



Soles For Jesus, Inc.

8480 N. 87th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53224

877.314.SHOE (7463)
414.365.1392



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www.SolesForJesus.org



Dear Friend,

Have you ever had a task so large that you didn't know how you could do it alone? Maybe you also remember a time when someone stepped forward and said, "I'm going to help you! And you can't talk me out of it because God called me to walk with you." I can remember several key moments in my life when that meant everything to me.

Well, this is exactly what we hear so often from our partner missionaries. They are deeply encouraged by their SFJ partnership because it provides an effective ministry strategy. I just read this report from our partner in Burkina Faso, "With joy and a grateful heart, I thank you for your commitment to serving the Lord—and that **I am not alone in this work.** My team was growing discouraged because it seemed that no doors were open for us to preach the Gospel, **until you put your arms around us.** You helped us build relationships and trust in regions that we have been targeting and praying for, as we shared His love through shoes, foot washing and the Gospel. Thank you for providing **concrete acts of God's love** for our people and for encouraging us as we labor in His name!"

Glory to God, and thank you for partnering with us to make Jesus known. I am humbled by this privilege each time, and

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Shoes To Africa Since 2010



Since our very first shipment in 2010, **Soles For Jesus**

has sent over 372,000 pairs of shoes to Africa!

To view each of the shoe distribution photo albums, visit our SFJ [Facebook page](#). We continually post stunning photos of people with inspiring smiles and new shoes on their feet!

Learn more about where we go [HERE](#).

Save The Date!

Save the date and tell all of your friends about our 5th annual Race For Soles on **Saturday, June 23, 2018**. This fun event is for all ages and it

yet there is so much more work to be done. A dear friend just shared this scripture from John 15:5, and I want to share it with you. "I am the vine; you are the branches. if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." I am so grateful that you and I are fully attached to the Vine, and I'm believing that we will bear much fruit this year in His name!

In Christ alone,

Diane Studer
Founder, Executive Director



Transporting shoes to remote villages.



Thank You For Helping Us Reach Our Goal!

Last month we shared about an opportunity to send shipments of shoes to Zambia and Burundi, and we are thrilled to announce that you helped us reach our goal!

With grateful and humble hearts, we sincerely thank each person who gave a gift, and we also want to give a huge thanks to a generous donor who provided an opportunity for gifts to be matched.

To God be the glory! We are so excited to be able to send these important shipments. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel across land, railway and ocean to reach their final destination, and also for the precious people who will

includes an opportunity to run a 5K course OR walk a 2 mile course, play carnival games, win prizes, enjoy a bounce house, face painting, refreshments, fellowship and a special visit from the famous Milwaukee Brewers Racing Sausages! It will be a morning packed with fun, and you'll also get a free 2018 RFS t-shirt when you take advantage of the Early Bird Registration. Invite a team to join you, and we'll be sharing more details soon. Please contact Mark to be an Event Sponsor at 414-365-1392 or MEllefson@SolesForJesus.org.



Shipment To Swaziland

Our final shipment for 2017 is on its way to Swaziland! We are excited for these shoes to reach the port around February 14th. Please join us in prayer as this shipment sails to its final destination, and for our ministry partners as they prepare to distribute them in areas with the greatest need. We are believing for a great harvest of souls in the name of Jesus!

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



Swaziland shipment is currently sailing.

be receiving them. We can't wait to share photos and stories with you, as soon as we have them!

Volunteer Of The Month

We are thrilled to honor 7-year-old Avery Held as our January volunteer of the month! Avery learned about Soles For Jesus from her parents, Jason & Becky Held, as her dad serves on the SFJ board of directors. Avery just celebrated her special golden birthday, and she decided to ask for shoes to be donated to SFJ instead of birthday presents. When asked what made her decide to do such a selfless thing, she said, "Because I really like giving." Wow! Avery's giving heart made her birthday wish a huge success, and many kids in Africa will be blessed with the shoes that she collected.

Avery is in first grade at Christian Life School in Kenosha, and her favorite part about school is lunch and recess because she gets to have fun with her friends. Her favorite colors are pink and rainbow colors. "When I grow up, I want to be a teacher and be generous to others," Avery said.

Thank you, Avery! We are greatly inspired by your selfless desire to help the children of Africa on your birthday. We pray God's blessings over you, and we know that He has great plans for you!



Shipment To Zambia

We are thrilled to share that our shipment to Zambia is on its way! Our SFJ Mission Team will help distribute these shoes in remote villages in May, and this shipment is expected to reach the port on March 6th. We are looking forward to seeing His plans unfold, as our team shares His love through shoes, foot washing and the Gospel message in each village that we visit. Thank you for joining us in prayer for the people of Zambia and for our team as we prepare to go!

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



Zambia is home to more than 16 million people.

Testimony From Uganda

During the Christmas season, our partners in Uganda organized a massive evangelization and shoe distribution campaign to reach people in the rural areas of their nation. This is only one photo of the huge crowds of people that came for shoes, and received so much more. They heard testimonies of how God's love and power is changing people's lives, and many responded to receive salvation in Jesus that day! Please continue to pray for each person who was served and who heard the Good News. Our partners are urgently praying for their nation and for revival, and we thank you for your support to help make this happen.

To view more pictures of the shipment

Avery with her "birthday presents" collected for SFJ.

Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

Women's Soccer Club, WI - We are so grateful to WSC for their desire to give back by holding a shoe drive. They collected so many shoes, and it took a few trips to deliver them all! The picture below shows only half of the shoes they collected during their drive. Thank you, WSC, for your generous donations and for blessing the people of Africa!



Shoes collected by Women's Soccer Club, WI.

Brookfield Cheer Athletics, WI - This cheer team is amazing! Not only do they perform, build pyramids and compete, but they also helped pack many boxes of shoes for Africa! Thanks for bringing your team spirit and for donating so many shoes as well. Many people will be blessed by your donations and by the time that you served in our warehouse!

to Uganda, click [HERE](#).



Children gathering for a shoe distribution in rural Uganda.

Testimony From Guinea Bissau

Our partner in Guinea Bissau, Julio, sent us the following report from the village of Quilandé, "After sharing the Gospel with them, we prayed for those who expressed their need for a Savior. Then we started the shoe distribution by serving the most needy among the crowd, and those who did not even have one pair of shoes. Some of the people even informed us that their children did not go to school, because they couldn't afford to buy a pair of shoes. They thanked God for the chance to receive such blessings. Honestly, those who received a pair of shoes were so grateful to God! For them it was a blessing they will never forget."

View pictures of the Guinea Bissau shipment [HERE](#).



Brookfield Cheer Athletics at a SOS volunteer event.

Calvary Church, West Bend, WI - Our special thanks to everyone who donated shoes at Calvary Church and to our dear friend, Amanda, for coordinating the shoe drive. Your ongoing support and donations will make an eternal difference!



Overflowing shoes in the collection box at Calvary Church.

St. Paul's Lutheran, Oconomowoc, WI - Diane enjoyed sharing at St. Paul's Lutheran Church to help kick-off their shoe drive. It was incredible to see five schools fill St. Paul's church to celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week, and it was powerful to hear nearly 500 students singing and worshipping their Savior. Thank you, students and families, for embracing the SFJ mission, and for helping us share His love in Africa!



Our EHC partners sharing God's love in Quilandé.



Shipment To Lesotho

Eric Fini from Lesotho writes, "Our orphans were in great need of shoes. Thanks to Pastor Josias of EHC and Soles For Jesus, now each child has received a pair shoes. Now they can walk to school without hesitation to get an education. Thank you for coming to our rescue. This is all because our brothers and sisters in Christ followed the way of the Lord and donated to those in need. We praise God for how He always provides for our needs."

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

Children in Gambela waiting for their new shoes.

Meet One Of Our Partners



Diane sharing during the morning chapel at St. Paul's Lutheran.

Sarah, WI - Sarah is a very special little girl! She was very sad to learn about kids her age in Africa who don't have their own pair of shoes. So, for her 5th birthday party, she told her mom that she had enough toys and that she wanted to ask her friends to donate shoes instead of gifts. Sarah decorated a shoe collection bin for her birthday party and she was so excited to see it fill up. When Sarah brought the shoes to SFJ, she got to visit our warehouse and learn the process that her shoes will go through to get packed and shipped to Africa. Thank you, Sarah, for your loving and giving heart, and Happy 5th Birthday!

Meet our Every Home For Christ ministry partner, Fermo Ogilla Utong. Fermo serves the Lord as a leader and evangelist in South Sudan.



Jesus Christ revealed himself to Fermo when he needed Him the most. "I was depressed and lonely, resorting to drinking and smoking to escape the pain. A local pastor recognized my distress and gave me a Gospel booklet. For weeks I could not think of anything else and I ended up giving my life completely to Christ. I was instantly healed of depression and my salvation affected my brothers so seriously that two of them also became Christians! This gave me the courage to proclaim Christ boldly." Fermo uses literature from our partners at World Missionary Press to evangelize home to home, telling everyone about Jesus.

Please pray for Fermo, his wife Sarah, and their four children.

Thank You For The Shoes Received This Month!

- Anytime Fitness-Germantown
- Avery Held, WI
- Bethesda Church, WI
- Brookfield Cheer Athletics, WI
- Brookfield Christian School, WI
- Calvary Church, WI
- Centerville Baptist Church, MS
- Christ Alone Lutheran Church, WI
- Christian Life School, WI
- Consider The Lilies, WI
- Craig Thacker, WI
- First United Methodist Church, IN
- First United Methodist Church-West Allis
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church-Northbrook, IL
- Grace Church-Delafield, WI



Sarah with her shoe bin at her birthday party.

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 YenH at 414-365-1392 or YenH@SolesForJesus.org to sign-up for a date and time to come and volunteer.



Volunteers from Concordia University serving in our warehouse.

- Grace Fellowship Church, IN
- Jennifer and Sarah, WI
- Journey Church, WI
- Karlheinz Jaehrling, FL
- Kristin Kendall, WI
- Lifeline Church, WI
- Marquette University Track Team, WI
- Mary Simeth, WI
- Materion Corporation, WI
- Mike & Christy Faase, WI
- Neat Repeats, WI
- New Life United Methodist Church, IN
- Performance Running Outfitters, WI
- Poplar Creek Church, WI
- Princeton Club, WI
- Shepherd of the Hills-Hubertus, WI
- Teen Challenge, WI
- The Colour Tube, WI
- Tony & Kirsten Claas, WI
- WI Athletic Club- North Shore & Wauwatosa

Where In The World Is Burundi?

Burundi, part of central Africa, has a population of 10.5 million people, and it's one of the smallest countries in Africa. The official languages are French and Kirundi, their largest export is coffee and their currency is a Burundian Franc. The capital city is Bujumbura and Burundi gained independence from Belgium in July of 1962. Since then there has been civil unrest as the Hutu and Tutsi people (who make up the majority of Burundi's population) have battled for power.

In 2015, protests broke out as the president announced his intention to run for a third term. An attempt at a military coup failed, and there was heavy gunfire in the streets as both rebels and loyals tried to sieze control. The civil unrest in Burundi has taken its toll on the economy, and Burundi has one of the lowest per capita gross incomes in the world.

February

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

March

Saturday, March 3rd, 9-11am **FULL**
Thursday, March 8th, 6-8pm
Saturday, March 10th, 9-11am
Saturday, March 17th, 9-11am
Saturday, March 24th, 9-11am
Tuesday, March 27th, 6-8pm

***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, please contact Mark 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.

Approximately 80% of Burundi's population lives in poverty. In addition to poverty, Burundians have to deal with corruption, weak infrastructure, poor access to health and education services, and hunger. Burundi has the severest hunger and malnourishment rates of all 120 countries ranked in the Global Hunger Index.

Since 2013, Soles For Jesus has sent three shipments of shoes to Burundi, and we are deeply committed to these precious people. Now that peace has been restored, our fourth shipment will be sent next month to our dear ministry partner, Evariste. Please join us in prayer for the physical and spiritual needs in this nation.



Burundi, Africa

Your Donation Impacts Lives!

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Or

Mail Your Donation:

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