



Soles For Jesus, Inc.

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December 2017

www.SolesForJesus.org



Dear Friend,

As 2017 comes to a close, I want to give honor to the only One who is worthy of it all. *"For from him and through him and for him are all things. To Him be the glory forever!"* Romans 11:36 There is one reason for the success of Soles For Jesus and it's found in His name alone— JESUS! A few days ago, we all celebrated His birth. As I read my advent devotional, "Unto Us" by Jessica Broberg, I was reminded how the shepherds could not keep what they discovered to themselves. It was the best news they had ever heard and they wanted to share it with everyone.

At Soles For Jesus, we agree with the shepherds and this is what motivates us each day. This news is too good for us to keep to ourselves and I thank you for helping us share it both here and in Africa. Each time that I read testimonies from our partner missionaries, I see much fruit as these shoes are, "door openers in sharing the love of Jesus." As I reflect on 2017, I also see how many lives have been touched in the USA while groups volunteer in our warehouse, host shoe drives and other creative events.

Thank you for being such a blessing to SFJ in 2017, and I am excited to share this new [VIDEO](#) with you from Africa. Please take two minutes to hear this special message of thanks from our partners in

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Happy New Year From SFJ!

We want to take a moment to wish you and your loved ones a blessed and Happy New Year! Thank you for all of your support and prayers in 2017, and we pray God's blessings over you and yours throughout the New Year. We are excited about all that He has in store for us in 2018, and we feel blessed to be on this journey with you!

Africa. I echo their gratitude and I sincerely thank each person who has linked arms with us this year. We could not do this work without the help of many, and I pray God's abundant blessings over you this year!

In Christ alone,

Diane Studer
Founder, Executive Director



Click on the video above to see a special message for you from our partners in Africa.

Year-End Giving Ends Soon!



Thank you to each person who has already given a gift this season! There is currently an exciting opportunity to invest in what the Lord is doing in Burundi and Zambia. To read more about this, click [HERE!](#)

To ensure 2017 eligibility for your donation, please remember:

- Donations made by Credit or Debit Card must be completed before midnight on 12/31/17!
- **Donate online** at SolesForJesus.org
- Mailed checks must be postmarked



Save The Date!

Save the date and tell your friends about our 5th annual Race For Soles on **Saturday, June 23, 2018**. We'll be sharing more details soon and we hope to see you there!



The starting line at the 2017 Race For Soles!

Shipment to Zambia

Team Zambia met on a snowy evening this month to pray over this shipment of shoes before it left our warehouse. This was a very special evening for them, as they prayed over the shoes that they'll be placing on feet in May of 2018. It was also a great opportunity to bring along their families and to meet fellow members of Team Zambia for the first time.

Please pray along with us for God's

by December 31st! You can also drop off your donation at our office until 5pm today.

May God bless you and all that concerns you throughout the upcoming year!

Volunteers of the Month

We are thrilled to honor Kent and Wynne Loehrke as our December volunteers of the month! When the Loehrkes first learned about our mission, they didn't quite understand the impact of a pair of shoes. But they shared, "It didn't take long for us to realize that God had big plans for this organization, especially after we heard some of the great testimonies on how He was using shoes as a means to share the Gospel of Jesus. Our involvement with Soles For Jesus has caused us to think more globally and our faith has grown as we have seen how God has used SFJ to expand His Kingdom in ways we couldn't fathom."

Kent has been serving on the SFJ Board of Directors for over five years, while Wynne has modeled in our fashion show every year, and we were thrilled when both Kent and Wynne traveled to Tanzania with us in 2016. They also enjoy volunteering in our warehouse and they're always amazed at how fast those two hours go by. "It is very rewarding to know that the shoes you are packing will soon be worn by someone in Africa, who may very well be getting their first pair of shoes ever. And better yet, they may become a fellow brother or sister in Christ," they shared.

Thank you, Kent and Wynne, for being such a huge blessing to Soles For Jesus and the people of Africa. We are so grateful for your hearts to serve, and we pray God's abundant blessings over your lives!

protection over this shipment. Let's also pray for this team as they prepare to journey across the ocean to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are excited to see all that He has planned for this trip in May, including the lives that will be touched and the salvations that will be celebrated!



*Left to right: Mark, Vicki, Diane, Roberta, Margaret, Jean, Jill, Ric, Kris, Christine, Brooke and YenH.
Not pictured: Sandra, Chloe, Melissa and Danae.*

Testimony From Botswana

At Gabane Day Care Center most of the children are orphans due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Earlier this month all of the children were treated to an early Christmas gift of shoes, and a Gospel presentation led by the Every Home for Christ team. The children were overjoyed with this unexpected gift!

Tanga, our partner in Botswana, writes, "You could see their beaming faces and those happy little feet in those shoes. This was a worthy gift at this day care center, which is operated entirely by volunteers. One child, named Tsholofelo, felt so loved upon receiving a pair of shoes that she couldn't contain her joy. The leaders of the day care center were very surprised by her



Kent & Wynne Loehrke in Tanzania with Soles For Jesus.

Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

Aimee's Christmas Wreaths- We want to express our sincere gratitude to Aimee Vechart for creating such beautiful Christmas wreaths to help raise funds for Soles For Jesus! We admire how she uses her creativity to bless those in Africa, while she's at home with her adorable son, Owen. We also want to honor and thank her wonderful church family at Appleton Alliance and the AAC Sportsplex for collecting shoes and coming to volunteer at our SOS events for several years and counting. Thank you all for your long-time support of Soles For Jesus!

reaction, because she rarely smiles and often withdraws from playing with the other children. However, on this day she felt so loved by the gift of shoes that she couldn't stop smiling and having a wonderful time with all the other children." To view more pictures of the shipment to Botswana, click [HERE](#).



Children in Gabane receiving their new shoes.

Shipment to Swaziland



Thank you to each person who made this Christmas miracle possible! A few weeks ago we stepped out in faith to prepare one more shipment in 2017 to meet a need in Swaziland, and we invited World Missionary Press to join us. Our volunteers stepped up in a huge way to quickly pack these shoes and we made our goal! Thank you to each person who helped donate funds, shoes and time to make this final shipment happen this year.

Our partner, Joseph, is eager to receive this shipment of thousands of pairs of shoes and Gospel booklets. Please join



Baby Owen with one of the handmade wreaths.

December Mailing Volunteers, WI - We are thankful for our "mailing elves" who helped us spread Christmas cheer by preparing our Christmas cards this year. Thank you for taking time during this busy season to help with our mailing!



Preparing Christmas cards with our delightful volunteers.

New Song Church, WI- We are thankful for all of the support this year from New Song Church in bringing hundreds of donated shoes and for volunteering in our warehouse. We thank you for serving and we pray God's blessings over you!

us in prayer so that each person who receives these gifts will be impacted by the love of Jesus Christ. Joseph sends his deep gratitude to everyone who made this possible and he wants you to know that this container will open the door of ministry to many people throughout his nation. You can view more pictures of the shipment to Swaziland [HERE](#)

Our final shipment for 2017 is on its way to Swaziland!



Testimony From Liberia

The EHC Liberia ministry team shared that they are burning with passion to carry the Good News to every home. "We were able to visit many areas where we shared the Gospel and shoes, prayed for those who were sick and spoke words of blessing and encouragement to everyone in the communities we visited. Please keep us in your prayers so that we can continue to advance the work of the Kingdom in Liberia. Blessings to everyone who has helped send shoes to us, as these are a tremendous tool for ministry." View pictures of the Liberia shipment [HERE](#).

Our EHC partners sharing the Gospel in rural Liberia.

Shipment to Burkina Faso

On December 1st, the EHC Burkina Faso team visited an orphanage for street children. More than 300 pairs of shoes were distributed and many of the people



Volunteers from New Song Church working in our warehouse.

Melissa & Kathy Smith, WI- We are so thankful for this sweet mother and daughter duo! Melissa worked independently to coordinate her own shoe drive once again and she also loves coming in with her mom, Kathy, to pack and prepare the shoes for shipment to Africa. Melissa demonstrates such joy in serving, and she doesn't let anything get her down. Their faith in God and their support for our mission is so inspiring, and we sincerely thank you, Melissa and Kathy!



Thank you for being such a blessing, Melissa and Kathy!

from the village joined them as well. Pastor Josué, who led the team, seized this opportunity to preach the Gospel and distribute scripture booklets. The children and adults were amazed, and many decided to follow Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives.

Please keep praying for these new believers as they are being discipled, and for the work of the Lord as shoe distributions continue in this nation. To view pictures of the shipment to Burkina Faso, click [HERE](#)



Children in Gambela waiting for their new shoes.

Meet One of Our Partners

Meet our Every Home for Christ (EHC) ministry partner in Guinea-Bissau, Julio da Silva. He is faithfully serving the Lord as a leader and



evangelist in his native country. Here is a part of Julio's story, "I come from an animist background where my family practiced idolatry. Our neighbors were Christians and they invited me to church. When I was ten years old, I accepted Jesus, but because of persecution from my parents, I had to quit going to church. When I was 19, God showed me a vision of the end of the world, and not long after that, I totally dedicated my life in service to

Wauwatosa Community, WI- How wonderful to have these "Wauwatosa Friends" serve together in our warehouse! This community group came with enthusiasm to sort and pack hundreds of shoes for our final shipment in 2017. We are grateful for each heart that served with love and joy!



Friends from the Wauwatosa community serving together.

Volunteer Opportunities

SOS Events (Sort & Organize Shoes)

Join us as we gather at our 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 sign-up for a date and time to come and volunteer.

the Lord. The Lord led me and my family to Togo for Biblical studies, and afterwards we returned to Guinea-Bissau to serve the Lord in our native country." Julio asks us to pray for the following:

- His wife, Maria, and their four children.
- For his health. He has pain in his right ear.
- For an increase in financial support for church plants.
- For more volunteers to help with outreach.

Thank You for the Shoes Received this Month!

- Affiliated Clinical Services, WI
- American Imports, WI
- Ben & Kimberly Sherwood, WI
- Brookfield Christian School, WI
- Brookfield Elementary Girl Scout Troop, WI
- Christ Alone Lutheran Church, WI
- Christ the King Baptist Church, WI
- Crossroad Church, WI
- First United Methodist Church, WI
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, IL
- Grace Church - Delafied, WI
- Katie Oberfoell, WI
- Lake Country Lutheran High School, WI
- Lifeline Church, WI
- Luther Manor, WI
- Melissa Smith, WI
- Myra Vachon, WI
- New Apostolic Church, WI
- Oconomowoc Rotary Club, WI
- Pamela Bell, WI
- Patricia Baker, WI
- Paul Michaels, WI
- Princeton Club, WI
- Rich Stahl, NJ
- Ron & Sandy Vigo, WI
- Sara Zingsheim, WI
- Susie Wilson, WI
- Teen Challenge, WI



MKE Sting Volleyball team volunteering in our warehouse.

January

Saturday, January 6th, 9-11am
Monday, January 8th, 9-11am **FULL**
Thursday, January 11th, 6-8pm
Saturday, January 13th, 9-11am
Thursday, January 18th, 6-8pm **FULL**
Saturday, January 20th, 9-11am
Tuesday, January 23rd, 6-8pm **FULL**
Saturday, January 27th, 9-11am

February

Saturday, February 3rd, 9-11am
Thursday, February 8th, 9-11am **FULL**
Saturday, February 10th 1-2:30pm **FULL**
Saturday, February 17th, 9-11am
Thursday, February 22nd, 6-8pm
Saturday, February 24th, 9-11am

***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.

- Union Grove Baptist Church, IL
- Wisconsin Athletic Club – Wauwatosa, WI
- Women's Soccer Club, WI
- Wylbur Holloway, WI



Where in the World is...?

We are adding a new feature in our monthly newsletter which will introduce a country that we partner with in Africa. The first one is, "Where in the world is ZAMBIA?"

Zambia is in southern Africa and it has a population of 16.6 million people. Their official language is English, although their main local language is Nyanja. The capital city is Lusaka, which is in the south-central part of Zambia. Zambia is officially a Christian nation, however a wide variety of religions are practiced. There are two seasons in Zambia; the rainy season (November-April) and the dry season (May-October). Temperatures range in the 70's and 80's most of the year, however in October they can reach 104 degrees.

About 78% of Zambians live below the poverty line and struggle to provide the basic necessities for their families. Often times, the little funds they have are used for food. Thus, other necessities like shoes are not feasible. SFJ has partnered with Zambia since 2011,

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.

when we sent our first shipment of shoes. We have sent a total of six shipments to Zambia, as well as our first mission team in 2013. In May of 2018, we will be sending a second team to wash feet, distribute shoes and share the Good News. We love the people of Zambia, and we are excited to return and be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Your Donation Impacts Lives!

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Or

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