

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. Our goal is to 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 home to eight women ('house mamas') who head households of their own children and, in time, orphans.** Kesho Leo also provides education, health and social welfare services for Kesho Leo residents and the surrounding community.

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 through our Community Health Program. This comprises a small Community Health Centre at Kesho Leo and a Health Education and Promotion program reaching to the wider community.
- **Social welfare programs** for Kesho Leo residents and the wider community. These include individualised support for families who live at Kesho Leo; outreach programs to assist families in the community at crisis point; and social welfare education programs 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 a 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.
- **Local staff & management** through employing and training locals wherever possible. Our volunteer team leaders are matched with Tanzanian staff to provide mutual professional development and cultural sharing.
- **Adult education** which covers a wide range of topics from HIV to composting to finance management.
- **Small business initiatives** within the Kesho Leo community, such as sewing and commercial farm production.
- **Family units** addressing the theory of attachment for orphans, 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 to help our support base grow.
For info, email: membership@foodwatershelter.org.au

Make a monthly contribution to **fws**
For info, visit: www.foodwatershelter.org.au/donate.aspx

Buy something from our shopping list:
www.foodwatershelter.org.au/shoppinglist.aspx

Raise some funds for **fws**
For info, visit: www.foodwatershelter.org.au/hold-a-fundraiser.aspx

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kesho leo children's village

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