

Who we are. What we do.



It started with a single shoe. After watching news coverage of the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 and seeing an image of a single shoe wash ashore, a group of philanthropists and shoe company executives were moved to do something. They orchestrated the collection of over 250,000 pairs of shoes and delivered them to those most impacted. After Hurricane Katrina hit the very next year, they collected nearly one million pairs for relief efforts. After realizing the desperate need for adequate footwear all around the world, Soles4Souls was officially formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 2006.

Soles4Souls has helped in 127 countries. With over 1,000 domestic and international partners, we're able to provide much needed relief to those in need year-round and in times of disaster. To date, Soles4Souls has distributed over 26 million pairs of shoes with over half of our distribution events taking place in the United States. These new shoes, primarily donated by footwear manufacturers and retailers, help prevent debilitating diseases, allow children to attend school, and offer hope and dignity to those in need around the world.



Soles4Souls provides long-term solutions to fighting poverty. In places like Haiti, Honduras and parts of Africa, many live in deep poverty, surviving on less than \$1.25 per day. Soles4Souls collects used shoes and clothing with the help of thousands of volunteers, then funnels these to qualified micro-entrepreneurs in the developing world. By provisioning micro-businesses with a steady supply of high-quality, low-cost product, Soles4Souls provides a powerful and sustainable way for people to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Soles4Souls contributes to environmental sustainability. Americans throw away more than 68 pounds of textiles per person per year. That adds up to 3.8 billion pounds of unnecessary waste added to our landfills. The EPA estimates that only 15% is said to be donated or recycled. Soles4Souls diverts new and gently used shoes and clothing away from landfills and repurposes them, giving them new life through our network of micro-entrepreneurs.

-Data from EPA Office of Solid Waste-2012

