

Lalibela ~ Ethiopia Wondemu Small Business Plan

In February I sent out a WFA update seeking support to set up a small business for Wondemu, a young man who had been supported through our Lalibela program for destitute children. This program has supported children and youth who had either been living on the street, were orphaned or in destitute families, since 2008. Some of our young people have gone to college or university, but for some this is not achievable. Some of our young people in the project didn't start school till they were teenagers as they had been surviving through begging, shoe shining or carrying loads during their time on the streets. Unemployment is a big problem in Ethiopia, particularly so in Lalibela, and this has caused dilemmas on how best to transition our young people out of sponsorship and into independence when no work is to be found and no family to help them.

Wondemu was/is the 'big brother' in the project, helping the younger ones with their homework and self-care (washing clothes, market shopping etc), and taking responsibility for managing the bills to be paid in the house provided by WFA for them to live in. Despite no longer being sponsored, Wondemu continues to live in the house because he has nowhere else to go. He gets work wherever he can, carrying loads for other people and anything else, and uses this to pay for his food and the house electricity bill as his own initiative in exchange for having somewhere to live. When I was in Lalibela in October I talked with Wondemu about various ideas for a small business for himself. He decided he would like to breed and sell chickens and eggs, which is a practical project given the land available at the WFA house and the ongoing need for these things in the community. He provided me with an itemised list and quote for the materials to build the hen house, chickens, equipment and feed to get started.

People generously donated for Wondemu to set up his business and he has worked hard to build an enclosure for free ranging and a night coop and he has bought 8 chickens. We have some funds remaining to send him to purchase some more chickens and food, now that he has completed the construction work and showed he has used the funds sent properly. I am told that his 'project is going very well'. Wondemu sends his "gratitude and respect" for WFA and especially to those who generously helped him to achieve his small business set up.

Thank you for helping change the world for this young man. Next we hope to set Habtam up in a small business. Habtam is a young orphaned girl who was supported under the project, but was unable to progress through to secondary school so is no longer sponsored. Her photo is attached.

Sandi

Please feel free to share this information, we rely on word-of-mouth to find people happy to support WFA projects.



Project Updates

Bangkok Babies Home ~ Thailand

After many years of involvement with the Bangkok Babies Home, World Families Australia has closed our Project with the home. This is to bring us into line with new Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade guidelines. The Bangkok Babies Home and all donors have been contacted regarding the closure. We wish the Bangkok Babies Home all the best in their future.

Mission Uplift ~ Indonesia

After the passing of Cathy Dean, Project Officer for Sayap Ibu; Mission Uplift, in the capable hands of Mavis Pardede, is the last World Families Australia Project in Indonesia. This Project provides funds that enable 48 children to attend schools in the city of Bigor and after Universities in Solo and Jakarta.

Funds from WFA enable all students to attend school. Students are supported up to Bachelor level and may be assisted with micro loans to develop small business initiatives and thus facilitate independence in adulthood. Other Indonesian and Australian donors provide support to enable development of facilities as required. Four pre-schools for the children from poor families in the local area are also supported.

Jimma & Bonga ~ Ethiopia

Here is part of a letter received by Christine Hoffman, from Father Girma, after her last trip to Ethiopia. In Father Girma's own words . . .

I would like to express my gratitude for your visit that you come to Madiwuta in 25th of May 2019 in . . . occasion of Epiphany with Sr. Birke and others. I know that on the way of your visiting you have seen a lot of very poor children in Madiwuta who were there with their families to celebrate however they do not have good cloths on their body. Therefore my point is shortly to ask you good willingness that to start your program in this village. Madiwuta is a very small village which is 30 kilometers far from Bonga the main town of Keffa Zone. In Madiwuta there are 7000 population number, and among this there are around 400 children; very poor. Now days there are more than 200 children properly who are not joined to school, because of poverty . . . Economically it is very difficult to manage, regarding food may be he can feed whatever he has, and the proper diet is only dinner and at morning may be they can only feed some roasted grain with coffee or Kotchoo that prepare from false banana . . .



Christine would like someone prepared to be a Project Officer for Madiwuta, **with her support**, for this most needed Project. If interested, please contact Christine on 0417 793 300.

WOMADelaide

WFA had a stall at WOMAD on the long weekend in March this year to promote the organisation and I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to work on the stall and talk to visitors. We are now planning to have another stall again on the long weekend in March 2020 (6th - 9th) to continue our promotion.

One of the main things we need to work on are ideas to attract people to our stall. Some ideas discussed have been face painting, hair braiding and an Ethiopian coffee ceremony.

If you have ideas/skills/contacts and/or an interest in working on the stall next year I would like to organise a short meeting for a Saturday afternoon in September to talk about how we can make the stall a success in 2020. If you are interested in being involved, please contact me at vhyde@westnet.com.au and I will keep you informed of a date and venue for this meeting and any other arrangements for WOMAD 2020.

Look forward to hearing from you. Kind Regards, Vicki Hyde

PHILEMON ACADEMY FOUNDATION INC. (PAFI) REPORT

A big thank you to all our supporters and sponsors.

Currently the school is in recess from April to June (being in the Northern Hemisphere they follow the American School terms)! The last school year, June 2018 to April 2019, has been an interesting (trying) time for PAFI with the collapse of the main auditorium roof in August 2018. Fortunately, the Philippine Government had cancelled school on the day the roof collapsed due to severe monsoonal rains; had that not happened the students and teachers would have been in the auditorium for school assembly which would have had dire consequences!



Despite the disruption of the roof collapse which now has a temporary tent roof (see picture below) all our students did exceptionally well in their end of year finals in March/April!

We were blessed to have one of our sponsors visit the PAFI project as well as the former Damayan Community project that was in Malabon (Heart of Mary Villa). This project sadly had to close due to constant flooding in their area and the staff have all moved to different jobs and locations in the Philippines. Sister Susan, who we had much to do with at Malabon, is now living in Quezon City.

The following is a letter/report from Jan and her adopted daughter Chloe's visit to the Philippines and the Philemon Academy Foundation Inc. earlier this year;

"My husband Mike and I adopted two children from The Philippines in 1994 and 1997. Whilst we had visited The Philippines when the children were young, we had not returned for many years.

This year Chloe, now in her 20's and I had a meaningful trip to Manila visiting both birth homes. The Little Children's Home is in Antipolo and Chloe's birth home, Heart of Mary Villa, moved from Malabon to Quezon City since the typhoons.

There was something special about connecting with the Sisters of Good Shepherd whose love and care of Chloe in the first 14 months gave her a firm foundation to

start her life, before coming to Australia. Another adoptee of HMV was also visiting on the day we were there and she and Chloe have connected over social media. She is keen to connect all adoptees of HMV into the future, so if you know of anyone who would like to be connected, let me know via email at mikejanjackchloe@hotmail.com.

Sister Susan spoke highly of Bruce and Elaine Smith in supporting the sponsorship program through World Families all of those years before the centre moved.



Mike and I continued our sponsorship and Chloe and I had a lovely morning at Philemon Academy Foundation, visiting our 2 sponsor children, and were treated to 2 beautiful pieces of music by 2 older students as well. We also walked over to the home of one of our students in a very poor area and met her grandma (in the photo). The walls



are made of masonite and silver paper insulation. Many children at Philemon live in abject poverty but learn to play instruments, dance and perform to a very high standard. Pastor Roy organised everything for our visit and he was a brilliant host. You will see photos attached of classes of children looking proud and beautiful – they love having their photos taken.

World Families child sponsorship is making a huge difference in over 100 kids' lives. God provides and protects these

families and the school.

As the roof of the hall collapsed, they need funds to repair it before the rainy season which is very soon (see photo).

Pray for this amazing school and all who work towards a brighter future for the marginalized of Manila.

Jan and Chloe Lonsdale

If you would like to know more or sponsor this project/a child or help with a one off donation for the roof repairs, please contact Philippine Project Officers, Bruce (0414-953-533) or Elaine Smith (0414-434-533) You can also email us at bmejsmith@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 September 2019

Please Note

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

You have been assigned this mountain to show others it can be moved

The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched.

They must be felt with the heart.

HELEN KELLER

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

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