



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

July 2016 - June 2017



As I look back over the last year, I am filled with an immense sense of pride and appreciation for the many volunteers, donors and partners who have worked so hard to make 2017 another remarkable year for 20 Liters.

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Over the past year, 20 Liters has continued its mission, so simple yet so incredibly important and effective, of making dirty water clean for the most vulnerable, through our equally simple yet effective innovative solutions. Since Day One, our goal has been straightforward: help the vulnerable peoples of sub-Saharan Africa gain access to the most basic necessity of life: clean water. I am incredibly proud to be part of an organization that's making real strides in improving the lives of so many. In the developed world, we often take our water for granted; 20 Liters is doing an amazing job of not only putting real-world clean water solutions in the hands of those who need it most, but is also extremely effective at spreading the word back here at home that there are millions worldwide who are in need. The symbolism of the 20 Liters jerry can logo, like the very work we do, is simple and effective...and memorable.

Earlier this year, 20 Liters signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with World Relief Rwanda, our partner in Africa, which will allow us not only to continue our work, but expand our scope, allowing us to bring our water filtration systems to thousands more throughout Rwanda. Did you know that 20 Liters currently services around 94,000 Rwandans, providing them with the technology, training, and empowerment to provide them with clean water? With our continued growth, as well as with the continuing support of so many community partners and individuals, 20 Liters is getting very close to servicing 100,000 Rwandans!

20 Liters is not the biggest organization out there, and we haven't been around that long, but one thing makes us able to do so much more for so many more than our age and our size might otherwise indicate: Our emphasis on PEOPLE. 20 Liters has always focused on people-powered solutions and emphasizing solutions geared for individuals and groups based on their need and location. We take our simple, sustainable, and elegant water-filtration technologies, designed for everyday usage in a local context, then take the time and effort to train and equip local volunteers (not outsiders), local leaders and health workers who are committed to their communities, and who will be available for assistance when needed. Our organization's size makes us efficient and nimble; 20 Liters is all to listen to people in local communities to assess their needs, then address those needs and make corrections as needed. What works, what doesn't work...20 Liters can quickly adapt.

The dedication and hard work of so many people, in the U.S. and in Africa, inspires me daily and has me truly looking forward to another successful year in 2018. Every day, every year, 20 Liters is making a difference in the lives of thousands. There is no more important work to be done anywhere, and I am proud to be counted amongst this group of incredible people.

Our successes in 2017, and all of our continuing efforts moving forward, are, as always, possible only with the support of compassionate and committed individuals like you. I thank you so very much for the support and hard work each of you have given to 20 Liters, and I look forward to many more years of life-changing success!

With Thanks,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ed Zwylghuizen'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ed Zwylghuizen  
Board Chair

# **WATER IS EVERYTHING AND EVERY THING NEEDS WATER.**

Access to clean water is a fundamental human need that must be met if we expect to sustain progress toward ending poverty, ensuring access to education, and improving global health standards.

## **GLOBAL PROBLEMS ARE PERSONAL PROBLEMS.**

The complexity of global problems can make the consequences of those problems and potential solutions seem distant and impersonal. We're not okay with that. We invite you to pursue a deeper understanding of the ways water shapes your life and the lives of others. We want you to become passionate about water - not because it matters for somebody, somewhere - but because it matters for you.

## **PERSONAL PROBLEMS NEED PERSONAL SOLUTIONS.**

Engage with us to talk about the problem, to understand the problem from different perspectives, to identify and implement solutions. We want to work with and for you, because personal problems need and deserve personal solutions.

## **WE ARE 20 LITERS**

We make dirty water clean for the most vulnerable through long-lasting and innovative solutions. Our values are rooted in a desire to partner with the most vulnerable to empower their communities with sustainable solutions to support a basic human right - access to clean water.





# AMY TOWNLEY

## Taking Clean Water Personally in the U.S.

Access to clean water has the ability to transform the lives of the most vulnerable in Rwanda, but it can also transform the lives of our advocates living in the U.S. who take access to clean water personally and share their passion for clean water with their family, friends and community.

Take Amy Townley who lives in West Michigan with her husband and two daughters. Over five years ago, Amy first heard about 20 Liters through her church and was inspired by the stories that she heard, so she took action.

Amy began by attending a Walk for Water and making family donations. She raised funds while training for her first marathon. But finally decided she would rather use her love of baking cookies to raise funds for 20 Liters. Over the past several years, Amy's bake sale has exploded into a major annual fundraiser for 20 Liters, raising over \$5,000 in 2016.

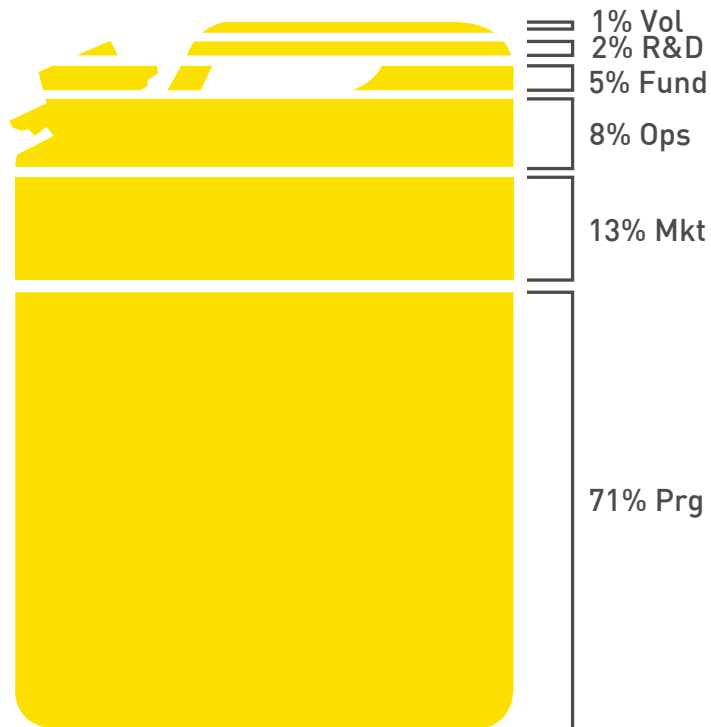
Amy understands that water is everything and everything needs water. So, she isn't stopping. She's always looking for new ways to make dirty water clean for vulnerable families. This year she challenged herself during Lent to fast from all beverages other than water and donated all the money she would have spent on those drinks – donating enough money to provide clean water for 8 people in Rwanda for more than 10 years.

Amy continues to encourage those around her to take clean water personally. "Everybody has a gift," Amy says. "Everybody has something that they can do, and like to do. It's a matter of taking that gift and using it to help others."

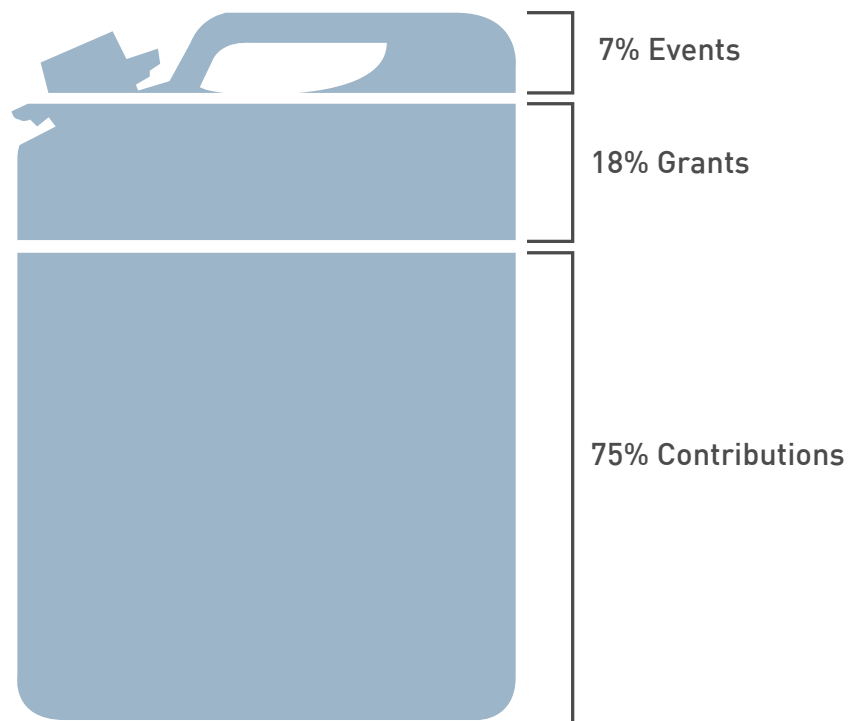
Learn more about how you can become an advocate for clean water at [20liters.org/get-involved](http://20liters.org/get-involved)



## EXPENSE BY DEPARTMENT



## REVENUE BY SOURCE



Last fiscal year, members of our Sustaining Liters club made small monthly donations that added up to a huge impact – nearly 300,000 MONTHS of clean water. You can join them by making a monthly commitment to 20 Liters. Just \$9 a month can provide a year of clean water for a family in Rwanda. Learn more at [20liters.org/more-info](http://20liters.org/more-info) or set up your gift at [20liters.org/getinvolved](http://20liters.org/getinvolved).

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, 20 Liters reached 22,915 people in Rwanda with clean water through technologies including:



**10,615 People**  
SAM3 Household Filter



**4,800 People**  
SAM2 Community Filter



**7,500 People**  
Rainwater Harvest Systems



# BAMURAGIRE JULIEN

## Personal Solutions for Rwanda

When we partner with local communities to make dirty water clean – it does far more than improve health. It empowers recipients with opportunities to improve their economic circumstances, it makes school more accessible to their children, and it strengthens communities with the tools to meet their own needs.

Just consider the impact that a SAM3 Household Filter has had on the life of Bamuragire Julien. Julien lives with her husband and seven children in Cyugaro village in the Ntarama sector of Rwanda. Their primary water source is a local swamp, and before receiving their filter, Julien's children were often sick with diarrhea.

Since receiving the filter from 20 Liters, Julien says that her and her family's health has greatly improved. But the value of the filter to her family doesn't stop at improved health. She also uses the filtered water to make banana and sorghum soft drinks that she sells in her community. The money she earns from selling these drinks has helped to pay for her children to attend school.

Julien also credits the filter with strengthening her ties in the community – particularly with her neighbors who are welcome to visit and use the filter to make dirty water clean for their own families as well.

Learn more about how 20 Liters technologies are changing lives at [20liters.org/how](https://20liters.org/how).





LITERS

[20liters.org](http://20liters.org)