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Impact

JUNE 2020

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES



A NOTE FROM KERRY AND ROBYN (OFFICE STAFF)

We occasionally have payments come through which are not able to be identified and we rely on sponsors to let us know when a payment has been made but it's not recorded on their quarterly statement.

In February two payments were received with the following comments:

Direct credit GBS Mobile

Transfer from CBA Netbank world families

- ◆ if you think they may have been by you, please contact the office on wfasponsorship@bigpond.com or phone 8258 7909 (Tuesdays)

PLEASE CHECK YOUR QUARTERLY STATEMENTS CAREFULLY AND CONTACT US IF THEY DON'T LOOK CORRECT

Coronavirus

Well our world is certainly upside down at the moment. As you can imagine it has also impacted on our ability to manage the office. As we move forward to the weeks ahead I would ask donors to be patient as we attempt to address issues as quickly as we can. For some donors, issues may involve finances which could be difficult to maintain.

Please be assured that any issue may be emailed to Kerry Walker at wfasponsorship@bigpond.com as this email address is monitored regularly.

Ethiopia Medical Projects: *Medical Outreach Program (MEF) and Medical Emergency Fund (MOP)*



The medical emergency fund (MEF) funds assistance individuals for transport, medicines and surgery. Access to medical care in rural Ethiopia is limited, and also, many children with medical issues or disabilities are hidden away by their families due to the stigma linked to beliefs, such as having a child with a disability means the family has been cursed. There have been many wonderful outcomes over the years, but there are also the tragic ones. Sadly the little girl I met in Bonga in 2018 with extensive burns died from complications. Although this is devastating, I have some small comfort in knowing she did receive the best care available (limited though this is) in that region of Ethiopia as a result of the MEF fund. Another young boy with extensive burns that I met in Bonga close to death, who was supported under this project continues to do very well, several years on. The Medical Outreach Program continues to fund the Prosthetics Clinic to Bonga (from Jimma Hospital), where patients receive free assessment and prosthetics. In 2018 I attended the clinic and heard the stories of those assisted, which featured in a WFA newsletter in 2019. The project has also funded eye clinics and supported a cardiac clinic, including training of health workers and screening programs as part of the MOP initiatives in Bonga and other rural areas. MOP sent funds to Save a Child's Heart toward training of Ethiopian medical staff. In 2019 paediatric cardiac surgery was provided in Ethiopia by the first time. Ethiopian paediatric cardiac surgeon, Dr Yayu, has been trained in Israel and in Australia. Yayu reported *"the combined team of Save a Child's Heart and Cardiac Center-Ethiopia saved the lives of 31 children. 22 catheterisations and 9 open heart surgeries. Thank you SACH and partners for saving more than 730 children from Ethiopia and the training opportunities offered for doctors and nurses so far!"*

In Bulbula the project is coordinated by Sr Abeba who has been involved with WFA projects In Bonga, Addis Abeba and Bulbula for over a decade. Sr. Abeba has a huge heart for those who are affected by illness, disability and/or destitute from extreme poverty, as well as having a commitment to community development and over the years has set up successful small income development projects in agriculture, banana art, coffee growing, milking cows, microfinancing, smoke free injera stoves (vital for lessening pneumonia, asthma and other lung diseases in children and adults from traditional indoor open cooking fires) and many other projects with WFA support.

With the funds sent for medical problems, Sr Abeba takes the children to the capital city of Addis Abeba to various specialist hospitals that she has developed relationships with over the years of the project. This includes children with epilepsy, loss of limbs, burns, spina bifida, blindness and many other conditions. As an example, in January she emailed to say; *"I am coming back from Addis to Bulbula. I took three children to the Cure Hospital and the Korean Hospital. One child was born without one leg. The second child, his two hands are burned. The third one, he has problem going to the toilet (this is probably a child born with an imperforate anus). So we are going back with appointment and they will get a solution for their problems. Thank you for your help"*.

Sandi Petersen

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The Haven & Sunshine Home, Salvation Army, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Haven & Sunshine Home continues to provide safe accommodation, care, and support to a wide variety of residents. The Centre celebrated its 94th Birthday in 2019. Current residents were joined by many past residents who came to celebrate almost 100 years of ministry, healing, and support, offered to so many through the work of The Haven & Sunshine Home. Many of the participants shared memories of their time in the centre, and a wonderful time was had by all throughout the celebrations.

With five individual programs running from the home's one location in Central Colombo, the scope of needs is vast, and the staff work towards ensuring that each precious resident is given the individualized care required.

The Haven & Sunshine Home Administrator works closely with the Government Child Probation Department officer, and advocates on behalf of the residents towards development of individual care and 'exit' plans. This often involves accompanying residents to court hearings, hospital visits, and Probation meetings, and supporting new mothers in decisions regarding their new born children.

As a secure facility, the residents are often unable to leave the site or attend local schools, and so the programming of a variety of classes and activities is essential. Last year saw the continuation of many classes, and the introduction of a few new ones. In any given week the girls will have the opportunity to engage in literacy (Sinhala & English) and math's classes, along with sessions in dance, craft, cooking, beauty culture, bead jewelry-making, art, hand and



machine sewing, and card making. 2019 highlights also include a myriad of special events and counselling session which engaged a variety of creative therapeutic activities.

Left: Literacy class



Right: Gift cards created by residents

A workshop has been conducted by visiting students from Sri Jayewardenepura University Campus. Residents were encouraged to consider 'beauty'. External AND INTERNAL! Creative techniques were used to consider the following learnings centred around self-awareness and self-esteem: Who am I, Self-confidence, how to set and achieve goals, respect for others, helping others, true happiness come from.... identifying self-values, accepting own mistakes, help others when they feel uncertain, cooperation and collaboration, reach for your dreams, how to love yourself, treat others how you want to be treated.



Some of the 'younger' residents, left. These five precious youngsters make up the 'under 5-year-olds' residential care centre family. They live on site as they are unable for various reasons to live with their families. Since this photograph some of these children have now turned 5-years-old, and have relocated to another Salvation Army Children's Home.

Youth programmes: On Wednesdays the residents are involved in 'Youth Cultural Program'. The program comprises a range of activities and topics, aimed at enhancing the girls' knowledge and understanding of matters which concern them and life in general. 'Open mike' is provided for the girls to participate in sessions of their choice. Some sing, some dance, some simply share a thought or feeling. This time enables them to show their skills. Whole and small group discussions give opportunity for residents to discuss their valuable opinions.

Bonga, Ethiopia

Here we all are, complaining about not being able to buy toilet paper, tissues etc. Put it in perspective though. Most of us have a nice house, our kids can still learn, be it going to school or home

Schooling. We can still go out and buy groceries. We are not going to starve.

Think of those in Ethiopia with a population of over 107 million people, living in a country, which is a tad bigger than South Australia.

I am thinking of everyone in Bonga, living in their dilapidated small homes (if they have one) sometimes up to 10 people sharing; some already have one virus or another that they cant shake off; they cannot afford to go to a Doctor.

I know some of us are struggling but now is the time to think of these children who have nothing.

For just \$70.00 a quarter, or \$280.00 a year you can sponsor a child who will desperately need your assistance during this very trying time.

Bethelem is 13 in grade6, she has 3 siblings, her father is a Daily worker

Medanit is 10 and in Grade 4, she lives with her grandmother and mother who is a daily worker

Samrite is 12 and is in Grade 6, there are five in the family, father is a daily worker.

Dagem is 14 and in Grade 8, He lives with his mother, she earns 300 birr/month (approx. \$14.00)

Marina is 3 She was left with her Grandmother 2 years ago, there is no income, Grandma begs.

Solomon is 10 and in Grade 3. His mother died last year, he has 2 older brothers, father is a daily worker.

I have many more, who are more desperate now than ever. Please help me help these very



Social Economic Empowerment of vulnerable women and girls

World Families Australia supports Brothers of Good Works (BGW) in Ethiopia. Currently we are seeking more donors for the Social Economic Empowerment program offered through BGW. The information below was adapted from information provided by the organisation.

The Counselling & Social Services Centre of the Brothers of Good Works Projects carries out the Social Economic Empowerment program for vulnerable women and girls with the aim to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable residents in Addis Ababa, Capital of Ethiopia.

BGW is convinced that the majority of people, with the right support, are perfectly capable of constructing their own lives and participating in society. The Counselling Centre creates conditions and offers opportunities and means to make this life possible. We provide information and education, psychological guidance, healthcare, adequate housing and guidance towards employment.

The Centre has a holistic approach which is reflected in the numerous activities, the vision "A worthy existence for everyone", and mission "By strengthening everyone's talent, strength and health, they are building a fair society where there is room for everyone". In 2020 BGW aims to support 150 women towards empowerment in the following areas: health, psychosocial condition, education, and economic conditions. The holistic approach is needed because all domains of life correlate with each other: without proper housing your health is not optimal; with severe health issues it is difficult to get a job and without a job self-esteem and the feeling of being respected is low.

Economic empowerment is done by offering young girls vocational skills training such as hair dressing or catering. Guidance towards employment for the women is done by offering a "Business Skills Training" in which they learn how to set up a business, run accounts, save and invest. Starting capital is provided from the Centre so that the women start without debt. Together with other participants, they form "Savings and Loan Groups" in which members save together and can borrow money for new business investments. All members also have their own bank account (this is not yet common in Ethiopia). Most people gain financial independence and can lead independent lives after roughly one year.

"I am a strong woman; I will try to grasp every opportunity to achieve my dreams". Robe Berhanu joined the Social Economic Empowerment program of the counselling centre in August 2019. She is 30 years of age and has a son of 8 years old.



Robe in the business of tea & coffee

"Life before joining this program was troublesome; I often used to feel bad; there were times that I was forced by men to have sex without protection, there have been times that I was beaten; I hated myself; I hadn't the courage to meet people; I was depressed and I was leading my life with low spirit and with no future in it."

During the program Robe got individual counselling sessions and completed the Basic Business Skills Training, both organised by the centre. Robe is now engaged in the tea and coffee business.

Robe says, "as a matter of fact, I never thought or dared to dream of living a life like this; I was heading at the verge of death but the organization has saved me. In the past, there had been times that we were not able to meet our basic needs such as food; now I can buy whatever we need for a living; but above all I am able to embrace my child feeling totally satisfied with my life"

To support this project or to find out more information please contact Morgan Smith:

Email: mrsrob53@gmail.com or phone: 0412097473



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

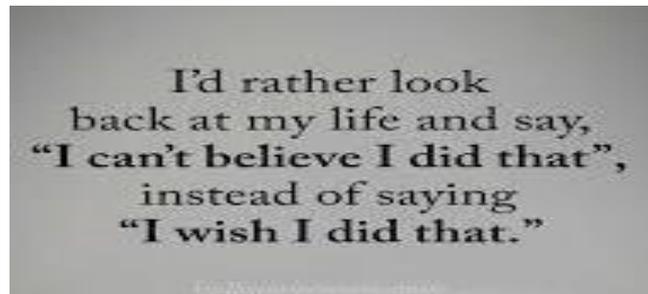
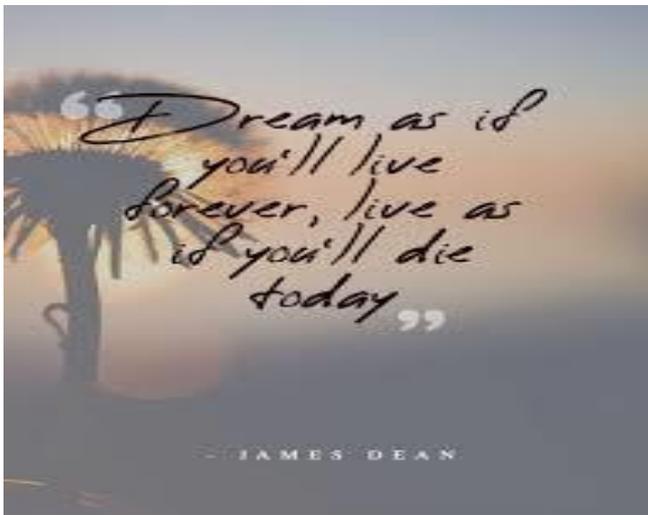
Please contact us through the office: (08) 8258 7909

LAST DAY FOR YOUR GIFT THIS QUARTER

1st June 2020

Please Note

Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 10/08/2020



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

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