

Jessica Jackley Flannery

Jessica Jackley Flannery is a co-founder of Kiva with her husband Matt, and the spirit behind the organization. Kiva is the world's first person-to-person micro-lending website, empowering individuals to lend directly to unique entrepreneurs in



the developing world. She has spoken widely on microfinance and social entrepreneurship, and has seen microfinance at work in a variety of communities in more than 30 countries.

Flannery first saw the power and beauty of microfinance to eradicate poverty while working in rural Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda with Village Enterprise Fund and Project Baobab on impact evaluation and program development. Combining her enthusiasm for microfinance and her husband's desire to be a Silicon Valley entrepreneur – they started Kiva in 2005, based on their realizations that: we are more connected to the developing world than we realize, the poor are very entrepreneurial, and stories connect people in a powerful way. Since its birth, Kiva has grown from a small personal project to one of the world's largest microfinance facilitators, connecting entrepreneurs with millions of dollars in loans from tens of thousands of lenders around the world.

Jessica Flannery holds an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business with Certificates in Global Management and Public Management, and a BA in Philosophy and Political Science from Bucknell University. Prior to Kiva, she worked in the Stanford Center for Social Innovation to launch the inaugural Global Philanthropy Forum, and at Amazon.com, Potentia Media, the International Foundation and World Vision.