

IMPACT NEWSLETTER

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES



MARCH 2026

Welcome to 2026 (and our new-look newsletter)

Minjur Home - India

We wish to thank everyone who donated to the Minjur Home appeal in the December 2025 issue of Impact Newsletter to enable five girls to attend Seva Rural Community College to study for the Diploma of Nursing. A large amount has been raised to date and we have enough funding to pay for their second year enrolment fees. The result is truly amazing. The girls are very excited about their study and future career path.

We are also seeking new regular donors to Minjur Home Project. Contributions are \$80 per quarter. Funding goes toward food and day-to-day living expenses for girls residing at Minjur Home. If you feel that you are interested in this project, please contact Kerry Walker, Sponsorship Officer for a donor application form (kerrywalker@worldfamilies.org.au). This is a project and not an individual child sponsorship scheme.

*Jennifer Minck
Project Officer, Minjur Home Project, India*



1st Year nursing students (Gowri, Geetha, Priya, Yavana, Thilaka) and Sister Lilly, the WFA coordinator, Oct 2025

Testimony Faith and Neema Homes - Kenya

Testimony Faith Home was established by John and Esther Green in 1969, with a ministry to look after children who had no one. The children who come to Testimony Faith Home have found a home with the basics - food, shelter, clothing, sanitation, healthcare, education, and safety and security – as well as spiritual nourishment and encouragement which are also important to the children. **Neema Children's Home** was established in 2005 by Joshua and Miriam Mbithi to care for HIV infected and affected children. The effects of HIV/AIDS are numerous on Kenyan society, with many victims being vulnerable children. Neema is Kiswahili for 'Grace'.

Following covid and the general increase in the cost of living worldwide, both Testimony and Neema Homes have struggled to meet the financial costs of caring for their children. Times are challenging and both Homes deeply appreciate the support given through WFA.

The school system in Kenya changed for the 2025 academic year. Kenya's new school system is the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), replacing the old 8-4-4 model with a 2-6-3-3-3 structure (2 Pre-Primary, 6 Primary, 3 Junior Secondary, 3 Senior Secondary, 3+ Tertiary) focused on skills, talents and real-world application rather than rote learning, and featuring pathway choices in Senior School. Implementation and funding are proving to be a challenge for schools, including both Neema and Testimony schools. In July 2025 a team of staff and students from Tyndale Christian School had the privilege of working with staff and students to provide some practical support to teachers and their classes as they began to work through the changes. A team will once again travel in July this year to further develop this relationship.



Students from Testimony who undertook exams in November

Above is a photo of the students from Testimony who undertook exams in November. Last year at Neema, three students who sat for their Grade 9 national exam did well and secured places in very competitive schools, and three other students who did their end of High School exam will soon be joining College/University.

After exams in November and two and half months of rest, schools opened again in January 2026. Studies have begun and most of the students at both Testimony and Neema are back at school. To cater for increasing enrolments, new school buildings with classrooms and spaces for staff and administration are being built in the compound of Neema Home, and they are coming up beautifully. Joshua and Miriam thank you for your prayers and for supporting this important cause that will allow both the children of Neema Home and from the local community to access education in a safe and nurturing environment.

Dani Potter
Project Officer, Kenya



Christmas meal with the children at Neema



View of new school buildings at Neema

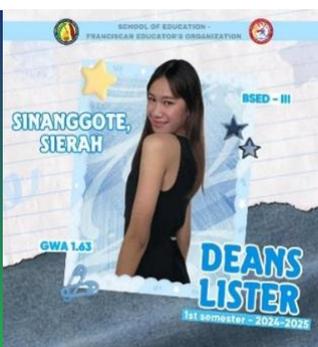
College funds - Philippines

Scholar Impact Highlights: Outcomes of Faithful Stewardship

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to share the progress of two scholars who stand as living evidence of what sustained, well-governed support can achieve when paired with discipline, resilience and opportunity. Both scholars are direct beneficiaries of World Families' donor support, and their journeys reflect the long-term return of this partnership.

Ms. Sierra Sinanggote is now in her fourth year of college and currently serving as an intern in her university's Basic Education Department, already contributing to the very sector that once nurtured her. She holds the role of Consultant President of the Performing Arts Club, demonstrating trusted leadership among her peers, and has consistently earned recognition as a Dean's Lister throughout her academic journey. Her dedication to scholarship and research has further distinguished her as a strong candidate for Best in Thesis within her graduating cohort. Sierra's progress reflects years of steady perseverance, disciplined study, and purposeful engagement - qualities that were carefully cultivated through the support she received and that now position her as a future educator and leader.

Mr. Ralph Sinanggote, likewise a former beneficiary, is currently enrolled in Senior High School at another institution, continuing the momentum built through earlier interventions. The same funds allocated for his development supported his intensive training in Kyokushin Martial Arts, culminating in the achievement of a black belt. This foundation opened doors for international competition across Asia, sharpening not only his physical discipline but also his character and resilience. Most recently, Ralph earned a Bronze Medal in Taiwan, and just last month, he emerged as the Overall Champion in a national tournament. His achievements testify to the power of focused investment, where access to proper training and mentorship transforms talent into excellence.



*Elaine and Bruce Smith
Project Officers, Philippines*

Medical Outreach - Ethiopia

WFA's Medical Outreach Project partners with Ethiopian health services to increase their ability to provide services to the rural poor. This project has previously funded Prosthetics, Eye and Cardiac clinics, alongside capacity building through training and equipment. Over the last couple of years, the focus has been providing support to the Bonga Hospital. Bonga is a rural town in south-west Ethiopia, 467km from Addis Ababa. Despite the hospital serving over 2 million people and being the only hospital for the multitude of tiny villages for days walks away, they have limited equipment to serve their patients.

WFA support funds the care of children admitted for hospital stays of 1-4 weeks for a large range of conditions, including malnutrition, diabetes, pneumonia, malaria and meningitis. The individual child costs range from \$AUD 80 to \$AUD 450.



Another arm of this project is to facilitate and fund a primary health screening initiative for children in a Bonga School, raising the profile of nutrition and picking up health issues early, and therefore decreasing the risk of serious disease and disability from untreated conditions. We welcome donations of any amount or ongoing sponsorship to this project to help us continue. Please note your donation as being for MOP-Bonga Hospital if you would like to help, or contact the WFA office or Sandi if you would like to be an ongoing sponsor for this project.

Sandi Petersen
Project Officer, Ethiopia

Bonga Housing - Ethiopia

Please help us build a home for Ayelech and her family.

We are seeking donations to help us fund a new home through the Bonga Housing Project for Mother Ayelech and her family in Bonga. Ayelech lives with her husband and two daughters. They are from a cultural group that has faced long term discrimination and disadvantage. We anticipate we will need to raise \$AUD 3,500 to \$AUD 4,000 to build them a home and we welcome donations of any amount to help us toward this goal.

The Bonga Housing Project is linked to the DOB Bonga Child Sponsorship Program and provides improved housing for the destitute. Approximately two houses are built or provided per year through funds raised specifically for this purpose. Provision of housing for the poorest in the community brings meaningful sustainable outcomes, as a home not only provides shelter and security, but opportunities for growing food, a base for a small business, improved hygiene and sanitation (each house funded by WFA has an outdoor kitchen and latrine, both vital for improving health outcomes) and better school attendance.

Sandi Petersen
Project Officer, Ethiopia



Lalibela - Ethiopia

Tilahun has a bajaj!

Thank you to those who donated towards a bajaj for Tilahun in Lalibela, Ethiopia. I first met Tilahun in January 2008, soon after he was orphaned, and he was one of the first children in the Lalibela program that I set up on my return home. The Lalibela project has been in process of closing down over the past two years, with the focus being on setting up the young people still in the program who were completing school in small business projects if not in further study. Tilahun had graduated out of the program some years back and was supported to get his bajaj licence at that time as a way for him to earn an income. Last year he made contact following some serious health issues, and we decided to help him with the purchase of a bajaj so that he could manage his medical bills and get back on his feet. Your generosity has changed Tilahun's life and the smile on his face as he holds the keys to his bajaj is lovely to see.



*Sandi Petersen
Project Officer, Ethiopia*



Thank you!

At the last WFA meeting of 2025, Di Amato received a Life Membership and Christine Hoffman received a Certificate of Appreciation, for all their wonderful work over many years.
THANK YOU DI AND CHRISTINE!

'What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.'

Nelson Mandela

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Office hours: Tuesday and Friday mornings



Speakers are available to tell groups about the work of WFA. Please contact us through the office: (08) 8258 7909.

Last day for your gift this quarter is **1 March 2026**.

Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by **27 April 2026**.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of World Families Australia.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter via email rather than a hard copy please message: office@worldfamilies.org.au

Project Officers for WFA

ETHIOPIA

DEKIA	Dee Lumsden
ADDIS-BGW	Morgan Smith
BULBULA	Kate Drogemuller
LIWAN, BONGA, SUPPORT FOR SIGHT IMPAIRED & MEDICAL OUTREACH	Sandi Petersen
BONGA - RURAL	Emma Lewis
JIMMA-DOC, DOLB & DOLS	Trevor Anderson
BONGA FEEDING	Anna Szava
SAMERRO	Gemma Pilcher

INDIA

MINJUR	Jenny Minck
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INDONESIA

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

KENYA

NEEMA & TESTIMONY FAITH HOMES	Dani Potter
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PHILIPPINES

PHILEMON	Elaine & Bruce Smith
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SRI LANKA

COLOMBO	Anna Szava
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THAILAND

GOOD SHEPHERD PHUKET	Jenny Minck
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PROJECT OFFICER ENQUIRIES

Attention your email to the relevant Project Officer:

Email: office@worldfamilies.org.au

FINANCIAL/SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES

Kerry Walker and Robyn Merritt,

Sponsorship/Financial Officers:

Email: kerrywalker@worldfamilies.org.au

Email: robynmerritt@worldfamilies.org.au