

foodwatershelter inc

We build early learning, eco-friendly children's villages and big, bright futures

about us

foodwatershelter inc (fws) is an Australian not-for-profit organisation formed in 2005 by five Australian women and now run by around 50 volunteers in Australia and abroad. We build and manage eco-friendly villages in developing countries with onsite education, health and social facilities for vulnerable women, their children and orphans.

Our first project is Kesho Leo children's village in Tanzania, East Africa. Kesho Leo is run by volunteers and local employed staff. It is soon to become home to 16 women ('house mamas') who will receive payment to head households of their own children and orphans - around 80 children in total. Kesho Leo also provides a community centre offering education, health and social facilities for Kesho Leo residents and their neighbours.

what's so unique about fws children's villages

fws's eco-friendly children's villages aim to give their residents and the local community access to everything they need to lead a fulfilling life:

- **Early & interactive bilingual learning programs** at our Early Learning Education Centre to encourage and empower a generation of children to think, question and enjoy problem solving. Our early-learning chekechea (kindergarten) is open to all children in the local community.
- **Comprehensive health care** and education at our Community Health Clinic initially for Kesho Leo residents and later for the wider community.
- **Social welfare programs** at our Education Centre for Kesho Leo residents and the wider community.
- **Eco-friendly living education** at our permaculture garden through classes to the local community about organic vegetable growing, permaculture design, composting, rainwater collection, and more.
- **Eco-friendly design and practice** through environmentally-sustainable architecture, energy systems, and permaculture practices.
- **Community involvement** in the design, building, growth and maintenance of children's villages. Kesho Leo is advised by local Board of village elders.
- **Promoting local culture** to ensure Kesho Leo children remain Tanzanian in all ways, and love their own country and culture deeply.

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- **Local staff & management** by employing as many locals as possible.
- **Adult education** which covers a wide range of topics from HIV to composting to sewing.
- **Small business initiatives** identified and supported for members the Kesho Leo community.
- **Family units** for Kesho Leo residents, headed by house mamas.
- **Blue-print design** so that Kesho Leo is the first of many children's villages. We'd like to see our eco-friendly children's villages operating sustainably all over the developing world. But let's just get Kesho Leo children's village operating beautifully first.

ways to help fws meet our goals

- **Sign up** to receive the **fws** e-newsletter Gimme Shelter – for info, email: gimme.shelter@foodwatershelter.org.au
- **Sign up** as a **fws** member – for info, email: memberships@foodwatershelter.org.au
- **Make** a monthly contribution to **fws** – for info, visit: www.foodwatershelter.org.au/donate.aspx
- **Buy** a much-needed final kit-out item for Kesho residents – for info, visit: www.foodwatershelter.org.au/letskitoutkesho.aspx
- **Buy** some of the last infrastructure items to be built at Kesho Leo – for info, visit: www.foodwatershelter.org.au/shoppinglist.aspx
- **Hold** a small, easy fundraiser for **fws** – for info, visit: www.foodwatershelter.org.au/hold-a-fundraiser.aspx
- **Join fws's** salubrious Final Founding Fifty members – for info, visit: www.foodwatershelter.org.au/finalfoundingfifty.aspx

foodwatershelter.org.au

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