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Impact

DECEMBER 2024

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES



Wishing all our donors and sponsors a safe and happy holiday season. The office will close on Tuesday 17th December and reopen on Tuesday 4th of January 2025. WFA thanks 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 organization and is not religiously affiliated. Some of our overseas Project Partners can be faith based, but Australian charity laws are very clear that our funds must not be used for proselytizing nor to discriminate or privilege people from a specific faith.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tyndale Christian School for their generosity in providing our office space in a very favorable arrangement for WFA. Some of the staff are Project Officers for the Kenyan Projects, but WFA is not an entity of Tyndale School.



President's Report from Morgan Smith, President

In 2024 many generous donors continued to fund international projects through World Families Australia. Our donor numbers have fallen considerably over the last year, however, and that has created challenges for our financial viability going forward. Addressing a financial shortfall is an issue we must address over the next 12 months.

Projects have continued to be managed over the year by our Project Officers. Our new project in Bali, House of Ruth and Naomi, has now commenced. Over the last twelve months our project with Good Shepherd in Phuket faced a few challenges that have now been resolved. This important project supports refugee children from Myanmar. We are currently seeking a project officer for this project. If you are interested (or possibly interested) in the role please contact me or the office. Shalom, a project in Sri Lanka, has closed. A couple more projects in Ethiopia are being wound up while we hope another will open next year if we can get the necessary accountability in place. Ben Bonython has taken up the role of Project Officer for Mission Uplift, a project showcased in the September newsletter. Thank you Ben.

We have had some changes in office bearers and Office Manager over the last twelve months. Bert Michels resigned as Secretary and Office Manager earlier in the year. Bert had volunteered with the organisation for over ten years and has been missed. Luckily for us Heather Douglas has taken his place as both Secretary and Office Manager. I am very grateful to both Bert, for his years of service, and Heather for volunteering to take over. Thank you both. We also have a new Treasurer. Trevor Anderson took over the role earlier in the year and has proven to be a great asset to the organisation.

Di Amato continues to provide us with informative newsletters that record the activities of World Families Australia. Di has been with the organisation for many years (About fifty years I think!) and her knowledge is unsurpassed. Thank you Di. Kerry Walker and Robyn Merritt continue to manage the finances with skill and accountability.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last twelve months. The donors for providing funds to the projects, the office staff, and office bearers, for ensuring the organisation runs smoothly, and the project officers. ...

News from the AGM

We were somewhat disappointed more of our donors and supporters were unable to attend the recent AGM. Two guests, Kate & Andrew, came along with Chrissy Sulisty, Project Officer for our newest project, Ruth and Naomi Community Centre. They were most welcome. As expected, the election of Office Bearers concluded with Morgan Smith elected President, no Vice President, YET, Heather Douglas elected Secretary and Trevor Anderson joining us as our new Treasurer. Peter Hall, Chartered Accountant, certified our books as correct. We voted to appoint him as our 2025 Auditor. We hope to have more donors at next years AGM, we presented a fabulous Afternoon Tea!



A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Steve Hodgson for his tireless work at the Sri Lankan, Shalom Children's Home. Steve has now retired, both from Tyndale Christian College and WFA; WFA would welcome Steve back, in any capacity, If he ever gets bored! I was given a lovely floral arrangement.

Sandi, Dani and Chrissy gave Power-Point presentations of their Projects in Ethiopia, Kenya and Bali. It was riveting to hear stories of how the Projects became viable and the amazing life changes that have resulted.

We will repeat this format for the 2025 AGM and hope to see you there!

DOL Jimma, Ethiopia

Recently we have been in receipt of photos and updates on a number of our students in the DOL Jimma project. I would like to thank you for your patience in this regard. Unfortunately since Covid, civil unrest and the project officers in this area being unable to visit (these are always self-funded) there has been considerable delay in receipt of these. We trust that this will now be a historic issue and the annual reports will flow as they should!! I am still waiting on some reports and/or photos on a number of students (this is a large project) and I will forward through as soon as we have received them. Unfortunately, I have had a few emails bounce back - if you have updated your email (or address) recently can you please advise either myself, Kerry or Robyn in the WFA Adelaide office. I thank you for your continued support of these students - it is fantastic to see so many now either at university, college or leaving the projects as they have graduated and/or have found employment.

Michelle Nethery, Project Officer

Minjur ~ 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 are seeking funding 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 \$A527.50 per student or \$A2116.59 for the group of four.

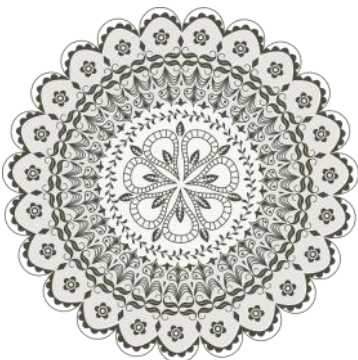
The course will help the girls overcome the cycle of poverty and gain skills for a brighter future. Empower them to make right decisions in their lives. Develop self-confidence and self-esteem. Offering a safe and supportive environment away from exploitation and abuse. Help them to develop leadership skills, communication and problem-solving skills. Economic independence and self-sufficiency. Reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. Restoring hope and provide better job opportunities. Assisting them to overcome past traumas and challenging what had happened in their childhood.

These girls (see photo below) are aged 15 to 17 years and all are without parental guardian-ship. **Sulochana** was abandoned by her father first and then by her mother. **Sandiya's** father was an alcoholic and mother is a 4th stage cancer patient, terminally ill. **Darshini** was abandoned by her father; her mother committed suicide two months ago. **Monika's** parents are deceased. All reside at Minjur Home.

Please donate any amount via bank transfer to World Families Australia sponsorship account:

Name: World Families Australia
BSB No. 065-149
Account No. 10342470
Reference: FJ-ND
(indicating Minjur Home – Nursing Diploma)

Jennifer Minck
Project Officer for Minjur Home



Bonga Hospital Paediatric Inpatient and Community Childhood Health Screening Project Update

WFA started a project with Bonga Hospital in rural Ethiopia 12 months ago. The project has 3 aspects:

1. funding inpatient care for critically ill children
2. funding a school health screening project
3. facilitating donations for hospital equipment

Bonga is a rural town in south-west Ethiopia where we have supported eye, cardiac and prosthetic clinics over the years. Despite the hospital serving a wide population for Bonga and a multitude of tiny villages, they have limited equipment to serve their patients. There is a limited budget for consumables and so patients and relatives need to pay for medication & services, including antibiotics, IV fluids, pain relief, dressing etc., before accessing treatment.

We welcome donations of any amount or ongoing sponsorship to this project to help us continue. Please see below the report for details on how to support if you are interested.

Inpatient Critical Care Fund

We have received a fourth report of children assisted through the Inpatient critical care fund. The report provided photos and stories of 15 children admitted for hospital stays of 1 -5 weeks for pneumonia, acute malnutrition, meningitis, diabetes, dehydration and other conditions. The total cost of treatment for these 15 children was about \$1500, with the individual child costs ranging from \$AUD80to \$AUD 200.Here are a few of their stories.



1. B.K. is a 6 month old baby girl who presented to Bonga Hospital in a critical state after being increasingly unwell for over 2 weeks. She had lost a lot of weight and was having difficulty breathing, which prevented her from breast feeding. She was admitted with severe acute malnutrition and pneumonia, with underlying congenital heart disease. She received intravenous fluids, oxygen, antibiotics and the 'acute malnutrition protocol' treatment during a 15 day admission. The complete costs of her treatment and admission came to about \$AUD 175 and was covered in full by the WFA Paediatric Inpatient Fund.

2. D.W. is a 1 ½months old boy also admitted with cough, fever, difficulty breathing and unable to breast feed. He was diagnosed with pyogenic meningitis and received antibiotics and treatment over a 21 day Inpatient stay. The complete costs of his treatment and admission came to about \$AUD 100 and was covered in full by the WFA Paediatric Inpatient Fund.



3. B.B. is a 6 month old baby girl from Dekiaarea, who presented to Bonga Hospital in an emaciated and dehydrated state with excoriated and infected skin. She had a 2 week admission during which she was treated for acute malnutrition, dehydration and infection with intravenous fluids, antibiotics and the 'acute malnutrition protocol'. The complete costs of her treatment and admission came to about \$AUD 90 and was covered in full by the WFA Paediatric Inpatient Fund.

4. E.A. is a 4 year old boy from Dekia who presented to Bonga Hospital in a state of hypovolemic shock from dehydration, and with malnutrition and community acquired pneumonia. He stayed in hospital for over 5 weeks, receiving intravenous fluids, antibiotics and the 'acute malnutrition protocol'. The complete costs of his treatment and admission came to about \$AUD 115 and was covered in full by the WFA Paediatric Fund.



If you would like to donate to this valuable Project, please contact., Sandi Petersen, Project Officer World Families Australia, Ethiopia

PO Box 116 Stirling 5152 email: Sandi@worldfamilies.org.au

Dembidollo Girls Hostel – The Power of Educating Girls!

The long term outcomes for girls supported through the hostel in Dembidollo are in total contrast to the situations and the futures they would have been previously facing. Education is for those who can afford it, even then, the classes are oversized and a lot of study and commitment to education is needed outside of the school environment.

Previously we shared about Dessie who was supported at the hostel and had completed a nursing degree. Through WFA connections to an Australian – Ethiopian family she was offered some support by way of mentorship and encouragement. Living far from home, and in difficult financial and physical circumstances, friendly words of support were well received. Since then, she has had the opportunity for several different work experiences, both unpaid and paid. She also completed 3 months with the Red Cross. From impoverished, disabled and hopeless to – educated, integrated and employed – this is the result of support through the girl's hostel.

In other news, Sr Alganesh reports that two former sponsored hostel girls, Hundatu and Hawi, are **studying nursing** and both doing very well in their study. Prior to being sponsored these young people were facing education possibly only to primary school level, and even then, that was not guaranteed. Additionally another hostel graduate, Roman, is now **studying Montessori** in Wolaita and will become a teacher. Furthermore, another young woman is now **studying agriculture** at tertiary level.

A long term hostel student, Dirribee, graduated high school and went on to do a Management Degree at University and in more recent times has married and had a baby (pictured). Sponsorship and support through the hostel gave her the time, knowledge and agency to decide who she married and when she would start a family – in her early twenties and not her early teens. She is now **employed at the local hospital**. These are the long term outcomes and benefits of sponsorship through WFA and DOC.

With support for education comes delayed marriage and pregnancies. This is important in areas where child marriage and early marriages have been common and where pregnancies in young women and girls have resulted in obstructed labours, stillborn babies and sometimes death of the mother. Under-development, malnourishment and inadequate health facilities do not produce good outcomes for early pregnancies and young motherhood.

Education is not just about getting good grades in school, it's about providing young women with information about their body, their choices, life skills like nutrition, budgeting, and having a capacity to earn an income. It's about giving them agency and opportunity over their future.

Thank you to past and present supporters of the girl's hostel.

The hostel supports 30 students in the 2024/2025 school year and requires \$5200AUD/yr./per girl to cover the costs of education, uniforms, food and basic supplies of personal hygiene products. The shortfall is \$2230/girl/yr. Sponsorship funds are pooled together so that all of the hostel girls benefit from support and there's no imbalance with some missing out. Sponsorship alone does not cover their costs, however will contribute towards the overall cost of educating a girl. You can sponsor the girls for \$75/quarter or alternatively donations of any amount are accepted on a regular or ad hoc basis. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. If you would like to support girl's education and give the gift of supported education please contact WFA at kerrywalker@worldfamilies.org.au or email Gemma Pilcher on gemma.pilcher@gmail.com Perhaps you would like to hold a fundraising event to help us support the hostel? Please reach out and we can discuss how this might be possible.



We have moved! Not far, just one floor up from our former offices, which are being repurposed to better serve the needs of students at the school.

We thank the Tyndale team for their help with our move and their tech support for our computers and phones.



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 December 2024

Please Note
Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 15 Jan 2025

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, SUPPORT 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	Dani Potter
Testimony Homes	Dani Potter

PHILIPPINES

	Elaine Smith
	Bruce Smith

SRI LANKA

Colombo	Anna Szava
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THAILAND

	Morgan Smith (interim)
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Bank Account Number :> 10342470

Bank Account Name :> World Families
Australia



There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves.

—ERIC SEVAREID



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