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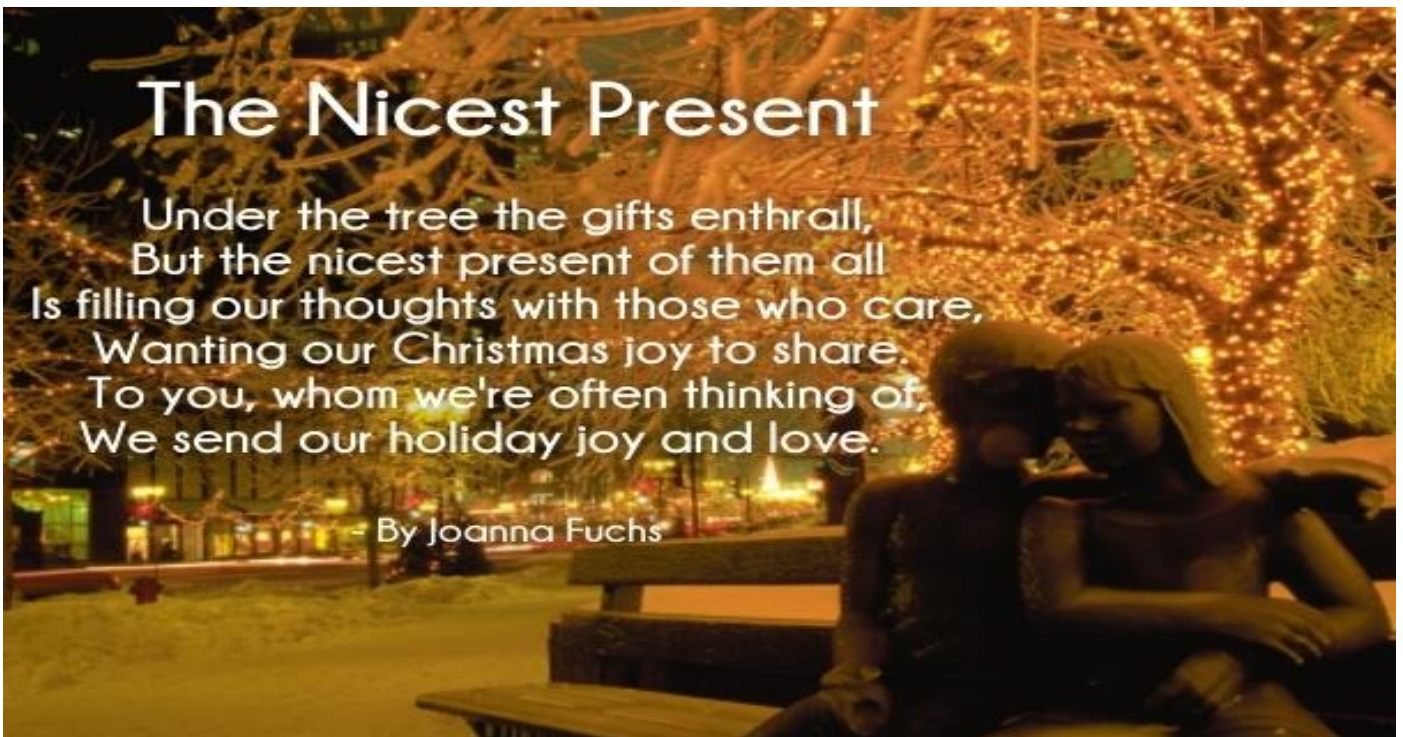
DECEMBER 2023

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES



As we approach the holiday season, I find myself walking a fine line between the spiritual and the profane. Below is my feeble attempt for 2023. We in the office would like to thank all of our wonderful, caring donors who make World Families possible. Have a joyful Christmas, a safe and Happy New Year and an inclusive holiday with all of God's children.

The office will be closed from 13th December to January 17th.



The Nicest Present

Under the tree the gifts enthrall,
But the nicest present of them all
Is filling our thoughts with those who care,
Wanting our Christmas joy to share.
To you, whom we're often thinking of,
We send our holiday joy and love.

By Joanna Fuchs

JOIN US FOR OUR END OF YEAR MEETING

Donors are invited to our end of year dinner meeting on 12th December, 6:30pm, at the African Village, for a shared buffet dinner of authentic Ethiopian cuisine. Our host, Mohammed, will soon be joining WFA as a Project Officer. Cost for the buffet is \$35, paid on leaving. Please advise us of your attendance by 28th November. Here is your chance to have a chat with your Project Officer or meet Project Officers or office staff you haven't met before. Hope to see you there!



Date: 12th December

Time: 6:30 PM

Address: 2A Northcote St, Torrensville

Cost: \$35



Ethiopia Medical Update: Exciting new project



I am so excited to share that WFA has commenced partnership with Bonga Hospital to provide Inpatient Care for critically ill children and soon a Childhood Screening and Response Project. Bonga is a rural town in south-west Ethiopia where we have supported eye, cardiac and prosthetic clinics over the years. Despite the hospital serving a wide population for Bonga and the multitude of tiny villages which are many days walk away; they have limited equipment to serve their patients. In Ethiopia (as some might know from previous stories) patients and relatives often need to pay for medication and services, including antibiotics, IV fluids, pain relief, dressing etc, before accessing treatment.

WFA has been supporting medical and health initiatives in Ethiopia for many years, including funds for individual children needing treatment within Ethiopia and overseas; building a health clinic in a remote area near Liwan; partnering with the Jimma Hospital and Ethiopian NGO's to run free screening and treatment clinics in the rural Bonga area; arranging

donations of ECG machines and ophthalmology equipment; and research, training and screening initiatives. However, many children we assist with serious and debilitating conditions could have been entirely preventable or treatable if they were picked up sooner. Early intervention helps many have a quality of life with a far more effective spending per person. Therefore, later this year, funds depending, I hope we can extend this project to a kindergarten and school general health screening project.

Initially we are funding in hospital screening and treatment with an average cost of \$150 per child. WFA sent funds in July to cover inpatient treatment for 20 children from poor families that are not able to pay for inpatient critical medical care. Some of the stories of children being assisted in July include:

1. **A five year old girl** from a rural area arriving to Bonga hospital severely ill with fever, sweating, irritable, generalized body weakness and unable to eat. She was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition and malaria. At the time of writing she has been treated with anti-malarial medicine and supportive treatments for seven days and her mother has received health education about how to feed her child till her health improves. All treatment and costs of her stay are provided by WFA fund support.



2. **T.T.** is a 3-month female infant who lives with her grandmother. She comes from a town some distance away and was sent from the health service in that region for a full health check-up, further investigation and better treatment with senior specialist in Bonga Hospital. She has a bacterial infection and Downs syndrome requiring close monitoring and follow-up. Her treatment costs are provided by WFA fund support.

3. A.A. is a 7 month infant who presented to Bonga General Hospital with shortness of breath, fever, cough and being unable to suckle/breast feed. His mother has no work and is a house servant. A.A. was in a critical health situation and has been we put on nasal oxygen therapy, IV antibiotics and close observation. He also had a chest x-ray and ultrasound, CBC and Blood chemistry. All his treatment and medications are funded by WFA and hopefully he will recover from his severe illness and health problem.



4.E.K. is an eight year old female child who lives with her older brother in an area about a day's walk from Bonga. He sought urgent help for his sister and travelled to Bonga Hospital following referral by the rural health center. He does not have the funds to pay for her care. She has severe malaria with the diagnosis of Plasmodium Falciparum (this is the type of malaria that most often causes life-threatening malaria). She was admitted to the High Dependency Unit with oxygen therapy, IV anti-malaria medication and specialist care. All her treatment and medications are funded by WFA and hopefully she will recover.

5.D.M. is a 9 years old boy living with his Uncle in a rural district. He presented to Bonga General Hospital with fever, severe head ache, poor appetite and weight loss. He has been diagnosed with severe anemia and severe malaria, and has been admitted to the paediatric ward. He has received a transfusion of one unit of blood and treated with IV anti-malarial medicine to try to save his life. WFA is funding his inpatient care and medicines. *(NB: I have covered his face due to him being more recognizable at his age. His upper arms are very thin, showing the level of malnutrition.*



As the first step in this partnership with Bonga Hospital we are funding the treatment and hospital care for seriously ill children from families unable to pay for their care. The hospital has estimated an average cost of \$150 per inpatient. In 6-12 months I hope we can extend this to a school general health screening project if funds permit, however following this first report I can see there is an ongoing need to assist the acutely unwell inpatients too. I hope this project will also respond to children who need to be transferred to the city for treatment, as well as being able to link those in situations of extreme poverty to our sponsorship programs and seeking sponsors for them.

Although this is not part of the current project, the hospital is asking for support to purchase hospital beds, oximeters, aspirator, anesthesia machine with ventilator, delivery/birthing beds and other medical equipment. (We are not able to transport/send equipment to Ethiopia) If you want to donate for hospital equipment, as opposed to the childhood screening project, please note your donation as for Bonga Hospital EQUIPMENT and know that the hospital will be absolutely grateful for your assistance.

For donations to the Inpatient Care and/or Childhood Screening and Response project, please note your donation as for 'Ethiopian Medical'. Regular sponsors are also gratefully welcomed to this project.



If you are receiving our newsletter via email but would prefer a paper copy then please contact Kerry at kerrywalker@worldfamilies.org.au. Conversely if you are receiving a quarterly statement and newsletter via snail mail and would prefer them emailed please also contact Kerry.

President's AGM Report 2023

In 2023 donors continued to fund World Families Australia projects that improve the quality of life for communities, families and individuals internationally. Unfortunately, donor numbers have been steadily falling, no doubt, as more people deal with day to day increases in the cost of living. In addition, there has been increased demand placed on the late payment fund. These are issues that will need to be monitored carefully over the next twelve months.

Projects have continued to be managed over the year by our volunteer project officers. Our new project in Bali, House of Ruth and Naomi, is progressing slowly. Another project in Ethiopia is in the early stages.

Funds from the Judy Morris bequest have continued to be dispensed to projects as negotiated with project officers. Most of the funds have now been spent.

This year we have recruited new project officers for projects in Ethiopia and Thailand. We have also had an expression of interest for one of our Sri Lankan projects. Thank you so much to our new volunteers. Your involvement is much appreciated.

Under Bert Michels continued leadership the governance of the organisation remains strong. Di Amato continues to provide us with informative newsletters that record the activities of World Families Australia. Kerry Walker and Robyn Merritt continue to manage the finances brilliantly.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last twelve months. The donors for providing funds to the projects, the office staff for ensuring the organisation runs smoothly, the members of the management committee and the project officers. Morgan Smith

A BLESSING FROM VIETNAM



“On 13 May 1975 we received the call that we were waiting for. Our daughter would arrive in Adelaide the following day.”

During the collapse of South Vietnam in 1975, a mission began to evacuate more than 3,000 orphans from Saigon in the face of a massive North Vietnamese offensive. In her own words, Veterans Advisory Council member Kay Matthias shares the story of the adoption of her daughter, Nguyen, who arrived in Australia as part of Operation Babylift.

Below is a link to an article about a baby that was adopted to South Australia from Vietnam.

That 'baby' is now 50 years old, her name is Nguyen Matthias, I know you will find the article interesting.

<https://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/story/a-blessing-from-vietnam/>

Brothers of Good Works Women Empowerment Centre



'Brothers of Good Works Counselling and Social Services Centre has had a name change and is now 'Brothers of Good Works Women Empowerment Centre'. I was notified of the name change on May 2nd 2023. The name change is to better reflect the organization's focus on empowering women, with children in their care, through self-reliance and community participation.

The Counselling and Social Services Centre was established in 1992 by the Congregation of Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM) under the umbrella of the Ethiopian Catholic Church. The Brothers of Good Works Congregation took over the Centre in June 2010 as MMM ended its commitments in Ethiopia. Programs have changed over the last 30 years, evolving from programs designed to predominantly provide direct assistance to people in need to an empowerment approach aimed at engaging people as active agents in their own lives and working with them to address barriers to self-reliance and community participation.

The organization has also been restructured into two departments - Women Empowerment Department and Department for Prevention and Inclusion. The focus of these departments will be empowerment of women in vulnerable situations and the children in their care, HIV prevention among the wider community; and rehabilitation of children/youth living with disabilities and their family members.

It is anticipated that restructuring and rebranding the organization will help address funding shortfalls and increase sustainability and efficiency. Abebe Dantamo will continue to work as director, with Corin van Poppel continuing her role in project support.

World Families Australia partners with Brothers of Good Works Women Empowerment Centre to provide funds for emergency relief and income generation initiatives, including basic business skills training, income generating activities and saving and lending support. The following is taken from the latest BGW Annual General Report. The client, a woman with five children, living with HIV:

'Received the basic business skills training and engaged in injera preparing and selling business. She had the following to say in regard to her livelihood, "I didn't have a clue on how to run businesses; I had no idea about saving; simply I lived on a "hand to mouth" way. Now, I am a business woman preparing and selling injera; I know how to fix prices, manage income and costs, save money, value time, and how to handle customers. At the moment, I have a saving of 8,000.00 ETB; I am making a good monthly income from the business; able to cover costs of my children; able to repair my kitchen that costed me 7,000 ETB, and able to feed variety of food three times a day. I have a big aspiration and looking forward to see a bright future. God bless all who have been on my side'

If you would like more information or to donate to Brothers of Good Works Women Empowerment Centre please email: office@worldfamilies.org.au

Thank you. Morgan Smith



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 2023

Please Note
Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 30th January 2024

PROJECT OFFICERS for WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

ETHIOPIA

DEKIA	Dee Lumsden
ADDIS-BGW	Morgan Smith
BULBULA	Kate Drogemuller
JIMMA DOL,DOC-B DOL-S	Michelle Nethery

LIWAN, BONGA, LALIBELA, SUPORT FOR SIGHT IMPAIRED & MEDICAL OUTREACH	Sandi Petersen
BONGA Rural	Emma Lewis

JIMMA-DOC BONGA Feeding, BONGA-BWDP	Christine Hoffman
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SAMERRO	Gemma Pilcher
MESKELE KRISTOS	Dee Hudson

INDIA

Minjur	Jenny Minck
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INDONESIA

Ruth/Naomi Community Centre	Chrissy Sulistyono
Mission Uplift	Francoise Penaluna

KENYA

Neema	Liz Rankin
Testimony Homes	Dani Potter

PHILIPPINES

Elaine Smith
Bruce Smith

SRI LANKA

Shalom Children's Home	Steve Hodgson
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Colombo	Office
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THAILAND

Justin Langley

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