

World Families Australia was originally known as ASIAC (Australian Society for Intercountry Aid to Children) and was founded by families involved in intercountry adoption in the early 1970's. In 1973 ASIAC became Australian's Aiding Children (AAC), a group providing aid to overseas children as well as support to adoptive families, and separate to the agency called Australian's Aiding Children Adoption Agency (AACAA) which opened in 1979 to provide adoption services. Vicki Hyde provides the organisation with occasional Adoption support as required.

World Families formally came into existence in 2000 primarily as an overseas aid organisation, and over the years was involved less in adoption support. From that time World Families has focused entirely on provision of overseas development aid.

Constitution - World Families Australia

Below is an excerpt from our constitution explaining the background, mission and objectives of World Families Australia.

BACKGROUND

World Families origins began during the war in Vietnam in the early 1970's, when it was known as ASIAC (Australian Society for Intercountry Aid to Children), when a group of people from South Australia sought to support abandoned Vietnamese children. This ultimately led to the support of adoption of children from overseas.

ASIAC continued to assist children remaining in Vietnam and also families who were seeking to adopt children from overseas. In 1973 ASIAC became Australian's Aiding Children (AAC), a group providing aid to overseas children as well as support to adoptive families. In 1979 an agency called Australian's Aiding Children Adoption Agency (AACAA) opened to provide adoption services, as opposed to the separate volunteer parent run AAC which provided overseas aid and support to adoptive families in Australia.

World Families formally came into existence in 2000 primarily as an overseas aid organisation. However, whilst never having been involved in adoption, it has a continued interest in the adoption area. Since the year 2000, sponsorship and aid programs have opened in many countries through contact made by Project Officers.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

World Families is *an incorporated, not-for-profit, non-sectarian, community based aid and development organisation providing international aid through relief and development projects*. It supports projects that provide communities and children in those communities with the funds to provide water, micro-loans, food, sanitation, housing, medical support, nutritional education, vocational training and education through involving the local people and incorporating goals which, in the long term, leads people to take charge of their own lives.

World Families is an organisation coordinated primarily by volunteers to provide the greatest benefits to overseas projects, utilizing policies and guidelines based around the guidelines provided by AusAID and the Australian Taxation Office.

Where appropriate, it directs people in the adoption community or people seeking to adopt; to where they may locate information and support.

OBJECTIVES

Irrespective of nationality, religion or ethnic identity, World Families:

Facilitates programs for the development and support of under-privileged children and their communities in developing countries.

- 4.2 Supports organisations in developing countries which assist disadvantaged children, families and their communities.
- 4.3 Supports and assists vulnerable children and their families to attain their full potential.
- 4.4 Endeavours to comply with policies and practices consistent with the Overseas Aid Deductible Gift Recipient Guidelines promulgated by the Australian Government.
- 4.5 Carries out fundraising and other activities which could assist World Families to achieve these objectives.

Chewy Chocolate Brownies



Ingredients

- 200g unsalted butter
- 200 g chocolate chips
- 1 cup (175g) brown sugar , loosely packed
- 3 eggs , lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup (75g) plain flour
- 1/4 cup (30g) cocoa powder
- Pinch of salt

180g dark chocolate block/bar (optional) , chopped into chunks rather than shards, (bittersweet or semi-sweet, cooking chocolate)

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 C
2. Spray a 20cm square tin with oil and line with baking paper, over hanging sides so you can lift it out.
3. Melt butter and chocolate chips in the microwave in 30 second bursts until melted. Stir to smooth.
4. Add sugar & vanilla, mix, then add eggs and mix well till smooth.
5. Add flour, cocoa & salt, stir until smooth. Stir in chopped chocolate, pour into pan.
6. Bake for 24 minutes for a really gooey centre, 28 minutes for fudgy or 32 minutes for a cake like brownie.
7. Rest for 10 minutes before lifting out of the pan. Cool 20 minutes before cutting. Chopped nuts may be added.



Bonga, Ethiopia

A young boy's delight on receiving a letter and photos from his WFA sponsor. His sponsors also expressed their joy on receiving this photo, saying "As sponsors, it gave us joy to see the child we have been sponsoring, with his beautiful smile holding our letters and photos. Sandi we love being apart of World Families and you all do such an amazing job, thank you for making a difference".

So if you have ever wondered if you make a difference to the child you sponsor, just look at the face on the left. It's not just a material difference, but also knowing that someone far away is thinking of them with love.

If you would like to send a letter to your sponsored child, get in touch with your Project Officer to find out the best way to make this happen.

Sandi Petersen, Project Officer for World Families Australia, Ethiopia, PO Box 116 Stirling 5152

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'Social Justice is what faces you in the morning. It is awakening in a house with an adequate water supply, cooking facilities and sanitation. It is the ability to nourish your children and send them to school where their education not only equips them for employment but reinforces their knowledge and appreciation of their cultural inheritance. It is the prospect of genuine employment and good health: a life of choices and opportunity. A life free from discrimination.'

Mick Dodson Social Justice Commissioner (1993 - 1998)

Minjur Home ~ India

Minjur Home is a shelter home for young girls 11 years to 18 years of age who have been rescued from situations of severe poverty, neglect, homelessness. They study at secondary school under the guidance of the Seva Missionary Sisters of Mary at Minjur in the city of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

We wish to **thank everyone who donated** to the appeal in the December issue of Impact newsletter to enable four (4) girls to attend Seva Rural Community College to study for the **Diploma of Nursing**. The first-year fee in Australian currency is \$527.50 per student. Contributions received has enabled full payment of course fees for the 4 girls. The photo shows them in their new uniforms. All are doing well in their course. Further contributions are welcomed and will support hopeful 2025 candidates to begin the course in August.

We are also **seeking new regular donors** to Minjur Home Project. Contributions are \$80 per quarter. Funding goes toward day-to-day living expenses for girls residing at Minjur Home. If you feel that you are interested in this project, please contact Jenny Minck jenny.minck@internode.on.net or Kerry Walker, Sponsorship Officer WFA for a donor application form to be sent to you. Enquiries are welcome.

Jennifer Minck
Project Officer for Minjur Home Project



LAL Ethiopia: Lalibela, Update on Tamru and his brothers

The WFA Lalibela project for destitute children started in 2008. Over that time many children and youth have been housed, fed, clothed and educated. Although this project is in the stage of winding up, we continue to send funds to support some students still in school and assist with small business start-up funds for those who have completed their education.

Among other students, there is an orphaned sibling group of three the project continues to support. WFA has been their support and stability for 15 years, through some very dark times including fleeing the civil war. The eldest boy has been in the project since the beginning when he was about 5 years old, soon after they were orphaned. In the last few years, his younger brothers have come from the remote village where they were living with an elderly grandmother, so that they can attend school.



The brothers had desperately wanted to be together and the eldest one recently wrote to the project officer; "14 years ago, when we were together, you asked me what I was thinking about. But I was thinking about their brothers, but when I asked, I failed to speak. I am very happy now that we are together. I don't think there is anyone happier than us".

The brothers live together in the house WFA purchased for the project in 2009 and took pride in painting it earlier this year. The brothers work hard to help themselves and the younger ones are making the most of their opportunity to be at school. One of them achieved the highest score mid-year and again now at the end of the Ethiopian school year (June).

The eldest one has finished school and has attended various courses – including design - alongside doing grade 12 at night school. The brothers have opened a clothing store to help support themselves and are now planning to design and make their own clothing line to sell.

It is a privilege to be involved in WFA and to meet and support courageous and amazing young people like this.

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. (Arthur Ashe)

Sandi Petersen, Project Officer for World Families Australia, Ethiopia, PO Box 116 Stirling 5152

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Showing off certificate of achievement



Fresh Coat of paint

UPDATES on the LALIBELA KIDS

Tamru: Tamru is a young man who I met in 2007 as an orphaned 5 year old. He is now thought to be 20-21 years old, although his age is approximate as birth dates/birth years are rarely known for those in rural Ethiopia. Tamru's mother died from rabies and his father then left the family, leaving Tamru and his 2 little brothers in the care of their maternal grandmother who lived in a very remote village in a tiny thatch and mud hut. As just a little traumatised, newly orphaned boy, Tamru was beaten severely by a neighbour when Tamru let his grandmother's sheep stray onto his property, so he was brought to Lalibela and into the project, as his extended family feared for his life. Tamru is such a beautiful and capable young lad, talented in dancing and creative and determined to help himself. The trauma and grief he has experienced is evident in his beautiful face and eyes. He was one of a number of our students who had to flee Lalibela after a grenade landed on his house in the civil war and witnessing one of his friends killed by soldiers. Despite the terror and fleeing to the city of Bahir Dar and then to Addis Ababa – which I imagine would be overwhelming for a young boy from a tiny remote village and then living in Lalibela, which is quite a small and traditional town, despite the impact of tourism. However he ended up finding work in a town north of Addis Ababa, Debra Zeite, learning many new skills and returning to school there too. We were able to continue sending your support, and additional funds given the situation, while he was there through Sr Abeba who WFA runs a project with in another area. I am immensely proud of how he managed all of this. After the war left Lalibela, he has returned there and is now living with his younger brothers and connected with his maternal Aunt. Earlier Tamru had been attending a vocational education course – in Ethiopia this is referred to as TVET or 10+1 and 10+ 2 and is the stream for young people whose exam results at the end of Grade 10 didn't permit them to enter the pre-university stream but did reach the benchmark for vocational education studies to learn a trade. However, after the war and going to school in Debra Zeite he was quite determined to do night school studies alongside his trade studies, to try again to reach a higher benchmark for a chance to attend university. Unfortunately he again did not achieve the benchmark he was aiming for, so has returned to his TVET studies. Therefore, despite his age, he will remain in the WFA program for now. Tamru enjoys drawing and reading after school, and would like to become a 'designer'. I also suspect he might have some skills from his time in Zeite

Filseta and Muluken: Tamru's two young brothers, Filseta and Muluken, joined him in Lalibela before the war so they could return to school. Previously they lived with their elderly grandmother in their very remote village, Kidus Harbe, a few hours war fled back to Kidus Harbe for safety, but have now returned to live with Tamru. They eventually settled back into school – although it took a while for this to happen. Muluken is now about 15 years old and will start grade 4 in September this year (school year is September to July). I am told he is in good health and that he enjoys helping his Aunt after school, and he hopes to become a teacher. Filseta is now about 15 years old and will start grade 6 in September. I am told he is in good health and that he enjoys helping his Aunt after school, and that he hopes to become a nurse.





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 2025

Please Note
Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 29 April



For Your Information

In 1976, AAC, Australians Aiding Children, was advised that we had an unsustainable business model & it was unlikely we would last 5 years. That was 49 years ago.

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

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