Dear Friends,

As I look back on 2022, I’m amazed by the power of our global community. This year was not without its challenges: war, famine, and climate chaos to name a few. But it also brought cooperation, restoration, and healing.

I’m equally amazed by the power of the human spirit. Given access to a few basic resources, people will build a better life for themselves and for their families, with ripple effects throughout their communities.

Our work in 2022 focused on four core themes: health, opportunity, equality, and innovation. In the following pages, you’ll read how solar energy is enabling each of these to take root. From the US to West Africa, the impacts of solar are growing day by day, changing lives and protecting this planet we call home.

With climate change at our front door, we can no longer afford to wait. Nor do we need to. We already have the tools on hand to end poverty and create a better future for our children and grandchildren. And thanks to your support, we’re doing just that.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Freling
IN 2022, SELF:

• Completed a water and vaccine access initiative serving 40,000 people in Benin

• Launched a solar cooking program to improve women’s access to income in Uganda

• Conducted renewable energy trainings for Native American communities in California

• Installed solar home systems for low-income families along the US-Mexico border

• Reported on COVID-19 vaccine storage issues for the World Health Organization
PROJECT PIPELINE

CONSULT WITH THE COMMUNITY

ASSESS NEEDS

DESIGN SYSTEMS

SHIP EQUIPMENT

INSTALL SYSTEMS

TRAIN LOCALS ON USE AND MAINTENANCE

MONITOR RESULTS AND REPORT TO DONORS
Without access to electricity, living a healthy life is extremely difficult. Survival becomes a full-time job, and pursuing higher goals is nearly impossible. In 2022, SELF completed a major initiative in Benin, West Africa to improve access to two vital resources: clean water and vaccines.

Waterborne illness is a leading cause of death in Benin, and energy poverty is a driving factor. Without electricity, communities in the Kalalé District were unable to pump, purify, and distribute water—forcing people to rely on unsanitary and far-off sources. For the first component of this project, SELF installed 24 solar-powered water pumps throughout the district. These systems provide an ample, reliable, and convenient source of water for 40,000 people.

The second component of this project focused on vaccine access. Only 58% of children in Benin are considered fully immunized. This low immunization rate is due in large part to lack of proper cold storage. Vaccines require low, stable temperatures to maintain their potency—something that isn’t possible without electricity. SELF installed five solar-powered vaccine refrigerators at clinics throughout the district. These clinics also received solar street lighting to improve accessibility.

Altogether, this initiative allows the people of the Kalalé District to live healthier lives, now and for years to come. This project was funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U.S. foreign assistance agency, and further supported by our generous donors.
OPPORTUNITY

In 2022, SELF launched a new initiative aimed at improving economic opportunity for women through solar cooking and skills building.

SELF procured five commercial-scale solar ovens, capable of baking, roasting, dehydrating, and cooking large quantities of food. The ovens were delivered to the Rape Hurts Foundation (RHF) site in Uganda. RHF, a longtime SELF partner, works to reduce sexual violence and provide refuge to those affected by it.

In the past, collaborations between SELF and RHF have focused on creating safer public spaces for women and supporting sexual assault survivors on their path to recovery. The partnership has now expanded, with work in 2022 focused on creating new opportunities for women to earn income.

Through the solar cooking program, participants will learn how to solar-cook a variety of foods to sell at their local markets. Trainings will also cover entrepreneurship and business skills, so that participants have everything they need to launch their own micro-enterprises and build wealth, many for the first time in their lives.

When women can access income, the whole community benefits. Mothers can send their children to school, care for their families, and employ others. These women are also advancing food security locally by cooking meals and even dehydrating produce for year-round consumption. And thanks to the power of the sun, these ovens operate free of pollution and carbon emissions.
Energy poverty keeps people poor and reinforces inequality. Energy access unravels that dynamic. When a person has access to energy, they can meet their needs, pursue new opportunities, and forge a better future. In 2022, SELF pursued two US-based projects that improve access to energy among marginalized groups.

The first project equipped Native American communities with resources and skills surrounding renewable energy. As part of the Tribal Digital Village Initiative, SELF held a series of trainings for Native technicians that covered the applied use of renewable systems, including solar and wind, as well as advocacy components to support the expansion of these systems. Equipped with this knowledge, these technicians can now steward renewable energy expansion in their communities—communities that have historically suffered higher rates of energy poverty.

SELF also worked to bring energy to low-income families in Texas. This work targets unincorporated, underserved neighborhoods along the US-Mexico border, known as “Colonias.” SELF equipped four households with solar electric systems and planned an additional ten installations. These systems reduce the financial strain of household energy use, and allow families to put that money toward other needs, such as healthcare and education.

These projects were generously supported by SELF’s partners, Sempra and Sempra Foundation.
INNOVATION

Innovation is essential to global progress, but only when it’s made available to all. This is true for electricity, as well as everything that runs on it. When it comes to vaccine storage technology, equal access is a matter of life or death.

Without refrigeration, vaccines lose their efficacy before they can reach patients. This is the tragic reality in many places today. Non-existent or inadequate cold storage keeps immunization rates low and patients sick.

To better understand countries’ capacity to receive COVID-19 vaccines, the World Health Organization (WHO) commissioned SELF to conduct a report on the status of vaccine storage in Bangladesh, Chad, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, and Tajikistan.

The findings identified several technological and programmatic challenges with vaccine initiatives. SELF provided recommendations to remedy these issues and improve vaccine storage, and by extension, vaccine access around the world.

Upon completion of the report, the WHO invited SELF into an ongoing consulting partnership. SELF looks forward to continuing this relationship until all people have access to these lifesaving innovations.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2022, SELF received support from new and long-term donors, allowing us to continue harnessing solar power to change lives around the world. Project-focused grants enabled us to venture into new areas such as solar cooking. We continue to develop new relationships and mechanisms to creatively address climate change and energy poverty with solar-powered innovations.

The financial results depicted in this report are derived from the SELF audited December 31, 2022 consolidated financial statements. The 2022 statements were unqualified except for the crypto assets held at year end. The auditors did not provide an opinion on these crypto assets due to the difficulties in verifying their value. SELF’s complete, audited financial statements can be found on our website at www.self.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>2022 Total</th>
<th>2021 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and donations</td>
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<td>In-kind revenue</td>
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<td>Interest and other income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions:</td>
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<td>Satisfaction of time restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of program restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>1,819,202</td>
<td>(570,463)</td>
<td>1,248,739</td>
<td>3,253,577</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENSES**

| Program services                            | 974,981                   | -                      | 974,981    | 1,520,089  |
| Management and general                      | 636,425                   | -                      | 636,425    | 259,529    |
| Fundraising                                 | 127,180                   | -                      | 127,180    | 186,535    |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES**                          | 1,738,586                 | -                      | 1,738,586  | 2,066,133  |

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS, WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS FROM OPERATIONS**

- 80,616 (570,463) - 489,847 - 1,187,444
- Forgiveness of note payable – PPP
  - 130,200

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

- 80,616 (570,463) - 489,847 - 1,317,644

**NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR**

- 416,170
- 943,336
- 1,359,506
- 41,862

**NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR**

- $496,766
- 372,873
- 869,659
- 1,359,506

*These numbers are net of the loss on crypto assets received in 2021.
ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robert A. Freling | Executive Director, Solar Electric Light Fund
Steven L. Swig, Chair | Co-founder, Presidio Graduate School
Mary Green Swig | Co-manager, Freedom to Prosper
Jonathan W. Postal | Founder & CEO, Nikola Power

STAFF
Robert A. Freling | Executive Director
Lisa Esler | Finance Director
Jeff Lahl | Project Director
Jeff Korcan | Project Manager
Jean-Baptiste Certain | Project Manager
Georgia Lawson | Communications Manager
Anders Jacobson | Administrative Assistant