

SHARON & RICK SLETTEHAUGH

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

July 2016



EDUCATION

Rick: B.S. in Business and Biological Science from University of Minnesota

Sharon: B.A. in Elementary Education from University of Minnesota

AREA OF WORK

Rick and Sharon took four trips with WellShare: 2009, 2010, 2011, and lastly 2014. Initially, they observed and familiarized themselves with the culture and visited villages. They then surveyed community members, shop keepers, and farmers and created synergies among other NGOs.

Later, they became involved in helping facilitate microsavings programs in Karatu and Nairobi. They also helped develop a volunteer program at Songambele Hospital.

FAVORITE PART: Meeting and interacting with the people

LOCATION

2009, 2010, 2011: Karatu, Tanzania

2014: Nkololo, Bariadi District, Tanzania

TIME FRAME: About 9.5 months over four trips

“Volunteers must come in with an open mind and a keen ear to listen. They will get a response if they are patient and thoughtful.”

- Rick Slettehaugh

WHY WELLSHARE?

For us, it is crucial that programs have measurable results, are low cost with high impact, and are sustainable. WellShare achieves these goals in some of the hardest to reach areas in rural East Africa. WellShare builds trust within the villages they serve.

“One of the wonderful things about WellShare is that they are not looking at a volunteer as dollar signs. They are looking at a volunteer as a person with skills that enhances their program.”

- Rick Slettehaugh

A BETTER LIFE THAN MINE:

Devota, the 18-year-old mother of a two year old. She is barely literate and abandoned by the child's father. She was making about \$1 a day and felt helpless to care for her sick child.

A WellShare community health worker invited her to join with other single mothers to learn how to take care of her own and her child's health. The local WellShare staff trained Devota and others in her group to bake banana bread to sell in the village.

This was so successful that they reinvested their earnings in a small teahouse and used those proceeds to start a vegetable garden so they could also sell produce in the market. They are great entrepreneurs! Devota told us, “I never dreamed I could have this kind of income. Not only is my child healthy now, but I can send her to school. She will have a better life than mine.”

