

A Message from World Families Australia

In response to deeply distressing world events, including ongoing war and various atrocities happening across the globe, World Families Australia wishes to express our deep concern, and state that our thoughts are with all those affected by war, displacement, trauma and famine. As an organization, we value peace, compassion, and unity. We believe in promoting understanding and support for those in need, regardless of their background or location. We are a small, primarily volunteer run, grassroots organisation so our ability to provide support is limited. We will continue, however, to provide aid and assistance to those in need to the best of our ability.

Sandi Petersen and Morgan Smith On behalf of: World Families Australia



Situation Vacant

Are you Looking for something to do in your spare time. World Families needs a Volunteer to produce and put together a Newsletter every 3 months. You'll have the freedom to use whatever program you wish and you can work from home if that suits.

Please contact Heather at wfamanager@worldfamilies.org.au for further information

Project Officer Required

We are looking for someone to take over the role of Project Officer for one of our Ethiopian Projects—this is a voluntary position, no experience necessary and if you are passionate about making a difference in a world racked with famine and war then please contact Heather at wfamanager@worldfamilies.org.au for further information

Sponsor a Child In Dembi Dolo, Ethiopia

Because we reach some of the most vulnerable people and assist young people through sponsorship to obtain an education, it also means that we are working in areas which are politically sensitive, where we can't share all the local circumstances because it would put our partners in danger. For the last several years Ethiopia has experienced civil unrest across the regions, and whilst war in the Tigray region reached world news, waves of conflict in remote and more regional areas has not received much attention. This has made the living situation especially difficult, sometimes fearful and impacts everyday life such as if school will be opened, if it's safe to travel, if a parent might be arbitrarily imprisoned, if a young person might be kidnapped, or inability to carry on farming when it's a necessity for life. Life is difficult, and sponsorship can help ease the burden just a little.

Our partners in Dembi Dolo service remote satellite villages in surrounding areas, sometimes poor children are able to become hostel boarders as their only access to education. Poverty alone is not enough to be sponsored, generally children also face hardship because they are in a single parent home, or a parent is disabled (polio still rears its head in this area, and podoconiosis cripples farmers working barefoot or with bare hands). Then there's blindness and deafness in unacceptable numbers. Some children are orphans, some are at risk of being sold or used for forced labour. Many people in the community are currently displaced by the political situation, meaning they cannot return to their village, their home, school and source of food/farm.



Children of Dembi Dolo awaiting Sponsorship

Children in the sponsorship program are supported with school uniforms and enrolment needs, and for some of the higher performing students, private school becomes an option (teacher:student ratios are somewhat manageable and teachers are often western trained). Sponsorship also ensures children have access to the health clinic run by DOC and any visiting specialists (eye surgeons, dentists and GP's all visit when it's safe to do so). Education means children have the opportunity to complete school and not become child brides and young mothers. We've had great success with young women coming through sponsorship delaying having babies. Why is this great news? This is great because early child birthing especially in under developed or under nourished teens can cause obstructed labours and death of both baby and mother. Education provides information and time, giving young women agency over their body, their life, and enables them to make informed decisions. Death in childbirth is still very much a problem for early marriage and childbirth.

We've now been involved in Dembi Dolo and surrounding areas for more than 15 years and so we have seen these young people grow up and complete their education. The alumni now includes teachers for primary school, university teachers, nurses, hospital administrators, IT workers, a water engineer, agriculturalists and more. Without sponsorship some of these young people would never have completed primary school grade 6 or 7.

I invite you to consider sponsoring a young person for just \$75 /quarter, that's \$300 for an entire year, or less than \$1/day. This isn't a magic solution, but may be the difference between walking a 10km round trip for water or going to school, it might mean medicine or mosquito nets for malaria that's currently ripping through the villages.

It will mean education, and education means a chance at breaking the cycle of poverty, and of changing lives. We have the longitudinal results to show how effective and successful this sponsorship project has been. We are asking for your consideration to sponsor a child and help change the trajectory of their future.

Could you partner with WFA and DOC for .84c a day? Please reach out to me on email: gemmafilcher@gmail.com or WhatsApp +610408876659

Mosquito Nets for Bonga, Ethiopia - Thankyou



Thank you to those who donated to our Christmas Fund-raiser for Mosquito Nets for Bonga. Bonga has been experiencing a long outbreak of Malaria with a number of deaths affecting our sponsorship program community, and many, many people experiencing serious illness.

We hope that the distribution of mosquito nets will help protect the recipients.



Lalibela Ethiopia Update – and a Fundraising request



Henok

The Lalibela project is in the final stages of closing, with most of the young people having finished school, technical school, university or being assisted to set up small businesses. This project started in early 2008 after I met a group of destitute children who were a mix of orphaned and/or street children and has supported many young people over the years, providing health care, housing, education and small business set-up supports.

A huge congratulations to Henok who has just completed his medical degree, graduating in July 2025. The project funded a laptop to assist his final year of studies (and no doubt will be helpful going forward for research and so on in his career) and graduation costs.

In the last moments of wrapping up the project, two of our young orphaned youth from Lalibela – Tigist and Tilihun - made contact with me seeking help. This has delayed the closure of the project as I navigate ways to assist them.

FUNDRAISING REQUEST – Tilihun

Tilihun was one of the very first children in the project. He was about 6 years old and newly orphaned when I first met him. He was doing well in school but sadly the trauma and displacement of fleeing the war following the disruption to schooling from COVID led him to drop out of school. We helped him obtain his bajaj (tuktuk) licence as a way of supporting himself as he was no longer eligible for sponsorship once dropping out of school. Tilihun reached out a few months ago. He was in hos-



Tilihun in 2008

Tilihun in 2025

pital, critically ill with some significant health issues which will have long term impacts. WFA has been sending funds under the Medical Project to assist him. He is now out of hospital, although will be under treatment for many, many months and medication for a life-time. He is now able to do some part-time work so we have been exploring with him ways he might be able to support himself, as with the program closing, we will not be able to continue sending funds so we want to set him up with a way to support himself and fund his medical care. We are hoping to raise \$4500 to \$5200 for a bajaj for Tilihun. Donations of any amount are gratefully received to assist us toward this.

If you would like to contribute toward a bajaj for Tilihun, please make your donation to WFA noted as 'LAL Tilihun'.



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 September 2025

Please Note

Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by

31st October 2025



Maya Angelou

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

**PROJECT OFFICERS for
WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA**

ETHIOPIA

DEKIA	Dee Lumsden
ADDIS-BGW	Morgan Smith
BULBULA	Kate Drogemuller
JIMMA DOL	Michelle Nethery
LIWAN, BONGA, LALIBELA, SUPPORT FOR SIGHT IMPAIRED & MEDICAL OUTREACH	Sandi Petersen
BONGA - Rural	Emma Lewis
JIMMA-DOC	Trevor Anderson
BONGA Feeding	Kerry Walker
SAMERRO	Gemma Pilcher

INDIA

MINJUR	Jenny Minck
--------	-------------

INDONESIA

BALI LIGHTHOUSE	Kate Drogemuller
MISSION UPLIFT	Ben Bonython
RUTH/NAOMI COMMUNITY CENTRE	Chrissy Sulistyo

KENYA

NEEMA & TESTIMONY FAITH HOMES	Dani Potter
----------------------------------	-------------

PHILIPPINES

PHILEMON	Elaine & Bruce Smith
----------	----------------------

SRI LANKA

COLOMBO	Anna Szava
---------	------------

THAILAND

GOOD SHEPHERD PHUKET	Jenny Minck
----------------------	-------------

PROJECT OFFICER ENQUIRIES:

Attention your email to the Project Officer concerned
Email: Office@worldfamilies.org.au

FINANCIAL/SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Kerry Walker Sponsorship/Financial Officer
Email: KerryWalker@worldfamilies.org.au

Robyn Merritt Sponsorship/Financial Officer
Email: RobynMerritt@worldfamilies.org.au

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Friday Mornings
Phone: 08 8258 7909

POSTAL ADDRESS:

50 Fern Grove Blvd
Salisbury East SA 5109

Email: office@worldfamilies.org.au

Web: www.worldfamilies.org.au