

### In memory of our co-founder Katie Vanderheyden



Katie passed away February 15, 2020, after a courageous five-month battle with pancreatic cancer. This newsletter honors her impact on TLP and the people of Tanzania through her love and gifts. Tanzania Executive Director Ben Mlula remembers, “Katie was very humble and loving. The people of Tanzania will remember her as a mother to all of us here. As they say in Swahili, Katie was ‘Jembe,’ which means she was a super, super great woman!” Her impact on TLP will forever drive us to do more and love generously.

#### Faith

On the first trip to Tanzania, Katie had no idea what the future would bring. After the team finally got clean water flowing in the village she journaled, “I got to the well and saw water coming and all the people so happy for something we take for granted, I was overwhelmed, and the tears started. It was God working through us.” This moment had a major impact on Katie’s passion to continue the work that has become TLP.

#### Focus

At a village meeting early on, local leadership presented TLP a long list of needs in addition to water. Katie bravely interjected, “first things first” as a reminder of our important focus--WATER! Katie realized the temptation to try and meet every need, of which there are many. Her simple words helped TLP focus its core mission on water ever since.

#### Love

Katie’s love of others naturally led her to find similarities between cultures rather than differences. She often said, “I find that it really doesn’t matter where you live or how you live. Mother’s all want the same thing. They want their children and families to be healthy and happy and they will do whatever it takes to make that happen.” Perhaps that’s what made her so loved and respected by the women in Tanzanian villages where TLP worked.

#### Equality

Though physically petite, Katie acted in large ways to influence gender equality. After attending her first Catholic Mass in Dodoma, Katie wrote, “about half-way through mass I figured out I was sitting on the wrong side. The left side was all women and the right all men...I didn’t move.” She continued to sit on the men’s side with husband and co-founder Jim on subsequent trips!

#### Empowerment

Through her work in the villages, the women in Tanzania could trust Katie and they opened up about their difficulties of life in the village. Katie encouraged them to learn about the Tanzanian laws, band together and write letters to their legislators to promote change. TLP began hosting women’s empowerment seminars to support their desire to live more peacefully and equitably. Soon men were asking for something similar. Now TLP provides both women’s and men’s seminars that promote human rights and positive cultural change. The villagers tell us the result is better health, happiness and harmony in their communities.

***Your financial support today will help continue Katie’s vision of transforming lives through access to clean water and basic human rights. What we do together will have an impact for generations to come. Thank you, thank you, thank you!***



97% of your donations go directly to serve the people in Africa.

DONATE DIRECTLY ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.TANZANIALIFEPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.TANZANIALIFEPROJECT.ORG)

Or mail your tax deductible contribution to

Tanzania Life Project  
12 - 6<sup>th</sup> Street NE, #108  
Osseo, MN 55369

The people of Tanzania say “**Asante Sana**” – Thank you VERY much!

Sincerely,

Jim Vanderheyden

Co-Founder and Chair of the Board of Directors – Tanzania Life Project



YES! I would like to help the people in Tanzania!

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation amount enclosed

ONE TIME or  RECURRING (check one)

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I would like to offer my prayers and support!

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**God bless you for your continued contributions to the Tanzania Life Project.**