



LIVING WATER

A Quarterly Newsletter from WaterStone

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Leadership

Ken Harrison
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

John Mulder
CHIEF GENEROSITY ADVISOR

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

About

WaterStone is a Christian foundation that comes alongside givers, advisors and ministries to provide trusted counsel and innovative giving strategies. Since 1980, we have assisted our clients in developing comprehensive plans for sharing their resources with ministries and organizations to fulfill their charitable intent.

Our expertise is working with business owners and stewards of family wealth to unlock the giving potential of their non-cash assets like real estate, business interests, oil and gas and agricultural commodities. Through WaterStone, families can multiply their giving impact for the Kingdom, minimize taxes and heighten the joy of generosity.

Learn More

Visit WaterStone.org or call our offices at 719.447.4620.

Front Cover Photo Credit: Shravan K Acharya

By the Numbers

\$950 MILLION
Assets Under Advisement

\$1 BILLION
Complex Assets Contributions

\$2 BILLION
in Contributions

7500+
Charities Supported

\$2 MILLION+
Weekly in Grants

\$1 BILLION
Given in Grants

WATERSTONE

Offering Hope for the Next Generation

DONOR PROFILE

As a young mother, Barbara's child needed a new pair of special shoes every year. When Barbara purchased these shoes for her child, she always gave enough to purchase a pair of shoes for someone in need even though she didn't know who this would bless.

Now Barbara and her husband, George, are in their 80's, but their call to pass on the love of Christ through generosity has only grown stronger. They believe not only in giving of their finances but also of their time and talents, and their local Reno Young Life ministry is one of those beneficiaries.

When they moved to Reno four years ago, they contacted the local Young Life area director to see how they could help. They have worked closely with the Young Life in Reno ever since, and they've witnessed first-hand the impact that Young Life can have on young people.

"We don't always know the difference we are making in someone's life, but someday, we will know," Barbara said.

We reached out to Barbara to find out what she loves about working with Young Life and how WaterStone has helped facilitate her giving.

What events led you to become involved with Young Life?

Twenty-five years ago, I was invited to a dinner party at a local restaurant hosted by Young Life, and I was impressed by their presentation. Six months later, my pastor's wife asked me to pray because one of Young Life's major donors had pulled out and there was a need for \$25,000. We became involved, and that's how I became the committee chair for seven years. I mentor kids, I've been involved in numerous committees, and I give to Young Life both locally and internationally.



What are some of the causes that excite you and motivate you to give?

Organizations such as Young Life work to address the lack of hope young people face. One in seven young people today either commit suicide, attempt it, or consider it.

What were the deciding factors for you in choosing to work with WaterStone?

I heard about WaterStone from a friend. I called, and Stephanie walked us through the process. I like the ability to give complex assets—in our case, a house.

What would you say to someone who is contemplating giving to charity, but isn't sure what cause they want to support?

Listen to your heart and find out how they handle your money. To do your homework, ask the charity a lot of questions. Ask to see tangible results. Do they have a plan? Then review Guidestar or Charity Check. We use our Giving Fund to support seven different organizations.

Do you only give financially, or do you also support charities in other ways?

I've mentored many Young Life kids, and we join Young Life's leadership in prayer every week. I believe in not only financial support but also volunteering, trusting that God is laying out the footsteps for us to follow in His steps.



Photo Credit: Compassion International

COVER STORY

Pure Religion in the Face of Human Trafficking

The apostle James defines pure religion as “caring for orphans and widows in their distress” (James 1:27). Inspired by the Holy Spirit, James knew that single women and children are the most vulnerable members of society, and he called on Christians to give them special care and attention.

That is just as true today as it was 2,000 years ago, and human sex trafficking is among the greatest threats these women and children face. Ninety-eight percent of sex trafficking involves women and girls, and children are trafficked for sex four times more than adults (Source: Child Liberation Foundation).

These women are sometimes kidnapped, sometimes tricked, and sometimes forced into indebted servitude. Whatever the reason, the results are devastating. Thankfully, WaterStone donors have taken note of these needs and many have designated grants to organizations working on this crisis.

One such organization, **New Scent Centre International**, is a rescue center in Kenya for girls from the streets and other vulnerable situations. They focus especially on those who have been sexually abused, sexually trafficked, or forced into incestuous relationships. Even after being rescued from those horrible circumstances, these women and girls struggle with disease, trauma, and a lack of self-esteem.

In past years, the center’s director, Flora Mwikali, has generously housed these girls in her home. But thanks in part to the support of WaterStone, she was able to build the Dillow’s House. This two-story house can

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accommodate about 80 children per floor, where Flora works with them to restore dignity, honor, self-worth, livelihood, and a measure of normalcy.

“I want to look at them like Christ looks at me,” Flora said. “He doesn’t throw me out... I remember how he treats me with love and care, and I want to treat them that way.”

While New Scent Centre works to heal the trauma of human trafficking, other organizations work to prevent it from happening in the first place.

Compassion International, for example, helps children avoid falling victim to human traffickers. They partner with local churches to identify impoverished children who are especially vulnerable to exploitation. Then, their world-renowned Child Sponsorship Program gives these churches the funds they need to expand the circle of caring adults actively participating in these children’s lives. This fosters an environment where the child is known, loved, and protected from exploitation.

Large and small, these organizations embody what it looks like to “care for the least of these” (Matthew 25:40).

WaterStone is proud to partner with donors like you who are passionate about ending modern-day slavery, and we know that thanks to your generosity, thousands of orphans and widows have known the love of God and the protection of his church.



Photo Credit: New Scent Centre International

Estate Planning for the Kingdom

Your charitable giving matters to you—and to the organizations and causes that rely on your support. That is why one of our top priorities here at WaterStone is ensuring that your charitable goals are followed during your lifetime and after you pass away. We offer a variety of strategies to help you estate plan for the Kingdom.



Make sure your Giving Fund's purpose statement is up to date. We reference the purpose statement of your fund to meet your charitable goals. Verifying and updating the charitable purpose of your fund is as simple as an email or phone call to our Giving Strategies Team, without the time or expense of changing wills, trusts or other legal documents.



You can use your current Giving Fund to direct bequests to as many organizations as you would like. These funds can be distributed all at once upon your passing or over the course of years. They can also be invested to grow tax-free to create a legacy of giving.



You can designate your children or other individuals as successor advisors for the distribution of these funds. You determine what level of control each advisor has after your passing.



Some WaterStone donors allow their children full latitude—they identify grant recipients and the amount of those grants. Others choose to give their children an advisory role but do not allow them to choose recipients. Still others give their successor advisors control over a certain percentage of their grants, but retain control of the majority.



Whatever you choose, our Giving Strategies team can develop a system that works for you.

Working with WaterStone gives you the peace of mind that no matter how you organize your bequests, we will never give to a nonprofit that contradicts our statement of faith. This, combined with your purpose statement, ensures that your values will always be respected, no matter who controls your charitable giving after your passing.



Simple bequests aren't the only way to plan your estate for the Kingdom. We can also set up Testamentary Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT) with your IRA or other assets.

Many people pass away while still retaining a sizable IRA. Making distributions from that fund exposes your inheritors to taxes, but putting that IRA into a Testamentary CRT allows you to support both your loved ones and charity. Your beneficiaries can receive income from the CRT for their lifetime(s) or a term of up to 20 years, and the remainder is donated to your preferred charities.

This offers yet another way to take care of your beneficiaries while still supporting the organizations and causes that matter to you.

Estate planning is a complex and sometimes emotional process. WaterStone can help make that process as smooth as possible and, more importantly, carve a permanent space for Kingdom purposes in your giving legacy.



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A Letter from Ken's Desk

Economic uncertainty, war, riots... these days, reading the news feels more like a *Left Behind* novel than anything else. It's tempting to isolate ourselves in our homes with our families and simply wait for Christ to return.

But while we should always hope for His return, Christ has given us a mission on this earth, no matter how evil it gets. That mission is simple: as He says in Matthew 25:40, we're called to care for the "least of these."

We must resist the temptation to become callused to the concerns of the most vulnerable. As you can read about in our cover story, WaterStone donors are stepping up to help victims of human trafficking, and there are dozens of organizations working to rescue these people from truly horrible circumstances.



In every age, followers of God have loved and protected the least of these, and that Kingdom work continues to this day. I'm proud to work with men and women who have heeded Christ's call, and who choose to protect the human beings whose wellbeing and protection is near to God's heart.

Gratefully,
KEN HARRISON