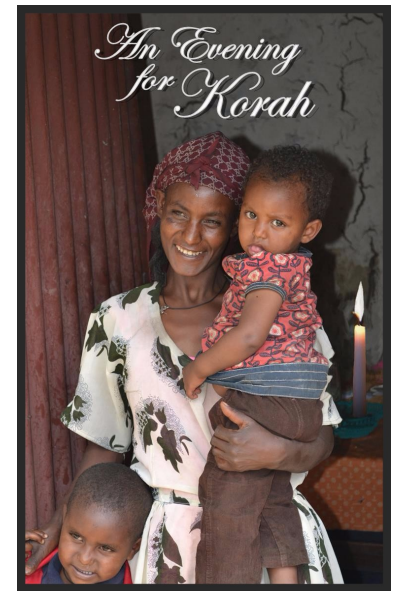




HOPE for KORAH

SAVE THE DATE!!



"Evening for Korah"

Fundraising Dinner & Auction

OCTOBER 24TH

Abbotsford, B.C.

Hope for Korah News

It's been an exciting year so far: Our Mid-Year Update

We hope you will find the time to read this mid-year update which will inform you of some program changes, as well as update you with the many stories of hope that have been ongoing this year. **Each person matters.** So many individual lives have been touched in numerous ways. Little Sawanet, a young girl who had a horrific untreated infection is receiving consistent care during her lengthy recovery from life-saving surgery, Etata an orphan living on the streets has been sponsored; received two prosthetic legs, undergone extensive rehabilitation and is able to walk for the first time, also the opening of 'Yedesta Gibi', our Vulnerable People's Home for those living with significant disabilities was an answer to extreme needs, furthermore many are being impacted by new developments in our *Income Generation, Self-Help Groups* and *Youth Programs*.

As promised in our previous communication, we would also like to share with you a mid-year financial update on where we currently sit in regards to meeting our fundraising goal for 2015. As you can see by our thermometer, much has been provided and we are so very thankful! To meet this year's budget an amount of \$41,971 is still needed and we hope that much of this can be raised before November, when we kick off our *Stand with Korah* campaign for the 2016 year.

What wonderful changes we are seeing in Korah - what a difference we are making together!

Enjoy our newsletter!

Eve Pohl

Executive Director HFK



To make a donation or for more information

Please contact Hope for Korah

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STAND WITH KORAH

Together we can make
a difference...

"Yedesta Gibi" - House of Joy HFK's Vulnerable People's Home



Hope for Korah is grateful to announce the opening of 'Yedesta Gibi' - Amharic for *House of Joy*. As our sponsorship programs have continued to grow, the need for a specialized residence for our more vulnerable families and persons with disabilities has become increasingly evident. We now have a beautiful compound which opened March 2015 and is home to a number of our women and their children, and a few orphaned teen boys and young adults, all of whom share significant disabilities or have in recent months undergone major life-saving surgery and require a clean, safe environment for their lengthy recovery, follow up and rehabilitation. This compound gives them just that, as well as a caregiver, medical & home visits from our nursing staff and a loving, supportive community.

The families and boys living in this compound recently chose the name "*Yedesta Gibi*" for their new home. This is what they had to say about why they chose the name they did: "*This compound means a lot to us... it is a source of our joy and relief. We are all so very happy to name it 'Yedesta Gibi' and we will never tire of being grateful for moving here!*"

Yedesta Gibi is in need of monthly supporters. If you would like to help make a difference by giving a one-time gift or becoming a monthly sponsor please email jacqueline@hopeforkorah.com

HFK First Aid Clinic Keeping Families Healthy & Keeping Families Together



Hope for Korah has a NEW First Aid Clinic which is located in our very own HFK Compound! This provides a hygienic location where our families can receive consistent follow up on their medical needs. Our HFK Medical Director Tammy Brandsma R.N, M.S.N. was instrumental in reorganizing and restructuring the assessment, treatment and follow-up of medical care, as well as training our Ethiopian nursing staff, and initiating regular routines of dispensing vitamins, de-worming medication & preventative treatment of trachoma for all of our families & beneficiaries.

Recently HFK hosted our 2nd "Women's Health Education Day" and we had over 180 women from the community of Korah come to learn about *Fungus Prevention - Skin, Scalp and Hair-care*, along with practical ways to prevent the spread of germs! It was a fun and interactive day of learning. Our aim was to provide pertinent health information in a way that was practical, memorable and applicable to the situations and ailments that are common to Korah. It was very well-received. One participant shared "*Thank you for teaching us these important things. You have taught us in a way we had never heard before. You helped us to really understand - thank you!*"

Income Generation and Self-Help Groups Empowering Families & Changing Lives



Mark & Tammy Brandsma and family returned home in May after serving 9 months alongside our HFK Program Coordinator Rahel Tamirat and other Ethiopian staff members. Under Mark's leadership they have all played an instrumental role in developing the framework to transition our families into Self-Help Groups with the ultimate goal of them eventually becoming self-supporting.

SELF-HELP GROUPS

It has been an exciting and challenging year for the families involved in Income Generation. Our focus this year has expanded from building artisan skills to providing our families with numeracy and literacy training, participation in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and opportunity for education in business & saving principles such as loans, interest, savings, and banking. Our families have obtained their first government IDs and are opening their own bank accounts to deposit money from their weekly savings. We are very proud of them! For many this is a challenging and scary concept as they had lived for years in survival mode, begging or scavenging through the trash dump.

We have also put together an assessment process in which Individuals will be evaluated bi-annually in order to track their holistic well-being and ability to be sufficiently independent over the long term. The assessment is divided into 4 categories; 1) Literacy, Numeracy, Money Management & Business Skills, 2) General Health and Well-being, 3) Employment and Life Skills and 4) Family and Community Involvement. We anticipate this tool will help us to better monitor progress, improve in areas of weakness, leverage off of strengths, and to have a basis from which to interact with the participant about his/her progress.

THE BENEFIT SOUK - 'Souk' is Amharic for store

Our families have also enthusiastically caught onto the vision of saving through the implementation of our 'Benefit Souk' which is a system by which our HFK program participants can earn merit points through displaying good work habits such as punctuality, producing quality products, team work and service to others. This has been a great way to give dignity and encourage empowerment as families experience the satisfaction of working towards and purchasing items of their own choosing.



During our recent trip it was very exciting to be a part of the “Souk Day” as our women were waiting in great anticipation until their name was drawn so that they could begin shopping! Many families spend their points on items that they would otherwise not be able to afford such as water containers, mattresses, shoes and clothing. There have also been touching, self-less moments such as when Webayehu worked all month to earn points and without hesitation gave some to Beylanesh so she would have enough to buy shoes for her son. Beylanesh later gave all of her points to some else who in turn was able to purchase a mattress. **Community, generosity, dignity, self-esteem and empowerment - a few priceless products of the Benefit Souk!**

The Elders' Home for Lepers



Through the love and support of many generous donors, these lively gentlemen living at the Elders' Home are not only equipped with a dignified living space, but also have the opportunity to enjoy tending to their flower gardens and chickens, in addition to attending a weekly bible study. Those who visit Korah consistently share that they have been touched by the tender and precious hearts of the gentlemen living in the Elders' Home. Getachew, pictured above with the eggs, was recently quoted saying *"I will never stop saying thank you. God bless all of you for forever changing my life!"* The beauty of these gentlemen is their ability to bless their visitors through stories of their resilience and their deep hearts of gratitude for the new life they have been given. **We are still looking for MORE SPONSORS for the Elder's Home!** For more information on how you can make an impact in the lives of the Elders, please email jacqueline@hopeforkorah.com



Jake Has Moved to Ethiopia And our Kids are so Excited

In mid-July Jake Boner moved to Ethiopia for five months to serve with HFK!! We eagerly anticipate great things from Jake. Over the past 3 years when it comes to serving the people of Korah, Jake has been “ALL IN!” Our HFK kids love him and they are so excited to have him back! He has traveled to Ethiopia numerous times to serve on short-term mission teams and he is absolutely committed to Korah. While in Ethiopia, Jake’s primary role will be to work with our youth programs and to come alongside our Ethiopian Youth Social Worker Shemelis Mekonnen. PLEASE KEEP JAKE IN YOUR PRAYERS: for wisdom, discernment, energy and good health for all that is before him and especially for God's undeniable leading each step of the way.

HFK LEADERS' RETREAT & TRAINING



We are so grateful and appreciative for our amazing Ethiopian staff on the ground in Korah. We could not do what we do without their passion, hard work and tremendous commitment. They speak into and touch the lives of all of our children, families and elders every day! We thank God for each one and for those sponsors who help to support their positions at HFK. Thank you!

One BIG highlight during our May trip was the 'Leaders' Retreat & Training' that we as a team prepared for before arriving in Ethiopia. We brought six staff from our Ethiopian leadership team away with us on an overnight trip outside of Addis Ababa. Our purpose was to support, bless and encourage each leader on a deeper level than time allows us in Korah as we are constantly faced with daily needs and responsibilities. Our time away was not only fun, but also filled with engaging times of learning. We held three sessions. The first was on Leadership: vision, purpose & plan, the second was on Social Work: Psycho-Social Rehab principles and our third session was a Biblical Perspective: being a Servant Leader. In between we explored the beautiful lakeside surroundings, played games, enjoyed Ethiopian food and closed our time away with individual and small group prayer. Overall the retreat was very meaningful and our purpose was met; for all of us to grow as leaders and to especially let our Ethiopian staff know how very much we appreciate their dedication, hard work and the value they each have as individuals and to the work God has put before us through the HFK ministry.



Soccer Programs are Expanding GIRLS' SOCCER KICK OFF



Our youth programs are growing in a number of areas; our after-school tutoring runs all summer long and now encompasses early morning English classes, our rental opportunities changed and we now lease the entire Berta compound which gives us a number of youth rooms; one is our activity center equipped with ping pong and another will house our small library which we are just beginning to build. However the biggest highlight this year was starting the Girls' Soccer Program, as previously we only had a program for boys. The kids absolutely LOVE playing soccer and look forward to their regular practices 1-2 times per week. During our recent trip to Korah, we had lots of fun handing out a new pair of cleats and colourful socks to each girl in the program! What fun it was to watch the girls smile and laugh as they ran around in their new gear, including their matching jerseys donated by the *University of the Fraser Valley Women's Soccer Team*. Prior to each soccer practice, all of the kids participate in a pre-game devotional where many youth have started to deepen their faith.



HFK Field Trips GRADES 3 & 4 - BORN FREE ZOO GRADES 6 & 7 - BOWLING

Field trips continue to be an important part of providing the children in our program with opportunities for experiential learning and great fun! When we brought our Grade 4 & 5 students outside of Addis Ababa to visit the Born Free Zoo, 90% of our kids had never been out of the city slum or played in the grass or under trees. They all enjoyed taking in the fresh air and were fascinated, yet afraid of the wild animals - especially the lions! Equally exciting was an excursion to the city bowling alley for our Grade 6 & 7 students. These kids had definitely never had any experience like 10 pin bowling and they all had a blast!



Hope for Korah NEWS - Summer 2015

Berta Breakfast Program FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

The Berta Breakfast Program has had numbers of significant updates over the past year. A new Berta kitchen and latrine were built to help encourage better sanitation and health, and the feeding center was recently repainted. Our social worker



Shemelis is up very early every morning to help serve Berta to the 175+ kids who attend the Breakfast Program 5 days per week before school. While living in Ethiopia, our Medical Director Tammy Brandsma created a system for our Ethiopian nurses to dispense medications to prevent trachoma, and to better track the impact of the Berta

program by regularly measuring children's height and weight according to WHO standards. This is a great way to ensure that our kids are receiving proper nutrition and care. For those who measure grossly behind we are then able to move them into our "Plumpy Nut" program through our First Aid Clinic. In addition, all of our Berta children are now receiving multivitamins twice per week with their Berta pancake!

HFK Kindergarten & Daycare



Our young ones continue to be well-cared for and challenged to grow in our HFK Day Care and our HFK Kindergarten, while their mothers are busy working in the Income Generation program. This year we hired a new kindergarten teacher who loves teaching our kids and is using many of the creative teaching aids and materials that have been provided to her by our donors. Thank you for making a difference in these young lives!

Next Trip September 10th WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS OF BACK PACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School supplies include pens, pencils, markers, coloured pencils, erasers & pencil sharpeners.

Please have them to our office by August 30th

