



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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## AFRICA BRIDGE, YEAR IN REVIEW

This was a challenging year for Africa Bridge. The elimination of paid US positions in June 2022 allowed us to decrease administrative costs and yet continue an effective program in Tanzania. We continued our fund raising and marketing efforts, hiring an excellent grant writer. Much to our dismay we discovered that the grant world had changed, and unsolicited grants were no longer being accepted, so our efforts brought in no revenue.

We quickly began looking for potential partners with whom we could collaborate. This search took us to a potential partner who shares our vision as well as our geography, and who has had admirable success in fund raising. We are working closely with this potential partner to assess how a partnership would work. If all agree this would be a good fit, Africa Bridge's ability to help lift many thousands of families in Tanzania out of poverty in just a few years would be considerable.

Founder Barry Childs' forthcoming book, *And the Children Shall Lead Us*, will be published in April, 2024. The book describes Barry's experiences growing up in Tanzania, and the additional adventures which led to the creation and success of Africa Bridge. The book will be an excellent way to spread our story, with launches planned for multiple continents.

## PROGRAM UPDATE

We continued to operate in Kambasegela Ward and decided to work there until graduation in Summer 2024. We augmented the dairy co-ops with 36 new cows. There are now 66 cows, which produced milk at a rate of over 17,000 litres per year. More cow co-op members would help raise more families out of poverty, so we are working with local leaders and villagers to stimulate additional interest and participation. There are also 100 goats in homes and 25 in schools, which gave birth to 16 kids in 2023.

The Most Vulnerable Children Committees (MVCCs) continue to operate very effectively in Kambasegela. In 2023 we helped improve the lives of nearly 1,000 children in 240 households. The children received regular visits from MVCC members, participated in children's club meetings, received health education from peers, and were given the new school uniforms that allow them to attend school. Kambasegela continues to do the work Africa Bridge was founded to do and has done for over 20 years.





## UNIQUE PROGRAM MODEL

Through our work this year we have refined and focused on the two parts of our unique model:



### Most Vulnerable Children's Committees (MVCC)

Africa Bridge creates village MVCCs, which manage the co-op membership and identify the Most Vulnerable Children we will serve. Africa Bridge local staff train committee members in social services, life skills, and organizational management. This process builds local capacity and transfers skills directly to families.

MVCC members visit the children and their families regularly to provide psychosocial support and monitor their progress.

### Education

Africa Bridge provides students with uniforms and supplies so they can attend school by making grants to the MVCCs.

### Psychosocial and health support for children

The MVCC supports children's clubs which serve as gathering places and sources of education and support for children and their caregivers. Africa Bridge trains peer health educators to provide education on key health topics such as HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.



### Income Generating Co-ops

Africa Bridge provides the seed capital to buy livestock and agricultural inputs, implements the operating procedures, and delivers ongoing training and business management.

### Pass-On Model

A family caring for a Most Vulnerable Child receives a cow. The first calf is given to another family through the MVCC, doubling the number of cooperative members. This process continues to repeat, increasing members continually and creating many more families with higher incomes. Families owning a cow have milk and manure for their crops.

### Graduation

After five years, the Ward graduates from Africa Bridge with the capacity to build future growth through our sustainable, regenerative process.



# PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

## PARTNERS

Cana's Feast Winery  
Gizmo Productions  
Lang-Svendgard Family Fund (OCF)  
Laura D. Wanser Foundation  
Miller Family Foundation  
Newman's Own Foundation  
Perkins Coie  
Segal Family Foundation  
Stafford Primary School

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reola Phelps, Board Chair  
Frank Brennick  
Laurie Cooper, Secretary  
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Baraka Mtunga  
Mathayo Mwakagamba  
Ashish Shah  
Don Schmidt, Treasurer  
John Worcester  
Barry Childs - Board Member Emeritus  
Ben Pettigrew - Board Chair Emeritus

## STAFF

Ponsiano Lupoli, TZ Co-op Coordinator  
Kelvin Ngonyani, TZ Most Vulnerable Children Coordinator  
John Worcester, Executive Director, Finance Director  
Reola Phelps, Development Director  
Sharon Brabenac, Marketing and Communications



## VOLUNTEER HOURS SPENT

Twenty-five volunteers worked an amazing 7,555 hours for Africa Bridge in 2023, 3.5 person-years. Thank you!

## REVENUE

Donors*	\$93,924.05
Grants	\$72,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$166,424.05</b>

\*Includes \$28,000 in restricted fund raising donations

## EXPENSES

Program Services	\$109,255.72	54%
Management and General	\$22,179.16	11%
Marketing and Fundraising*	\$70,325.27	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$201,760.15</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Includes \$39,950.00 in restricted fund raising expense



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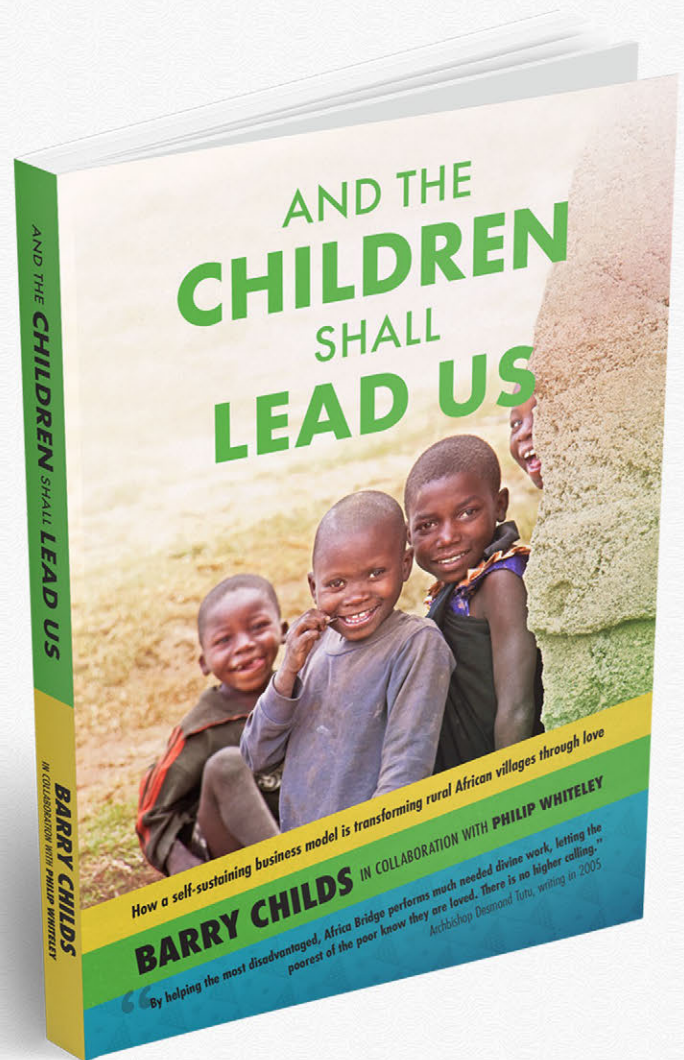
# AND THE CHILDREN SHALL LEAD US

Africa Bridge announces the publication of *And The Children Shall Lead Us* by Barry Childs - a heartfelt and fascinating account of 23 years of Africa Bridge, the sustainable, cooperative agricultural model transforming rural villages.

This book is published to share the success of the Africa Bridge model - based on both field experience and academic research - and to raise awareness of its powerful potential to lift the most vulnerable children out of poverty.

*And The Children Shall Lead Us* tells the engrossing story of how the project works, how it came about and was implemented, and what has been learned during its 23 years of operation. This work is not simply "charity"; it's a proven community-led model that could redefine ethical development in Africa. The book is destined to become recommended reading for the social sciences.

Barry Childs, founder of Africa Bridge (who spent childhood years in Tanzania and returned later in life to commit himself to helping his homeland) is available for interview. Passionate about the project, Barry has stories to tell.



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