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# Impact

MARCH 2024

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES



## World Families Australia – Positions vacant Expressions of interest sought

In order for World Families Australia to function appropriately, we need to fill some vacancies within the organisation. **We currently require a Secretary, Office Manager and Vice-President.**

Bert Michels, our current Secretary and Office Manager, is unable to continue in these roles. The World Families office is run by a small team of supportive people and Bert will be available to support and advise those taking over from him.

World Families Australia is an organisation coordinated primarily by volunteers to provide funds to designated overseas projects, based on policies and guidelines provided by The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading through the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and the Australian Taxation Office. Projects run by World Families Australia provide communities and children in those communities with funds for water resources, micro-loans, food, sanitation, housing, medical support, nutritional education, vocational training and education. Projects involve local people and incorporate goals which, in the long term, enable them to take charge of their own lives.

### Secretary

The Secretary provides support to the Management Committee in its decision making. For meetings the Secretary prepares the agenda, takes minutes of meetings and circulates to the Management committee. The Secretary may also deal with correspondence and other issues in consultation with the Office Manager.

### Office Manager

The office manager addresses the day-to-day organization of the office including managing emails, equipment, project compliance requirements and staffing. The role involves approximately four hours per week in the WFA office in Salisbury East.

### Vice President

The Vice President works with the President, other members of the Management Committee, and staff, to ensure objectives of the organization are met using approaches that meet the expectations of donors, AusAID, Australian Taxation Office and ACNC. This position was not filled at the last AGM and so further expressions of interest are being sought.

Please email [office@worldfamilies.org.au](mailto:office@worldfamilies.org.au) or phone 08 8258 7909 (Tuesday or Wednesday) for more information.

Thank you.

Morgan Smith

President – World Families Australia

# Report Philippines Mission Trip, 2023 to Philemon Academy Foundation Inc. Las Pinas

by Marilyn Edwards



On 17th September 2023, eight Australians set out from Brisbane for a visit with the children and staff at the Philemon Academy in the Philippines. The travelling group included 3 teachers, a teachers aide and her husband, a young man of 18 years, a young woman of 21 years and a young at heart 75 year old who authored an interesting article and provided us with some great photos.

After being greeted by a severe electrical storm, and spending two hours sitting on the tarmac, the group cleared customs with 100 kg of resources. On arrival at their accommodation they were pleasantly surprised to find they were sharing a 3 bedroom home in Metro Manilla.



If you would like to read of the groups loving service to the Philemon Academy and view more photos, visit our web site at [worldfamilies.org.au](http://worldfamilies.org.au)

## **Ethiopia: Lalibela Child Sponsorship Update**

The Lalibela project began in 2007 after project officer Sandi met a group of orphaned and destitute children, and has since supported many children and young people to achieve an education and to receive food, shelter and care in their situations of great vulnerability.

Lalibela has had a tumultuous few years with COVID and the civil war having a significant impact on tourism (which Lalibela relied on for income and employment) in addition to the fear and deaths. As you will know from last year's report, a number of our young people fled Lalibela when the war reached there, and electricity, telecommunications, internet, school and banks were closed and food and safety was scarce. WFA provided financial support to those we could get funds to, including some of our young adults who had completed sponsorship but were displaced and very vulnerable during the war. Most have returned back to Lalibela and eventually settled back into study or work, although we saw a number of our very capable students drop out of school or experience a



dramatic drop in their academic capacity as an outcome of the trauma and prolonged closures of school. The few years of trauma, displacement and education shutdowns will have lasting impacts on many young people.

We have some news to celebrate for 2 of our young people.

Henok has been in the program for many years now, after being orphaned as a young boy. Support helped him cover his educational needs, while living with an Uncle and Aunt. He is an exceptional student and despite all the disruptions of COVID and civil war, is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of university studying 'medical laboratory' and hopes to become a doctor. Throughout university he has received 'First Class with Great Distinctions'.

Temesgen has experienced some very tough years, with his mother dying after a lengthy terminal illness. WFA funded nursing and health related support while Temesgen completed his studies. Temesgen has now finished his formal education, and has a partner and a little baby. He has been supported with a small business start-up which was funded late in 2023.

An update on all the young people in the project has been posted to sponsors. Please contact project officer Sandi if you would like a copy emailed to you.

With grateful thanks to all who support this project and the young people in it. We are no longer accepting sponsors or donations to this project as we are now moving toward small business set ups and gradually wrapping up this project given so many have now become independent following university, or college, or vocational education.



**Project Update:>**  
***Bonga Hospital Pediatric Inpatient &  
Community Childhood Health Screening***

WFA started a project with Bonga Hospital in rural Ethiopia about 6 months ago.

The project has 3 aspects:

- funding inpatient care for critically ill children
- funding a school health screening project
- facilitating donations for hospital equipment

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 within many days walk away, they have limited equipment to serve their patients. There is also a very limited budget for consumables and therefore 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.

**Inpatient Critical Care Fund**

We have received a third report of children assisted through the Inpatient critical care fund. The total cost of treatment for these last 11 children was about \$1500, with the individual child costs ranging from \$A35 to \$A253, with the average cost for saving a child's life being \$A136. I can't but think this is wonderful value for money! The 11 children had diagnosis including severe malnutrition, pneumonia, dehydration, diabetes, whooping cough, malaria, gastroenteritis and asthma. Three of their stories are put here, but please contact Sandi if you would like to have the full report emailed to you.



**S** is five year old who presented to the Bonga Hospital after a 14 day illness of increased thirst, significant weight loss, and polyphagia [extreme, insatiable hunger]. She arrived to the hospital in a coma,. Her mother had no money to pay for treatment and so she was admitted under the WFA fund to save her life. She received many different diagnostic tests and urgently started fluid resuscitation. She was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes Mellitus, Hypovolemic shock, polygenic and pyogenic meningitis. She was treated with intravenous antibiotics; intravenous anticonvulsants and insulin. She remained under inpatient care for 6 weeks until her symptoms resolved. She was discharged with improvement. The total cost of her treatment including medication and other service charges came to 9010 ETB (around \$253 Australian).

**Y** is 3 month old boy presenting to Bonga General Hospital with fever, significant body weight loss, and poor appetite. His mother could not afford inpatient treatment so he was admitted under the WFA fund to save his life. He was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition and malaria, along with cleft palate. He was treated with intravenous antibiotics, malaria medications and the severe acute malnutrition protocol. The total cost of his treatment including medication and other service charges came to 1845 ETB (around \$51 Australian).



On behalf of sponsors and the committee I would like to offer our heartfelt gratitude to Sandi Pertersen for her tireless commitment and perseverance in the difficult task of setting up this project.

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Y is a 7 month old girl who presented to Bonga General Hospital with cough, shortness of breathing, difficulty breast-feeding and intermittent fever. Her mother was unable to afford the treatment costs so she was admitted under the WFA fund. She was diagnosed with acute malnutrition and community acquired pneumonia. She was treated with intranasal oxygen, intravenous antibiotics, salbutamol and magnesium sulphate along with the severe acute malnutrition management protocol. She remained as an inpatient for 7 days. The complete treatment costs came to 1235 ETB (around \$35 Australian).

### **Bonga Childhood Preventative Health Screening Project**



WFA funded the first childhood health screening program in Bonga on the 29th November 2023. Health workers from Bonga Hospital attended the Barta Bonga Primary School and screened children from kindergarten to grade 4. Each child had their height, weight and arm circumference measured. Those with malnutrition, infections, fungal conditions, eye and ear infections were treated and provided with follow up treatment.



In Australia primary health screening of children means preventable or treatable conditions are treated early. However in Ethiopia, children in poor and rural families rarely see a health professional. Over the past 15-20 years WFA has been helping many children with serious and life-threatening conditions and disabilities that could have been prevented or treated if they were picked up sooner. Early intervention helps many have a quality of life with a far more effective spending per person. Examples are Rheumatic Fever diagnosed and treated with antibiotics early as opposed to progressing to advanced life threatening Rheumatic Heart Disease requiring overseas heart surgery at a cost of \$15,000; or a child with congenital cataracts provided with early surgery to prevent a lifetime of blindness.

Medical equipment continues to be needed for the hospital. A small grant from WFA allowed for the first lot of equipment to be purchased, including a patient transfer bed and a patient monitor machine. Please email [Sandi@worldfamilies.org.au](mailto:Sandi@worldfamilies.org.au) or phone the WFA office on 8258 7909 if you would like to sponsor or donate to the Ethiopian medical programs.



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 2024

### Please Note

**Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 30th April 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	Trevor Anderson 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 Sulisty
Mission Uplift	Franciose Penaluna

### KENYA

Neema	Liz Rankin
Testimony Homes	Dani Potter

### PHILIPPINES

	Elaine Smith Bruce Smith
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### SRI LANKA

Shalom Children's Home	Steve Hodgson
Colombo	Anna Szava

### THAILAND

	Justin Langley
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### FINANCIAL/SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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"If the plan doesn't work change  
the plan but never the goal"

~Unknown



## Three Life Rules

1. If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it.
2. If you don't ask, the answer will always be no.
3. If you don't step forward, you will always be in the same place.

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

Editor: Diane Amato