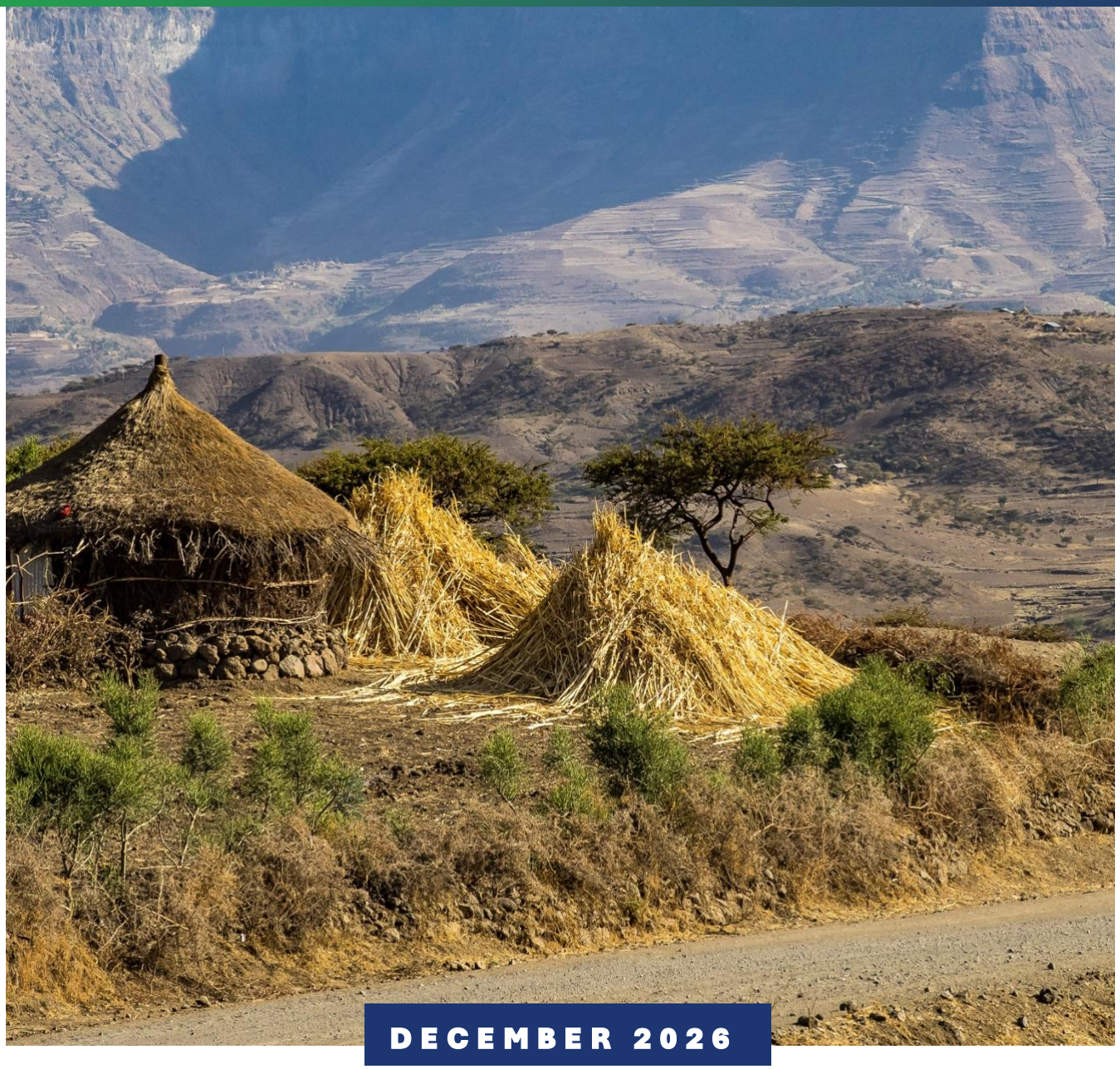
World Families AUSTRALIA Inc.

REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

IMPACT NEWSLETTER

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES



DECEMBER 2026

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



World Families Australia wishes all of our donors and sponsors a safe and happy holiday season.

Thank you all for your care and commitment to enriching the lives of those in need across the seas. As a reminder, WFA is a secular organisation and is not religiously affiliated. Some of our overseas partners are faith-based, but Australian charity laws are very clear that our funds must not be used for proselytising or to discriminate or privilege people from a specific faith. We take this opportunity to thank Tyndale Christian School for their generosity in providing office space in a very favourable arrangement for WFA, but note that WFA is not an entity of Tyndale Christian School.

The WFA office will be closed from Tuesday 15 December 2026 until Tuesday 5 January 2027 for the holiday season.

WFA PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT

In 2026 loyal World Families Australia donors, many who have supported us over numerous years, funded our international projects. These projects have continued to be managed by our Project Officers. There have been no changes to project officers in the last 12 months. Our project offerings remain largely unchanged. A project in Kenya remains in the development phase and a project planned for Ethiopia is being managed outside the organisation as a pilot initiative.

In December 2025 a presentation of Life Membership was awarded to Di Amato. Di has been with World Families Australia, and organisations that later formed World Families Australia, for more than fifty years. Her knowledge and commitment to the organisation has been outstanding. An Appreciation Certificate was awarded to Christine Hoffman who was a Project Officer, and Vice President, with World Families Australia for many years.

Some organisational changes have occurred in the last twelve months. Our constitution was reviewed and determined to be fit for purpose. Some changes to our policies have been made including improving our response to terrorism, managing the role of religion within our projects and ensuring safer management of donor information on personal devices. Some changes to office space also occurred. We now rent one room instead of two, with Kerry, Robyn and Heather working primarily from home.

The organisation would benefit from some additional donors. If there is anyone out there with marketing skills, who would like to assist us, please get in touch. Your expertise would be much appreciated.

A new newsletter editor joined us during the year. Through a process of consultation, Carolyn MacLulich further developed the format of the newsletter. Most impressive. Thank you Carolyn.

Over the last 12 months Heather Douglas has continued to work hard in her role as Office Manager. Heather continues to develop the organisation's resources. Her ability to manage our organisation's technology is amazing. Thank you Heather!

Kerry Walker and Robyn Merritt continue to manage the finances with a high level of skill. Kerry also produces clear, comprehensive reports for Trevor Anderson, our Treasurer, and the Management Committee. Thank you Kerry, Robyn and Trevor.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last 12 months - the donors for providing funds to the projects, the office staff and office bearers, for ensuring the ongoing running of the organisation, and the project officers. Without the commitment and enthusiasm of project officers our organisation could not exist.

Morgan Smith
President

Vacancies

World Families Australia is an organisation coordinated primarily by volunteers to provide funds to designated overseas projects. In order for World Families Australia to function appropriately, we need to fill some current vacancies within the organisation.

- ***Website Manager***
  WFA is seeking a volunteer to be our Website Manager. The work involves updating the website from time to time (manual provided) and liaising with the WFA Manager and the Web designer where necessary. The work will be intermittent with minimal time commitment. You can work from home, to fit within your own schedule. If this sounds like you, please contact Heather Douglas at wfamanager@worldfamilies.org.au.
- ***Marketing Manager***
  Do you have marketing experience? WFA is looking for a volunteer Marketing Manager to help develop strategies to promote WFA and grow our donor numbers. The work will be intermittent with minimal time commitment. You can work from home, to fit within your own schedule. If you feel you can help, please contact Heather Douglas at wfamanager@worldfamilies.org.au.
- ***WFA Vice President***
  WFA is seeking a Vice President to join the management committee. The Vice President, a voluntary position, works with the President and other members of the management committee to ensure the objectives of WFA are met. The management committee holds five meetings and the AGM each year; this can be attended in-person or via Teams. The position was not filled at the last month's AGM, so expressions of interest are being sought. If you are interested or would like more information about the role, please contact Heather Douglas at wfamanager@worldfamilies.org.au.

Brothers of Good Works - Ethiopia

WFA provides financial support to the Youth Empowerment Program run by Brothers of Good Works (BGW) Women Empowerment Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This program supports orphaned children, young people and their carers. Group and individual counselling, life skills training, recreational activities, financial and material support, educational support and economic empowerment are available to assist participants to develop self-reliance. Once individuals have achieved their goals, they are discharged from the program enabling others to be supported.

The quote below, taken from a recent BGW report, describes how emotional support services assisted a participant to change their perspective on life:

> *'Before the intervention program, I used to live in isolation with no energy/motivation for life; my spirit was very low; with this low self-esteem, I was not able to face any challenges on my own and believed that I always needed someone to help me tackle any issue. It was really frustrating - with no hope to move forward. The intervention by your organization set me free from this kind of life sustained with frustration and hopelessness. The group sharing and individual counselling sessions have been life changing. These sessions have a very important place in my life, as they have been inspiration and as well learnt from something new from each other. It shaped me positively, strengthened me and overall created me anew once again. It made me a good mother for my children. I would never stop regretting if I would have never been part of your support program. I have regained my dignity/respect within my community, fully participating and in harmony in contrary to my previous life. I have acquired life skills and parenting skills to protect and upbringing my children in this turbulent world. Thanks to God, all of my children have a strong academic background and score higher grades as a result of this.'*

Funds provided by WFA have been used to support caregivers in sustainable income generating activities. The organisation provides business skills training, start-up funding and ongoing funding boosts where appropriate. The income generation enables caregivers to support their children and themselves.



Income generating activity – a bazaar

The quote below, taken from a recent BGW report, describes how basic business skills training enabled a participant to thrive financially:

> *'Following the death of my husband, I used to live on charity from family/relatives, others around and daily labour; we didn't have any saving or pension to live on. Life was terrible without enough income to provide for the basic necessities of the family. The BBS training provided by your organization has an important place in my heart. It taught me how to manage time, about saving and overall management of the business and as a result, I am running my business of preparing and selling injera successfully. I have regular customers receiving my products in bulk and in pieces. The business is vibrant; I expanded it by volume: I also receive orders for various events like weddings and birthdays. I have a saving of 10,000 birr in my account and monthly saving of 5,000 birr through equb (informal savings group). There are times that the daily sales amounts are so big - up to maximum of 200 pieces of injera (with average cost of 25 birr/piece). I have formed assets and able to cover all household costs from the profit of the business. Thanks to God, I have everything I need. I can afford for every household needs and I have the due respect and dignity with active participation in community matters.'*

If you would like to donate to this project, see 'Make a donation' and use the project title BGW.

Morgan Smith
Project Officer, Ethiopia

Ruth Naomi Centre - Indonesia





Ruth Naomi Kitchen – Empowering Women

Following the success of five Ruth Naomi Kitchen stalls across Bali, we were encouraged to establish another kitchen at our centre, completed in July 2026. Initially planned for afternoon coffee and waffles, we saw an opportunity to empower and enable more widows and single mothers through rotating breakfast, lunch and dinner shifts, selling their own signature dishes. This is about more than financial stability. It is about earning with dignity, building confidence and ownership, and creating brighter futures for women and their children.

Investing in the Next Generation

YOW (Youth of Worth) continues to grow through free English classes for children aged 7–9, building skills that can open future employment opportunities in Bali's tourism-driven economy. ECL (Early Childhood Learning) now offers free basic reading and writing lessons for children aged 4–6, helping prepare them for kindergarten while easing the financial burden on struggling families.

Your generosity is helping children begin their education with confidence and giving vulnerable women opportunities to build more secure futures.

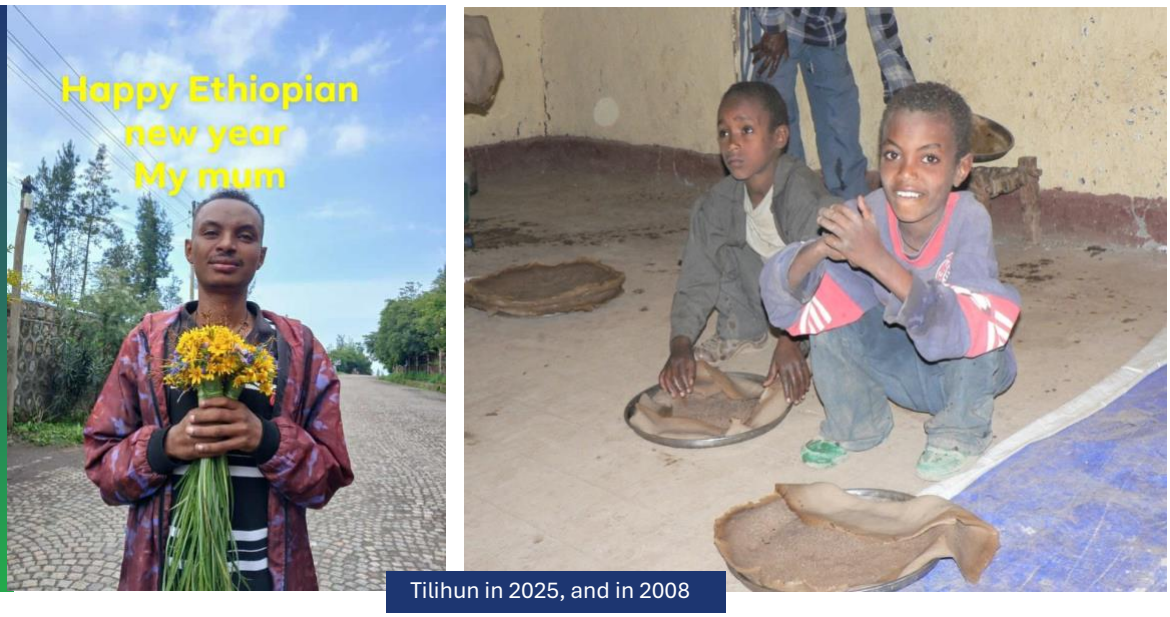
Chrissy Sulistyo
Project Officer, Indonesia

Lalibela - Ethiopia

It is with deep sadness that I share this message from Yemane of Save Your Holy Land Association (SYHLA), our program partner for the Lalibela project in Ethiopia.

> *'I share the heartbreaking news that we lost Tilahun last week in Bahir Dar.... Our team had spoken with him shortly before the incident, and at that time, he was recovering well. ..We were devastated by his sudden passing. His funeral was held in St. Lalibela. We are mourning the loss of our brother with profound sorrow. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation for your consistent support and efforts to help save his life during this difficult time. .. Please accept our heartfelt condolences, and may you find strength and comfort during this difficult time.'*

Tilihun was newly orphaned and around 6 years old when I first met him in January 2008. He and other boys from similar situations were surviving by shoe-shining and other odd jobs. Tilihun loved to dance and learn, and had many dreams and hopes for his future. However, his life was turned upside down by COVID, closely followed by the civil war. When the war reached Lalibela, he fled Lalibela, walking for many days to reach safety. They kept in touch during their journey and WFA continued supporting them while they were displaced. When they could eventually return, Tilihun couldn't settle back into school - the trauma, displacement and loss of schooling had impacted. Tilihun was supported to get his bajaj (tuk tuk) license to earn an income and graduated out of the program.



Tilihun in 2025, and in 2008

In March last year he contacted me, he was in hospital. Since that time WFA has assisted him with medical care. Donations funded a bajaj for him, which he could rent it out when too sick to work. In September he again went to hospital and was recovering. He sent a message on 11 September (Ethiopia's New Year) saying, *'I am so grateful for all the time you have had my back and lift up me from failure and unconditional motherly love. Nothing you ask in return, just generously. The way you made the hardest time much better. ... I send my love from my heart to you! Happy Ethiopian New Year.'*

Tilihun died not long after sending this message. Rest in peace, beautiful Tilihun. Your life was full of hardship and injustice, yet you were vibrant and talented.

Sandi Petersen
Project Officer, Ethiopia

Ways you can support WFA

An end of year gift to the Grassroots Fund

It's the end of a busy year, almost time for summer holidays and end of year celebrations with family and friends. Consider ending the year by making a one-off donation to the WFA Grassroots Fund. This special fund provides support to any of the WFA projects in need throughout the year in Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, Sri Lanka or Thailand.

If you are interested in doing this, please see the 'Make a donation' section below and mark your donation for the 'Grassroots Fund'. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Spread the word

WFA relies almost entirely on word-of-mouth to gather donations. Any support you can give by spreading news about our projects or passing on our Newsletter is always appreciated. Thank you.

Buy an Entertainment Book

If you are considering purchasing an Entertainment Book for $75, please support WFA by selecting WFA as your nominated charity and $15 of the cost will go to WFA. The Book unlocks thousands of offers in 20 cities covering dining, accommodation, travel etc: www.entertainment.com.au.

From 16-27 November and 14-27 December this amount will be doubled to $30 per Book!
Details are at: https://subscribe.entertainment.com.au/fundraiser/162x689

Make a donation

To make a donation to any of the WFA projects, you can:

- Send a bank transfer using the details below. Include your surname and the title of the project you are donating to. At the same time, email WFA at kerrywalker@worldfamilies.org.au with your name, address and the project title for a receipt for your donation.
  Name: World Families Australia
  BSB No: 065-149
  A/c No: 10342470
  Bank: CBA Bank

or

- Send a cheque made out to World Families Australia and post it to 50 Fern Grove Boulevard, Salisbury East, SA 5109, with a note attached stating the title of the project you are donating to, and your name and address for a receipt for your donation.

All donations over $2 are tax-deductible. Currently, administration fees are $11 for regular donations,15% for one-off donations up to $2,000, $300 for donations $2,001- $10,000, $500 for donations $10,001- $20,000, and $750 for donations $20,001 and over. Current donors who make additional one-off donations to their project have no administration fees on that one-off donation.

Thank you!

‘Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much’

Helen Keller

WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

P | (08) 8258 7909
E | office@worldfamilies.org.au
W | worldfamilies.org.au
AD | 50 Fern Grove Boulevard
Salisbury East SA 5109
ABN | 33 361 460 443



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 December 2026.**

Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by **19 January 2027.**

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 email: office@worldfamilies.org.au

Front page image: Lalibela, Ethiopia. Envato Elements

Project Officers for WFA

ETHIOPIA	
DEKIA	Dee Lumsden
ADDIS - BGW	Morgan Smith
LIWAN, BONGA, SUPPORT FOR SIGHT IMPAIRED & MEDICAL OUTREACH	Sandi Petersen
BONGA - RURAL	Emma Lewis
JIMMA - DOC, DOL & DOLS	Trevor Anderson
BONGA FEEDING	Anna Szava
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 relevant Project Officer:
Email: offfice@worldfamilies.org.au

FINANCIAL/SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES

Kerry Walker and Robyn Merritt,
Sponsorship/Financial Officers:
Email: kerrywalker@worldfamilies.org.au
Email: robynmerrrit@worldfamilies.org.au