

Educate a Girl. Change the World.

A major part of **Partners'** mission is the education of adolescent girls. We know that to educate a girl is to change her life, her town or village, and maybe the world. **Jimma Scholarship House**, located in Jimma in Oromia and established in 2011, is an example of that commitment. The house registered ten new girls last year, making this the third group of girls to be given a chance to realize their potential in a safe home environment.

The aim of this project, implemented by our Ethiopian partner **Mission for Integrated Community Development Association**, is to provide an opportunity for orphaned girls or those from destitute families to complete their high school education in a family-like home setting and then move on to university. With the guidance of the Housemother, all of the girls participate in grocery shopping and food preparation. The girls are learning responsibility which will come in handy when it is time for them to 'leave the nest'. The girls are encouraged to discover their career paths and become independent. Every activity in the home revolves around these objectives.

The girls are from rural communities and are selected among their peers for being high achievers in the last couple of years of elementary/middle school. **Asna and Alemitu are two of the girls currently at Jimma House.**

Asna, now 16, lost her father as an infant and was abandoned by her mother when she was six years old. Asna was cared for by her destitute and infirm grandmother who struggled to support her. Asna loved to learn. She had to travel 4½ hours round trip to make it to school, not an easy task, but because of her determination she still made it to school each day. She refused to allow any obstacles to deter her from her studies and was one of the top students in her class. When Asna was selected for Jimma House, her enrolment in the 9th grade was several weeks late. Adjusting to this new home environment was difficult for her and her grades fell. But by the next semester, with the support and encouragement of the Housemother, Asna ranked 7th in her class, exceeding everyone's expectations.

Alemitu is now 17. She was orphaned as a child and lived with her three siblings and (Continued on Page 2)



The girls of Jimma Scholarship House, including Asna (front row 3rd from left) and Alemitu (back row 3rd from left).

Partners in the Horn of Africa is a non-denominational Canadian charity operating in Ethiopia, with two basic principles:

- 1) **100% of any donation goes directly toward project costs in Ethiopia.** All administrative and fundraising costs are covered by Friends of the Horn of Africa, a separately funded sister charity.
- 2) Our unique development model is based on community participation. **The Ethiopian community or partner proposes the project to us and then is required to contribute at least 15% of the total cost in cash, labour and/or materials.**

We work with both rural and urban communities. Our projects focus on education, basic infrastructure, water and sanitation, food security and sustainable livelihoods.

(Continued from Page 1) grandmother who was very poor and in ill health. She walked barefoot to school each day, 4½ hours each way, without enough to eat or the proper clothing. Her situation became unbearable and she dropped out of school. Eventually she did return to school but was on the verge of dropping out again when she was identified as one of the neediest and brightest girls in her class and selected for Jimma House. Like Asna, Alemitu had a difficult transition and struggled with her grades in the first semester. She is now one of the top 10 students in her class.



Housemother
Tarikuwa

Tarikuwa, a mother of three children of her own, is the Housemother. Her role is key to the success of the girls. She spends the whole day and early evening at the home and says that **“being a Housemother is not about a job, it is being a mother to 10 more children”**. Caring for the girls’ welfare is her passion. Tarikuwa has regular contact with the girls’ teachers and school administration, ensuring the girls’ progress continues. **“I am trying to fill in a wide gap. The girls have no one except me and each other. I want to assure them that I am always there for them.”** It is obvious that the girls know this as they are very much attached to her and show her much love and respect. Tarikuwa is helping the girls become independent, responsible, well adjusted, successful citizens who can now look forward to a better life.

All of the girls in the two earlier groups gained confidence and pride as they successfully completed their high-school studies and are currently working towards their university degrees.

Everyone involved is extremely grateful for the continued support provided by the **Kalamalka Rotary Club** that is helping to ensure that the girls at Jimma House overcome the barriers that would have kept them from realizing their promise. They can look forward to a bright future.



Mekonen Bayssie, Seaton McLean,
Sonja Smits and Brooke Sundin



Our supporters listening
to Dr. Duane Baker

Over 150 supporters attended our **Ethiopian Dinner & Annual General Meeting** in May 2016 in Vancouver. We celebrated 15 years of changing Ethiopian lives, highlighted by a talk given by **Partners** co-founder and long-time Executive Director **John Baigent**. Education consultants **John Richardson** and **Dr. Duane Baker** presented their study of our **Teacher Capacity Building** project featured in our Spring 2016 newsletter. **Sila Kisoso** presented her annual report with project updates and personal stories from her trip to Ethiopia in January. Happily, most of our past Board Members were able to attend the celebration as well. Special thanks to **Woinshet Bayssie** for organizing a wonderful Ethiopian dinner with **Mihiret**. By the end of the night, we were all on our feet dancing with a group of Ethiopian dancers from Vancouver. **We thank everyone who attended this memorable night in person or was with us in thought.** Special thanks to **Ivan Limpricht** and everyone at **UFCW Local 1518** for sponsoring the event and donating the gift boxes of oil and vinegar which were auctioned.



John Baigent reflecting
on Partners’ 15 years!



Brenda Rogers &
Terry Hillaby

Kristy Gabelhouse, Tetra Tech EBA Ambassador, visits our projects

In May and June 2016 I was blessed with the opportunity to visit a place different from anywhere I had previously travelled to. I flew into the capital city Addis Ababa and then travelled to Bahir Dar. My entourage included Tesfaye (**Partners** Engineering Consultant), Abdi (**Partners** Partnership Manager) and driver Kelemwork. Kelemwork is a very good driver and has to navigate through oxen, donkeys pulling carts, sheep, horses, large convoy trucks, speedy passenger buses, tuk tuks, and of course, people.

On the first day we travelled to the reforestation project and hiked up to the top. One of the guides lent me his walking stick for the hike. The people in the village below the project reported that the trees have prevented landslides from occurring which had historically ruined their crops.

In the following days we visited some of the spring water projects in the rural areas of Mecha Woreda. We then travelled to Jabi Tehnan Woreda and visited some of the very first water projects that were hand dug wells.

Our next stop was Debre Markos to visit the girls in the group home and the house mother. I walked with the girls to the market where we purchased our groceries for lunch and dinner, helped them prepare the meals and also roasted coffee beans and hand ground the beans to make coffee.

We then journeyed back to Addis Ababa and did day trips from there including a day trip to Adama to the Bethel children's home. It is home to 24 children ranging from newborn to seven years old who were abandoned or orphaned. Ghenet Nigussie runs the home and has made a real home for these children.

Although my trip was only two weeks long, I feel that it packed in a lifetime of lessons. I will be eternally grateful for what the Ethiopian people have taught me and the impact they have had on my life.



Kristy Gabelhouse (above left) visited a reforestation project in Yilmana Densa Woreda (above left & right), the Debre Markos Group Home (below left) and spring water containment projects in Mecha Woreda (below centre and right).



Partners in the Horn of Africa has been extremely fortunate to have faithful and committed donors who continue to support our work. To the Kalamalka Rotary Club, Salmon Arm Rotary Club, BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU), Tetra Tech EBA and their employees, UFCW Local 1518, Pettigrew/Brouwers Foundation and the thousands of individuals who give to our projects in Ethiopia, we say **THANK YOU!**



Getting to Know Terry Hillaby

Terry Hillaby has been on the *Partners'* Board of Directors for two and a half years. Terry is with the firm **Tetra Tech EBA** (formerly EBA Engineering) where he worked in the engineering/technical area for many years before moving to the financial area of the firm about 10 years ago. 2016 marks Terry's 46th year with the firm. Terry lives in Edmonton, Alberta and has two sons Troy (27) and Josh (25). Terry stays busy with his involvement with a few other not-for-profit Boards as well as allowing time for travel.

Over 12 years ago Terry was introduced to **John Baigent** at a small fundraiser for *Partners* in Edmonton. In Terry's words: **"They had me from hello! I had always wanted to help in Africa and that night the ability to shake the hand of a man who was**

making a difference brought it all so close and intimate for me. I became a supporter that evening."

A few years later in 2006, Tetra Tech EBA, was celebrating its 40th Anniversary and wanted to do something very special to celebrate that milestone. The firm aligned with *Partners* to deliver small aid projects in Ethiopia. This program started with a commitment of \$50,000 and to have one employee travel to Ethiopia as EBA's Ambassador. The program has grown significantly. **EBA recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with Partners. It has contributed over \$500,000 and has sent 12 employee Ambassadors to Ethiopia. This support has not only changed the lives of many Ethiopians but also changed the lives of many EBA employees.** In addition to their corporate support the employees of EBA have taken ownership of a number of their own projects over the years including the building of schools, reforestation projects and currently also support the Debre Markos girls group home. **John Baigent** had this to say about the extraordinary participation of Tetra Tech EBA and their employees: *"I am impressed and grateful that EBA employees can be so generous and so focused at a time when our world seems wracked with so much financial insecurity. Usually when corporations help a charity, the decision making rests with management and most employees are involved only peripherally. That's not the case at EBA where so many of the employees get involved in the giving. It is quite humbling for me to see the process."* **Terry is the link who brought Partners and EBA together. He is also the Partners Director whose wealth of business experience, good judgment and deep commitment to Ethiopia have, in the view of the Chair, helped Partners board immeasurably in its governance duties.**



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Our mission is to improve the lives of Ethiopians. We listen to their needs and partner with them on projects that empower communities & individuals, and contribute to their well-being.

Donations of \$20 or more result in a tax receipt for Canadian and American donors. We are a registered charity in Canada and the United States.

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Remembering David Judah

In September, **Burke Goldstein** organized a fundraiser in Toronto in honor of his friend and "brother", **David Blackwood**, known to many as 'David Judah Cry Tuff'. David Judah was an artist working in printmaking, painting, photography and music, and was a devotee of reggae. He travelled to Jamaica when he was nine years old and developed a deep interest in the 'roots' of reggae, Haile Selassie and Ethiopia.

David Judah died young as a result of melanoma in 2005. It was through his love for Ethiopia that his parents **Anita and David Blackwood** made a connection with *Partners* after meeting John Baigent. They have since supported the construction of **Oda Cheto Elementary School and Ambentu Library in Agarfa, both in honour of their son.**

David had a vast collection of Reggae music – the fundraiser was planned around sharing his love for music. **All proceeds for the fundraiser will be directed to Partners Laura's Place project which is geared towards educating young women through their university education.**

David Judah's mother Anita says that "It was becoming increasingly difficult to know that the music David loved to share was not being enjoyed by others. I asked Burke, who was a brother to my only child to help me. Burke came up with the idea of a tribute night with David's closest 'selector' friends choosing and playing David's records. It was a very special evening. David would have been proud of the event and prouder still, to know that the funds are going to Ethiopia to assist young women in furthering their education." (David's work can be viewed at davidjudah.ca)

