

A warm welcome to our new Office Manager



Hello, my name is Heather Douglas. I am married to John and have two gorgeous daughters Amy and Shannon and a wonderful new granddaughter Dana who is the love of my life. My hobbies include photography and I love to dabble in art including, pencil, pastel and watercolour. I first came to know about World Families several years ago when John and I agreed to sponsor a baby through Mission Uplift. We are now sponsoring our 3rd child and will continue to support the great work that these projects undertake to give those less fortunate an opportunity to further their education in the hope that they will go on to help others who are less fortunate than themselves. I retired from working 2 years ago and have been searching for a voluntary position where I could utilise my skills as I come from a business background. I didn't want something that was all consuming so when I received the last newsletter and saw they were looking for someone to undertake secretarial and office work I mulled it over and thought this might just be what I was looking for.

Over the years I have owned and run my own businesses, worked in private enterprise and also government departments so my skillset is wide and varied and I have a solid understanding of business practices. I also have a good handle on computers and pick up new challenges relatively quickly. I look forward to working with World Families and to meeting those volunteers who make up the machine that keeps the organisation running.

Introducing our new Treasurer

My name is Trevor Anderson and I have recently taken over as Project Officer of the DOC project based in Jimma, Ethiopia and Treasurer as well!

I have a close connection to Ethiopia through our two Ethiopian born nieces and I visited parts of Ethiopia and Jimma a number of years ago when our nieces became part of our extended family. I have had the good fortune to travel to a number of other parts of the world and I've observed poverty in much of it, but I was struck by the level of impoverishment I saw in Ethiopia. It was even more stark because the poverty was off-set against the country which is amazingly rich in history and is truly beautiful. That journey was a truly life changing experience for me and one I have cherished since. We also keep in regular contact with our "extended family" in Ethiopia through our nieces which gives us a mixture of pleasure at their progress and concern for their welfare.

I spent a career in aquaculture as an academic and senior executive, and in business and retired somewhat precipitously in 2022 when my wife and I sold our backpacker hostel. My mother set an outstanding example of volunteer work and throughout my life I've engaged in various forms of volunteering. In order to keep active and maintain a sense of meaning in my life after retiring, I looked for an opportunity to volunteer. My wife and I have been aware of World Families for a number of years and truly appreciate the very large proportion of our donations that "make it to the ground". We have been sponsoring children in Ethiopia for a number of years and have taken great joy in seeing the benefit of that sponsorship. From a young orphaned woman who is now married and having a family of her own to a young man who is currently in the later years of his degree in medicine and who is providing a strong leadership role back in his own community, the benefits of our sponsorship are clear and tangible to us. The opportunity came to help make a difference in a country which we feel connected to and so I took on the role of Project Officer.

I am learning that supporting development work in a country which is in internal conflict is difficult, but all the more worthwhile as poverty and destitution follow war as night follows day. It has only been a short while for me in this role, but if I ever feel the need for motivation, I'll remember sitting in the baby's nursery in the orphanage in Jimma, each of us cradling three babies at once, many of whom were suffering from tuberculosis, who had been thrust into our arms by the nuns simply in order to give them a short period of human contact which they rarely received.



Bulbula, Ethiopia

Report by Sr Abeba, 2023 Medical Program & Sponsorship

Bulbula is a small farming community, dependent on the land to provide. In times of drought or when crops fail, the community struggles with hunger. As most of the children's parents are not educated, they don't give education the priority it deserves, which leads to the children begging or searching for food. For children born with disabilities, the families face rejection from the community, leading to the children being hidden so they won't be seen. With this attitude it is often difficult to take the children for needed treatment, although there has been improvement. The elderly and those with disability are lacking food, shelter, clothing and medical treatment.

Sister Abeba, with support from donors, works tirelessly to improve the lives of those in her community. To achieve this objective the needs of the people were assessed in cooperation with the government administration. The data became a guide, giving direction on how to help those in need and where to start.

- Help was organised to focus on strengthening their income source.
- Children in need of support with school materials and school fees were provided the support they needed.
- Those with medical issues, were provided with transport to medical care and material support where needed.
- Woman headed households received counselling and support to become more self reliant.
- Women were given instruction on preventing problems that can occur during pregnancy by attending the clinic. The spinach program encouraged women to grow spinach, for sale and for their consumption.



Supplemental feeding



Sr Abeba & Students



Orphned child, formula given



Kindergarten Class, meal supplied each day



Supplemental feeding

Meskele Kristos Project Update & Challenges

Over the last year, Meskele Kristos has experienced considerable unrest resulting in conflict between the Ethiopian Army and the FANO Militia. In the last update to sponsors, things had begun to settle down and communication channels were starting to be restored. Sadly, just as progress was being made including moves to implement Stage 2 of the kitchen project (fit out with kitchen appliances etc), conflict has again broken out (and continues) resulting in another delay in the attempt to complete this project.

The in-country project host organisation representative wrote the following a couple of weeks ago:

“At this time, it is difficult to purchase the kitchen material and we need to wait until the security situation improves. It is really frustrating to hear about the recurrent conflict war in Northern Ethiopia and people’s live are seriously affected by the war including displacement, loss of life, trauma, and Gender Based Violence (GBV). In addition, it is affecting school attendance and serious humanitarian crisis.”

From a project perspective, WFA do not wish to continue as usual without the ability to deliver on the goals that have been identified. World Families Australia do not wish to put people’s lives at risk, to complete project goals.

At this time, WFA office will suspend March sponsorship for the Meskele Kristos project. In due course, an update will be given once further discussions are held as to the future for this project. If you are one of the valuable sponsors within the Meskele Kristos Project, please feel free to contact Dee Hudson (Meskele Kristos Project Officer) at bendy98@bigpond.com if you would like to redirect your project sponsorship funds at this time into an alternative sponsorship option.

Below is a look back at just some of the achievements Dee has facilitated during her time as Project Officer for Meskele Kristos. I know she can look back on this adventure with much pride and we thank her for her work:>



Update Bonga Barta Community Soccer Pitch:

Through community consultation it was determined that a community soccer pitch located at the Bonga Barta School, would enable students at the school, along with youth living in the area, to play social and competitive soccer.

While youth currently only have an opportunity to play soccer in the streets, the goal is to support the physical and mental health of young people in the community through a love of soccer.

Despite many barriers such as COVID, an increase in material costs, labour shortages, civil unrest and floods, I am pleased to share some photos of the progress of this project, which is now in its final stages.



Goals and seating complete



Most kids don't have soccer socks, shin guards or boots, therefore injuries such as broken bones are common in Ethiopia, however medical care in Bonga is limited. If you would like to donate to help complete this project or provide shin guards, socks or boots please send me an email.

Without the support of donors and the funding from the Judy Morris bequest, this project would not be possible. Thank you!

Emma Lewis, Project Officer for World Families Australia, Ethiopia
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Ph: 0415 978 066 email: embella008@gmail.com

Entertainment Books Now Available

If you are considering purchasing an Entertainment Book, please consider supporting WFA by selecting us as the charity you wish to support, with 20% of purchase going to World Families Australia.

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Seeking New Webmaster

Following Bert's retirement, we are in need of help with keeping our web site up to date. Our web is built using WordPress and some training can be provided. Work online, from home, minimal/intermittent effort. If this is something you feel you can help with, please contact the office for more information.



Bonga Hospital Equipment

The bed and monitor was bought for the Bonga Hospital with the WFA small grant money and was sent a couple of months ago. The hospital is very keen for more assistance with additional equipment and we invite donations for this purpose from anyone interested. Please itemize donation as MOP-H equipment. Sandi



Packing list

NO.	Item	Quantity
1	Power cord	1
2	Power adapter	1
3	Temperature Probe Skin, adult, 3m, reusable	1
4	Temperature Probe Skin, neonatal/Infant, 3m, reusable	1
5	5-Lead ECG Cable	1
6	NIBP extension Tube	1
7	NIBP Cuff, Adult, 25-35cm	1
8	NIBP Cuff, Ped, 18-26cm	1
9	NIBP Cuff, Infant, 10-19cm	1
10	ECG Electrodes, 25 pcs	1
11	User Manual, English	1
12	Packing List	1
13	Quality Certificate	1
14	SpO2 Sensor, Adult	1
15	SpO2 Sensor, Ped	1
16	IBP cable	2
17	IBP transducer	2
18	Main Unit	1





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 2024

Please Note
Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 23rd July 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
SAMERRO	Gemma Pilcher
MESKELE KRISTOS	Dee Hudson

INDIA

Minjur	Jenny Minck
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INDONESIA

Ruth/Naomi Community Centre	Chrissy Sulisty
Mission Uplift	Ben Bonython

KENYA

Neema Testimony Homes	Liz Rankin Dani Potter
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PHILIPPINES

Elaine Smith Bruce Smith

SRI LANKA

Shalom Children's Home	Steve Hodgson
Colombo	Anna Szava

THAILAND

Morgan Smith (interim)

FINANCIAL/SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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Emails monitored regularly

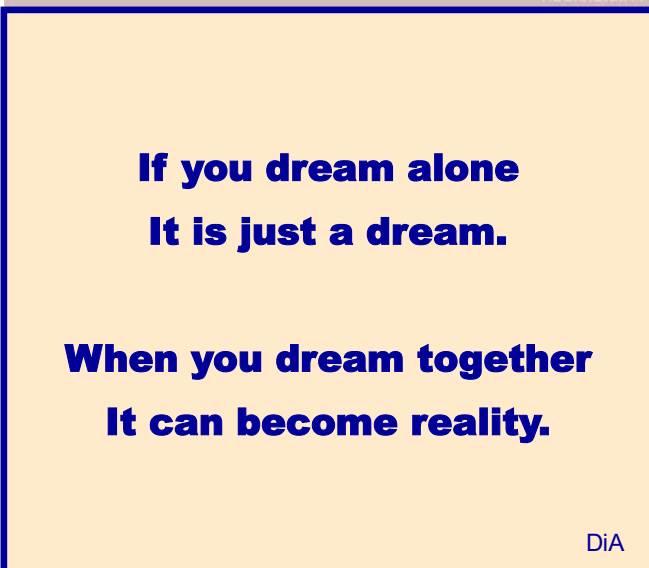
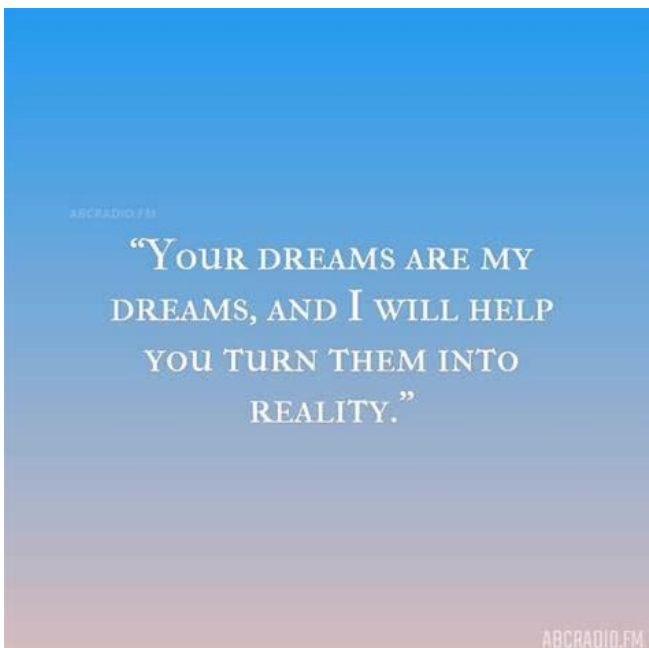
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