hezlep for making the trip from Liberty Bible Church in Indiana to drop off 280 pairs of shoes! Their shoe drive is still going on, so they are not finished yet. Our warmest thanks to each of you for Changing Lives Two by Two.



Danae Hezlep delivering shoes from Indiana.

Materion in WI - Materion Corporation decided to have some March Madness fun, and they challenged their employees to a shoe drive competition. Each employee was assigned to a team color, and together they collected over 500 pairs of shoes for Africa! Thank you, friends, and we love your creative idea that got everyone involved and excited to donate shoes.



Materion's shoe drive competition.

Distributions in Swaziland

Shoe distributions continue throughout Swaziland this month, with several hundred more people hearing the Gospel and being blessed with shoes. Our EHC Team, led by Brother Joseph, continues to wash people's feet as a demonstration of the Word of God in action. People are amazed that their own countrymen would be willing to humble themselves and serve them in this way. Please pray that the people of Swaziland will continue to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.



Young boys with their new shoes!

Shipment to Liberia

We are excited to report that the shipment to Liberia has arrived! Please pray for the EHC team as they use these shoes to minister to villages throughout Liberia. Please also pray for the people who will be receiving these shoes, that they be blessed by them and by hearing God's Word.

You can view more pictures of the shipment to Liberia [HERE](#).

Pensacola Christian College in FL - We are so grateful for all of the support from Pensacola Christian College. Once again, they hosted a shoe drive and this year they had an amazing turnout! Over 600 pairs of shoes were collected on their campus, and we are so grateful for your ongoing involvement from Florida.



Pensacola Christian College students with shoes from their drive.

Grace Lutheran Church & School in WI -

These adorable flip-flops and precious notes of love were made by students at Grace Lutheran Church & School in Menomonee Falls. This is a great way for kids to get involved and make a difference! Each one will be tucked inside of a pair of shoes and will be received with such JOY by a child in Africa. Thank you, sweet friends!



The Liberia shipment being unloaded.

Shipment to Malawi

8,000 pairs of shoes were loaded onto a ship on April 6th, and they are still sailing to Malawi. So far, they have traveled just over 2,500 miles of their 12,000 mile journey. Please pray for these shoes as they make their way across the oceans and the land to reach people in great need. We are trusting that God will use these gifts to do great things in this wonderful nation.

View pictures of the shipment to Malawi [HERE](#).



A village school in Malawi.



Beautiful notes that will be sent to Africa.

Gary's Gallop in WI - We were thrilled to be a part of supporting such a great cause at Gary's Gallop 5k Run & 2-Mile Walk at Wisconsin Lutheran College this month. We are grateful for the hundreds of pairs of donated shoes and special thanks to Julie Behling for representing SFJ at the event!



Julie Behling at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Melissa Reams in IA - Special thanks to our Iowa State Representative, Melissa Reams, and Joe for traveling all of the way to drop off over 1,000 pairs of shoes for Africa! We love and appreciate you so very much!

Thank You from Lesotho

We continue to receive powerful testimonies from Lesotho, and we want to share some with you so that you can hear about the lives that are being touched.

"I would like to thank the EHC missionaries who visited each home in my village to tell us about the love of Jesus. During this campaign, they also blessed me with a new pair of shoes! I am very excited to tell you that I am a new born baby in Christ, who is willing to tell others about Jesus because many more are lost without knowing Him as their Lord and Savior."

- Joalane

"Early one morning, I visited a church in Lesotho's District of Qacha's Nek. It was my first time there, and I received a pair of shoes for my husband and myself. It was indeed a blessing. I felt the love of God from the leaders of this church and the congregation at large. I would like to thank Soles For Jesus and Pastor Mohanoe as the Coordinator in Lesotho. Givers are blessed because they are freed from greed, they are being conformed to Jesus, they have enduring relationships with others, and they will reap eternal rewards. When we give, we act as God does. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son ..." (John 3:16). As God's people, we should be givers, not only at the Christmas season, but as a way of life."

- Makhotso Majara

"Thank you to everyone who gives to Soles For Jesus! Because of you, I have received salvation in Jesus and a new pair of shoes! Indeed they came at the right time and they met my deepest need! This meant so much to me and I thank God for you!"

-Puseletso

To view more pictures of the Lesotho shipment, click [HERE](#).



Melissa & Joe delivering shoes from Iowa.

First Immanuel Lutheran School in WI - What a privilege to help kick-off the shoe drive at First Immanuel Lutheran School. Thank you to the Koepke family for coordinating this effort. We appreciate you partnering with us to send shoes and God's love!



Yenh presenting at First Immanuel (left), and the Koepke boys (right).

St. Casimir's School in MN - These fabulous students from St. Casimir's School in Wells, Minnesota, did an amazing job collecting shoes! We are so grateful for all of their support.



Students at St. Casimir's School



This grateful grandmother in Lesotho received a Gospel booklet and a new pair of shoes!

Shipment to Uganda

It has been a long journey but we are thrilled to announce that our first shipment to Uganda has arrived safely in Kampala! This shipment has taken some extra time to clear all of the hurdles in customs, but soon it will be in the hands of our ministry partners. We ask for your prayers, as they prepare to use these shoes to demonstrate God's love in word and deed. We are expecting the Lord to do great things in Uganda as a result of this partnership! To view pictures of the Uganda shipment, click [HERE](#).

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 Yenh@SolesForJesus.org to set-up a time to come and volunteer.



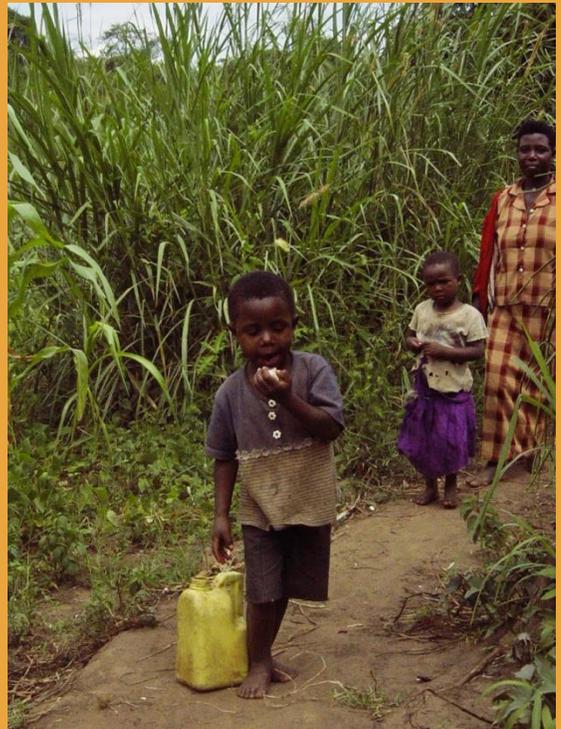
Members of Shepherd of the Hills Pewaukee and River Glen Church at a recent SOS event.

May

Monday, May 1st, 6-8pm
Wednesday, May 3rd, 6-8pm **FULL**
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**

June

Saturday, June 3rd, 9:00-11:00am
Wednesday, June 7th, 12:00-2:00pm
Thursday, June 8th, 6:00-8:00pm
Saturday, June 10th, 9:00-11:00am



A family coming home from school.

Meet One of Our Partners

Dr. Chitapa is the EHC Director in Zimbabwe and he also oversees East and Southern Africa. If you



came to our luncheon in 2015, you'll recognize him! Dr. Chitapa states that he is motivated to share the message of Jesus each day because he believes in the power of the Gospel to transform lives. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." Romans 1:16

Dr. Chitapa also says that Zimbabwe is a land of much greater peace than the media displays, and he has a great desire to increase their ministry outreach in villages that are hard to reach. Let's pray for Cleopas, Sarita and their children, and agree together for these needs:

Monday, June 12th, 1:00-3:00pm
Wednesday, June 14th, 1:00-3:00pm
Wednesday, June 28th, 9:00-11:00am

***You can choose your own 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 Mellefson@SolesForJesus.org 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.

Your Donation Impacts Lives!

Donate Online Now

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

- Good health, kids' schooling, their son with special needs, divine favor & protection for all, unity in marriage and traveling mercies.
- Increase in ministry coverage, as they want to reach more homes with the Gospel.
- God's direction and provision in churches and ministries led by Cleopas & Sarita.

Thank you for the Shoes Received this Month!

- 9Round, WI
- Andrew & Rachel Sawyer, WI
- Anytime Fitness, WI
- Brookfield Christian School, WI
- Calvary Lutheran School, WI
- Cheryl Drozdowicz, WI
- Divine Consign, WI
- Dr. Comfort, WI
- Emily Thomas, WI
- Jen Hanson & Friends, WI
- Joel & Amanda Strassburg, WI
- Kat Fronck, WI
- Keith Terry, WI
- Lori Lorenz, WI
- Lumen Christi Catholic School, WI
- Luther Manor, WI
- Maggie DiCatri, WI
- Mary Ellen Markowski, WI
- Melissa Reams, IA
- Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Lutheran Church, WI
- Neat Repeats, WI
- Pensacola Christian College, FL
- Princeton Club, WI
- Rachel Sawyer, WI
- Raven Ogle, WI
- RiverGlen Christian Church, WI
- Sarah Larson, WI
- Scott Andersen, IL
- St. Paul's Lutheran School, WI
- Terri Mitchell, WI
- The Color Tube, WI
- Willowbrook Place, WI
- Wisconsin Athletic Club - North Shore, WI

- Wisconsin Athletic Club – Wauwatosa, WI
- Wisconsin Lutheran College, WI
- World Impact Ministries, WI

Join our Prayer Team!

If you would like to be a part of our prayer team, email us at info@SolesForJesus.org. 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.