



World Families Australia Inc.

50 Fern Grove Blvd. Salisbury East

# Impact

MARCH 2017

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

## Minjur Home India

Minjur Home for children was started in 1974, created with the sole purpose of giving education to orphaned needy children. To date more than 300 children have resided and passed out of Minjur after completion of higher secondary education. The children attend local schools. There are currently 79 children in residence.

In October 2015 I became the new project officer for Chennai, India. In December 2015 floods sweep through Chennai resulting in massive flooding that remained for up to a week. As the water went down Sr. Alice Peter was better able to assess the damage. Eventually walls were repainted and repairs made with the assistance of the local community. WFA forwarded \$A1,000 emergency funding in early April 2016, in addition to the usual quarterly transfer.

A new WFA Partnership Agreement for Minjur Home was signed by all Parties in mid September. The Partnership Agreement will be reviewed at three yearly intervals. Sr. Alice Peter is very grateful for our continued support. The broad objectives of the new agreements are;

To assist the home to promote education of children in great need.

To advance the needs of the girl child.

To expand the number of supported school children in residence.

To develop concepts of developmental objectives.

**To assist with this worthwhile Project, contact Jennifer Minck,**

**Email: [jenny.minck@internode,on.net](mailto:jenny.minck@internode.on.net)**



## Bonga School Latrines



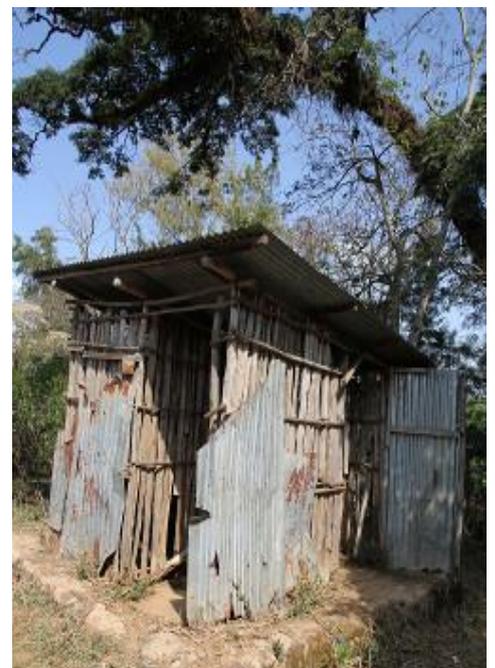
We need approximately

**\$15,000.00**

to replace the latrines. If you or someone you know are interested in contributing to this worthwhile Project, please contact

**Christine Hoffman WFA  
Bonga Project Officer**

[ce.dj.hoffman@bigpond.com](mailto:ce.dj.hoffman@bigpond.com)



# Educate and Celebrate in the Kalahari – South Africa

## 10 years working in the Moshaweng Valley, Kalahari Desert

It is so important to *review* work that has been done, to remember where you started, how little you knew back then (2007); the constant quest to build relationships and partnerships from small and tentative to large and collaborative; to learn from the failures and above all, celebrate the achievements.

**KEDI** (Kalahari Experience Development Initiatives) evolved as a response to the colossal needs in the community. 90% unemployment, no opportunities for school leavers, malnutrition, isolation and illness were readily evident in all villages. But the Tswana people also displayed resilience, faith, joy in each other, and a desire to learn and have hope for a better future. I desperately wanted to partner with them.

Today the four KEDI portfolios of **Arts, Food Security, Community Health & Vocational Training**, partnered by wonderful donor support here and abroad, are changing the thinking and lives of those we work amongst. **Educ**-**ation** lies at the heart of everything we do, and **self-sustainability** is always our goal.

I spent eight weeks there last year, from June to August, staying with Father Seane in the Catholic Mission for some of this time. I celebrate the **amazing village energy** that now exists and while there is still much to be done, a transformation is certainly happening. KEDI has invested time, resources and funds into broad-based education and training. The Tswana people have welcomed and embraced opportunities to grow and learn. The results of this partnership are listed below:

- Moshaweng Job Support Service – internet service bringing the world to villagers
- Moshaweng Computer Training Centre – first computing classes for school students
- Building two large school gardens & a large community garden – nutrition, jobs & extra food for many
- Elders-sponsored horticulturalist who taught soil management, mulching, fertilising & water-care
- Countless self-started & self-sustaining ‘collective’ and ‘private’ gardens that followed
- Three-year training for Kgololo the opera singer – now self-supporting & preparing to teach others
- Bead-makers, sewing groups, artists – earning money and working to grow their potential
- Kwa Bengo Computing Specialist – teaching computing to adults, offering all computing requirements
- Chamber of Commerce – local encouragement and marketing for all business enterprises
- Two bakeries
- Business training workshops
- Youth Leadership training
- Local village project manager
- Clinic support program
- Water supply to a clinic & a large kindergarten
- Fruit trees program
- Two performing arts groups
- Preparing to publish local poet
- Commencing business micro-loan scheme



**Community Garden**



**Youth Leadership Training**

And with all of this comes **gratitude** to all KEDI supporters for

donations, fund-raising and guest-speaking opportunities, resources and more. **THANK YOU!**

Please contact WFA project officer, **Lea Sander**, if you are interested in supporting or finding out more about our

## Meskele Kristos Ethiopia



Children undergoing medical check ups at the school



Youth holding fundraiser for new kitchen

Last year, we managed to have a small medical team visit the project and carry out some medical assessments and arrange treatments for a number of children at the school. A team of three doctors visited the school and were able to carry out assessments on thirty five of the children. A number of the children were provided with medical care and some of the children were referred onto the health centres in the surrounding districts for further assessment and treatment. Out of those assessed, eleven of the children are currently suffering from malnutrition.

In an effort to increase the nutritional diet of the children in this region, we have made some good headway towards stage one of the kitchen construction project. The youth here in Townsville have combined forces and pitched in to help raise money towards the new kitchen. As a result of their recent lamington drive efforts, these troopers managed to raise a total of \$1,630! In order to be able to begin construction on the new kitchen, we still need to raise around \$10,500. If you would like to contribute financially to this project please contact:

Dee Hudson <[bendy98@bigpond.com](mailto:bendy98@bigpond.com)>

OR make a direct deposit using BSB:065149, Bank Commonwealth, Sponsorship a/c: 1034 2470 (kitchen)

## A visit to Nong Khai Thailand 2016 by Helen McInerney

For many years now Dennis and I have sponsored Ekkapong, a Thai child living out of Nong Khai in northern Thailand through World Families. In 2015, our adopted daughter, Claire, spent 3 months volunteering in a babies home in Bangkok and it was during this time that she was able to visit Ekkapong and the wonderful staff at the Good Shepherd Sisters Home. Last year Dennis and I decided to incorporate a visit to see Ekkapong with a month's holiday in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. I have to say that the 3 days we spent there was the highlight of our trip . . .



To continue to read Helen's wonderful account of her visit please go to the World Families website home page for a link to the complete article, thank you.

## Robin's Nest Global C.H.I.L.D. Report on Kenyan Operations

Having just returned from nearly three months in Kenya, working on our projects, with a team of 3 visiting Australians, it's a privilege for me to give you an update on Robin's Nest activities. Our 41 children in our program continue to be appreciative of their kind sponsors paying for their uniforms, text books, school fees, field trips, exam fees etc. They are now enjoying summer holidays in their villages where we also delivered our annual relief food bags with basic necessities. These were received with screams of happiness and aged grandmothers breaking into song and dance.

We are proud to mention that several of our children who have graduated high school have gone on to tertiary education in Teacher's College, IT Technical Institutes, Medical College and Nurse's College, which is such a joyous result of the accumulation of our joint efforts and works toward our ultimate goal of stamping out poverty. A few generous sponsors sent funds for laptops so students will have the same chances as children from privileged families. Once they are earning their own money from their careers, they can financially feed back into their own communities, boosting their economy, empowering the marginalised villagers to have control over their own lives which will increase their sense of self-worth as they become independent and not have to rely on funds from well-wishers anymore. In our experience we have found that to create change overseas, all they need is a chance...from us.

During the team's stay in Kenya, we overhauled, fenced and stocked our sustainable fish pond with 1000 Tilapia; developed our poultry and rabbit projects; built desks and stools for 86 kindergarten children sitting on mud floors, dug and refurbished two wells giving these communities the gift of water. Imagine having to live without clean water for drinking or washing for two years. I ensured that everyone knew that none of this work would be possible without our donors' financial assistance and the invaluable support of WFA.

Before we move forward with such projects, we work closely with authorities, village elders, government health departments and children's services to establish their most crucial needs. The environmentally friendly Community Sanitary Block we installed provides people with privacy, dignity and hygiene as many live in mud huts without a toilet, shower or water. We presented a tailoring workshop, taught tie-dyeing skills, and introduced a variety of other ways to become more employable to our widows/orphans women's sewing group. We landed our first contract making school uniforms giving each woman 10 clients. We had fun giving out certificates for their participation in developing business skills in book keeping, building client relations, marketing and banking workshops.

Although, this is just a snippet of our work in Kenya, I trust this gives you a clearer picture of the essential role that WFA, your sponsorships and donations play in changing lives from despair to joy, and eradicating poverty.

We appreciate the assistance that WFA has given to support us over the years with these types of endeavours. Let us assure you that the villagers in Bungoma, Kenya, as well as in Jhansi, India, are eternally grateful as well! Thank you again and again, Blessings, Robin Byrnes WFA Project Officer <mailto:robinsnestaus@gmail.com>



## Letter of Thanks

This is a translation of a letter recently received from a young person in Thailand who has been sponsored for several years. I'm sure that children in all of our projects would express similar sentiments.

"Dear (name withheld),

My name is Tidarat Kaesanuch. I already completed Pre-Bachelor's Degree from Technology Asian Nongkhai College Program in Business Computer.

I therefore write this letter in order to thank you for your kindness supporting me the sponsorship since I was in the first year of secondary education to the second year of Pre-Bachelor's Degree or it is eight years. For this period of eight years if I was not receive the sponsorship from the Good Shepherd Sisters or from you I might not be able to study as high as this level because my family is poor.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for supporting me the sponsorship throughout this 8 years and I had nothing to return to you but only wishing you and your family all the best, prosperity, happiness and good health always.

Yours sincerely, Tidarat Kaesanuc TNK-148"

Dear Sponsors

I had a week's visit to our projects in Thailand in early November. I flew to Nongkhai, where I meet almost all the 86 children we sponsor there. Most were there to welcome me on the Monday afternoon and the rest came in on the Tuesday morning. I was able to hand out envelopes with the cash presents that some sponsors had paid and distribute the 6 monthly grants of sponsorship money from our sponsors like you. I am now starting to receive photos of the children and will forward them separately.

I had a long session with the Nun in charge and her assistants. The previous building in which the sponsorship team had their office was falling down around them with serious white ant damage and a leaking roof. Various sponsors had agreed to contribute to the cost of repairs and workmen were busy replacing the roof before starting on the walls. They look after over 500 children in that district. We had a good look at the plans and progress. I was then taken into the country to see the "House of Hope" where other sections of the Nuns look after long term invalids, a stud farm which supplies local farmers with stock and a place where 20 or so local ladies are employed making bags or, at present, Christmas decorations, which are sold overseas.

I then flew to Phuket, arriving there on Wednesday. I had dinner with the Nun who runs the school for children of Burmese migrants and had a long talk to her about what I needed to see. On the morning I was welcomed at the school by their assembly, with several Burmese dances. I spent some time inspecting the improvements made to the school with funds sent through WFA and was satisfied that they had used our contributions wisely. I visited 4 homes where some students lived - 3 of them were shockingly substandard. The 4th home appeared solid with 3 clean rooms but the family had this because the mother worked as a cleaner for the owner. I spent some time checking the computer equipment where the older students learnt computer skills and again was satisfied that a donation through WFA to establish this facility had been well used. There are 147 children at the school. 52 were in kindergarten - in one room. They have a separate Grade 2 class devoted to kids who have never been to school. The school is at full capacity with more children who would like to attend. It is one of the few places there where children are taught English, Thai and Burmese. Finally, for those who read the report by the school for the 2015 year, you may have read about their "bus". It takes up to 30 students 4 times each school day, morning and afternoon, collecting students from collection points and dropping them off in the afternoon. I went on 2 of these trips and I can assure sponsors that Phuket is a very large city. By the time the 4th trip had been dropped off, it was over 2 hours since the school day had been completed. Overall I am very satisfied that the money we send is well used and the projects we support are very worth while. I am very satisfied that without our support many of the children would not get an education; your assistance enables the children to become worth while citizens.

I should add that all my expenses were paid by me - nothing was paid from Sponsorship funds or donations.

Thank you for your support. If you would like further information, especially after you receive the photo of your sponsored child, please let me know.

Kevin Lynch WFA Sponsorship Officer for Projects in Thailand  
[\[kevinlynch37@gmail.com\]](mailto:kevinlynch37@gmail.com)





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 March

### Please Note

**Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 31st January**



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

Editor: Diane Amato

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