



To all our sponsors, donors and supporters, we wish you a blessed and safe Holiday Season.

The office will close on Friday 21st of December and reopen on Tuesday 22 January.

UNKNOWN DEPOSITS

We have received unknown deposits from MR PEDLAR and GBS Mobile. Please contact the office to confirm where these donations are to be directed. Thank you.



Elaine's Retirement Dinner

Elaine's retirement dinner was held on Friday 20th July at the Maylands Hotel. Eighteen attended to farewell a grand stalwart of World Families Australia. Elaine has been our bookkeeper, keeper of memories and mentor for the past thirty years. Elaine will continue her association with WFA through her role as Project Officer to the Philippines, a position she shares with her wonderful husband, Bruce. We wish Elaine all the best in the future and will continue to enjoy Bruce and Elaine's company when catching up in meetings.

Lalibela Project, Ethiopia

Agazu, from the WFA project in Lalibela for Destitute Children, has graduated university! WFA project officer, Sandi, met Agazu in January 2008 when he was around 12 yrs old and living as a shoe shine boy. After meeting Agazu and other destitute young street boys, a WFA project was set up to support them. In Ethiopia kids need to supply a uniform and their own pens and exercise books to attend school, although education is provided free to the end of grade 8, and beyond if they reach the national benchmarks in grade 8, grade 10 and grade 12. However achieving the national benchmarks can be enormously difficult for those who don't own a book and have to beg and/or work to support themselves – especially if sleeping on the street or in a hut with no electricity to study after dark. Some of our young people in the project hadn't even started school until support was provided, often not until they were teenagers!

Agazu was determined to have an education. He completed secondary school a number of years ago, thanks to the support of sponsors who provided him with housing, food, text and resource books, pens and stationary, uniforms and medical care. As a result of his determination and hard work, he achieved the benchmark in his grade 12 exams leading to entry to university. In Ethiopia generally students don't get to choose what degree they enter or what university; they are allocated to whatever degree the government decides best suits their results and this might be something the student has no interest in - and they might be allocated to a university at the other end of the country!



Agazu was allocated to a university a very, very long way from Lalibela (several days by bus), where the climate and culture was very different (and where there is malaria and other tropical diseases not found in Lalibela). In his first year away at university Agazu became very sick. He was at a university far away without any social supports, so was in crisis and sick for some time before eventually finding his way back to Lalibela. Thankfully a year later Agazu recovered and returned to university, this time being placed in Bahir Dar University, closer to Lalibela.

This exceptional young man, who has faced so many challenges, has now graduated his management degree. WFA sent extra funds to Agazu in the June transfer to cover graduation costs (graduation gown and photos, and other expenses) as well as for transport back to Lalibela to see his project siblings.

A huge congratulations to you Agazu, and with grateful thanks to the WFA donors and sponsors of the Lalibela project over the last decade that enabled him to achieve his goal.

Agazu has asked me to share his graduation photo and his message below with you all. His message; as it was sent.

Hello my respect sandy!

First of all thanks to God and to you I achieved my ever dream education.

Well I really don't know where I start and what can I say but I would like to say you thank you a lot and may God kept you with him endless love .

Last Saturday was one of great full day of my life that was my graduation day. That was cheerful day.

It is too difficult to write your kindness on this short message but I am trying to write my best.

You are the only one who show me the bright way of my life, with a lots of kindness like financial support, by confirmatory advice, by mental phenomena this means to learn my education by full of confidence ,in general you are all things of mine. You are the key of my life, without you my life is despairing. You have a hug place in my heart.

This all about for today in the next message I will attach you all my school documents as I received immediately and I will let you my next plan what to do in the future. Until that I wish you all the best!

For the moment I am arranging to send you some graduation pictures of mine.

Please forward this message and picture for Christine, Ben and Dee, and for all Australian families.

Hope you are doing great with your families!

Best wish and love, high respect!

From yours Agazu

WFA's PHILIPPINE PROJECT special report by Bruce & Elaine

This school year which runs from June 2018 to April 2019 we have 164 students and all are doing well! Many of our first year 12 graduates (April 2018) have gained places in various colleges and are excelling in their studies.

Sadly Monday 13th August Heavy Monsoonal Rains brought by Tropical Storm Karding brought devastation to our new (2015) school auditorium which we rented and renovated in July 2015 (see pictures) Fortunately the Philippine Government closed all schools in the area on this particular day saving our students and teachers from certain injury or death. Normally the auditorium would have been packed with students and teachers for school assembly at the time the roof caved in!



We managed to raise money to buy a large parachute tent (see picture left) that is providing temporary shelter but the damage bill is well beyond us (in Australia that bill would belong to the

owners but that is not the case in the Philippines, yet any repairs remain the property of the land owners!!!)

We ideally need to find land of our own that we can build on as the cost of repair would be better spent on something of our own.

Thank you to all who support this project! If you would like to help with this current situation even your one off donation will be greatly appreciated and wisely used!

For more information re this project or child sponsorship please contact WFA Project Officers Bruce or Elaine Smith at bmejsmith@gmail.com or mobile 0414 434 533 or 0414 953 533

Cathy Deane Indonesian Project Officer

It is with deep regret that we advise that Cathy Dean died of leukaemia on 19th August. Cathy's involvement within the world of poverty and its alleviation through World Families has extended over many years and for that, we are extremely grateful. Over the last few years, we had the privilege of coming to know Cathy even more through her extensive knowledge and experience in the world of aid. Her impact through thoughtful, gentle reflection on overseas aid at meetings, allowed many of our project officers to grow in their understanding. Her passing leaves a hole in our organization, not just for the knowledge she had but also the wonderful person she brought to all she met. We will miss her.

New Office Staff

We are pleased to welcome Robyn Merritt who has joined the office staff as assistant finance officer. She will be ably helping Kerry with all of our money matters.

AGM 2018

The AGM was held on 16th October at our offices at Tyndale School. Thank you to all who attended. Below is the Presidents Report.

Presidents report 2018

Generous donors continue to fund World Families Australia projects in developing countries that improve the quality of life for communities, families and individuals.

Under Bert Michels' leadership the governance of the organisation has continued to develop. An administrative review earlier in the year identified the activities undertaken by people in the office and the length of time taken to do them. Bert now has a better understanding of the work required to run the organisation effectively.

Di Amato continues to provide us with informative newsletters that record the activities of World Families Australia.

Elaine Smith retired in July after many years of dedicated service to the organisation. Kerry Walker has taken over the management of the finances with assistance from Robyn Merritt who is working on a trial basis until the end of the year. Should she wish to continue she will be expected to work for the organisation for at least 20 years!

Adoption support continues as practicable.

A stall at WOMAD was a new experience with benefits to the organisation that were difficult to measure. It may be that being present at such an event for several years is required before we become known.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last twelve months. The donors who made funding the projects possible, the office staff for ensuring the organisation ran smoothly, the members of the management committee and the project officers.

Thank you

Morgan Smith

Re-elected officer bearers are:-

President:- Morgan Smith

Vice President:- Christine Hoffman

Secretary:- Bert Michels

Treasurer:- Glenn Smith

Assistant Treasurer:- Elaine Smith

KENYA 2018

Testimony and Neema Projects



On Thursday 28 June, a team of 38 left Adelaide Airport as part of the 13th Tyndale Mission Trip to Testimony Faith Homes and Neema Homes in Kenya. We arrived in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, and after a day of visiting the Giraffe Centre and Kazuri Beads, a local industry set up to support single mothers, we set off on a flight to the Masai Mara Game Reserve. We were met by our wonderful Safari Guides and we then spent the next two days exploring the wonders of the Mara, viewing a wide range of African animals in their natural habitat. These included herds of elephants, prides of lion, packs of hyaena, a group of five cheetah, a lone leopard heading out to hunt late one evening, as well as giraffe, zebra, hippo and many species of antelope. The team also visited a local Masai village and were treated to traditional dancing as well as informative talks about Masai culture.

Tuesday 3 July saw us leaving the Mara and driving north-west to the regional centre of Eldoret, where Testimony Faith Homes and Neema Homes are located. We then had a tour of both Homes and the proposed projects that we would take on were identified. This year the projects were very much an indoor "Complete Make-over" renovation of one of the main houses at each of the Homes. This included replacing broken ceilings and floorboards and the repair and repainting of several rooms. We also had the opportunity to see the new electric ovens at the Testimony Bakery, which funds raised for the trip had purchased. These ovens will provide the Bakery with the capacity to almost double their production of bread which, once sold, will add significantly to the income being generated by sustainable projects at Testimony. At Neema this year we financially supported the expansion of their Biogas Unit which will now run all of their cookers, and we purchased a bakery mixer to streamline their bread production.

Thursday was set aside to run a major activities day at Neema School, located at Neema Homes and catering for 80 students, many of whom are children from the Home. The activities included craft work, reading and outdoor games. Friday morning saw the team split into two groups, with half commencing the renovation of Testimony House and the other half heading to Neema. We worked on the two Homes for 7 full days and were thrilled with the cheerful, enthusiastic and determined way the team took to the tasks ahead of them and what we were able to accomplish.

One of the great privileges on this trip is that we provided a special meal for each of the Houses at both Testimony and Neema. We had lots of food, soft drinks (which are a special treat) and cake and ice-cream (a VERY special treat!). We also sang, danced, prayed and interacted with each of the families in the Houses and these nights are most memorable. We also had a final dinner with all of the leaders and parents of the Houses where we presented them with gifts of appreciation for their love and generosity and for allowing us to "invade" their lives for two weeks.

Donations may be made to either of these two homes by contacting:-

Project Officers:	Neema	Liz Rankin	0434 692 207
	Testimony Homes	Dani Potter	08 8283 0728



Speakers are available to tell groups about the work of W.F.A.

Please contact us through the office: (08) 8258 7909

LAST DAY FOR YOUR GIFT THIS QUARTER

1st December 2018

Please Note

Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 29th January 2019

Incredible change happens in your life when you decide to take control of what you do have power over instead of craving control over what you don't.

- Steve Maraboli
www.stevemaraboli.com

I ALONE CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD, BUT I CAN CAST A STONE ACROSS THE WATERS TO CREATE MANY RIPPLES.
MOTHER TERESA



ihaveaname.org

Opinions expressed by contributors to Sponsorship News are not necessarily those of World Families Australia

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