



Water for the first time in two years - their faces say it all!

## The Power of Water

**Students Had Not Washed their Hands in 2 Years**  
**School of 5,000 Now Has Access to Water**

Situated next to the trash dump, children from Abune Basilius School are from the poorest families in Korah. With 4,842 students and 265 staff, we were shocked to find out they had not washed their hands in two years! Why? No water. Neither had their toilets been cleaned for two years!! Can you imagine? The sanitation was horrible. Teachers would not work there because of the stench. Every day 20 support staff walked 1 km to the nearest water source and returned carrying 25 L of water on their backs. The school was gifted 9 cows for milk, but they require too much water and were about to be sold. Without water this school was struggling.

In February, HFK responded by trucking in 20,000 L of water every week. Now students wash hands once a day and toilets are cleaned twice a week. The cows are staying and 900 kindergartners drink milk! But the need is much greater - 60,000 L per week!

**We want to do more and we need your help! Water can change this school and empower these children.** Effective immediately, HFK will be delivering 60,000 L of water every week! We also want to repair the 31 year old well that sits broken on the property. When the Principal heard this good news, he was in disbelief, *"This is our biggest need, there is nothing more I could ask for... You have given us hope that we can solve this problem. Thank you!"*

HELP US BRING NEEDED WATER TO THIS SCHOOL

GIVE | WATER | EMPOWER

WATCH VIDEO AT [WWW.HOPEFORKORAH.ORG](http://WWW.HOPEFORKORAH.ORG)



## The Power of Education

**Covid has Changed Our Approach**  
**After-School Tutoring is Expanding**



We've had to make some big changes to our after-school tutoring program! After the Covid-19 lock-down, Ethiopian children returned back to school on a 3-day rotation. This means school is in session 6 days per week and in order to support our 243 students, HFK has had to expand our after-school tutoring to all-day tutoring! **We now run classes for grades 1-11, morning and afternoon, six days per week.** To teach these children, we've hired eight tutors for Amharic, English, Math, Physics and Chemistry. We've also hired a computer instructor for our **NEW COMPUTER LAB!** (below)



In Korah, children's education is often fragmented due to poverty and life circumstances, so we have recruited tutors who understand the academic and personal struggles our kids face, and can identify and help with their learning needs. We also hired a very passionate Special Education teacher to coordinate and provide tutors with ongoing training in this area. We are excited to see the impact all of this will have on our students. **Due to changes, the tutoring budget has tripled, if you would like to help change lives through the power of education, please give to HFK's Tutoring Program.**

## Our Youth Empowerment Center is a Happening Place

**Clubs & Activities Enrich Children's Education**



Theatre Club Production



Participating in "The Great Ethiopian Run"

- ⇒ Visual Arts Club
- ⇒ Theatre Club
- ⇒ Library & Book Club
- ⇒ Soccer & Sports
- ⇒ Berta Breakfast Program
- ⇒ The Kindness Club
- ⇒ Integrated Bible Study
- ⇒ Games Center

## Partnering with Local Schools

Recently, fourteen administrators and teachers from our students' eight schools, attended a luncheon to meet with our staff, learn about HFK's vision and visit our tutoring and youth empowerment center. It was an excellent time of sharing experiences, challenges and knowledge to help our students and fill the communication gap between schools and families. Most schools have 2,000 - 5,000 students and typically only meet with parents when a child is badly misbehaving. One administrator said "Sometimes we regret the measures we've taken because we did not understand the child and their family situation." They were surprised to see all that HFK is doing to support learning and were eager to come alongside and follow up with our staff and students who attend their school. Plans for continued partnership and future meetings were put in place.



# Economic Empowerment Highlights

## Grants - One Big Step Closer to Becoming Self-Sufficient



Many of our families have spent a lot of time preparing for the big step of transitioning from sponsorship for their basic needs to supporting themselves. In preparation they have completed business trainings and met one-on-one with our Economic Empowerment staff to work on their goals and S.M.A.R.T. business plans. Since February, HFK has awarded 42 business or vocational grants. Many are selling products such as vegetables, clothing or

firewood, while others are utilizing their skills like sewing or baking. This week we have also received some great news - the government is awarding five of these women a marketplace area for selling!

Our hope is to see sufficient. Therefore, "transition team" made staff from strategic and work closely critical transition year. given them. This it is complex and



each family become self- we have put together a strong up of social workers and key program areas to follow up with these women during this Please pray for their success and that each person will use every opportunity God has step takes a lot of courage and determination, it is not easy in a community like Korah, as fraught with many challenges...



*Lensa's husband has just left her. She is grateful to have this new vegetable business.*

And there is no breaking out of poverty without it.

## Meet Our Staff

In honour of International Women's Day our staff hosted a blood bank at our HFK compound and invited other NGOs to join us in giving to women in need of blood during difficult deliveries or other emergent situations. Blood donations have significantly decreased due to the pandemic and currently there is a shortage in the country. We love that our staff are thinking of important ways they can make a difference in the lives of others and gave to Ethiopia's National Blood Bank!



**Abinet**  
Economic Empowerment  
Consultant/Trainer



**Fekadu**  
General Services &  
Program Support



**Jake**  
North American Liaison



**Mousa**  
Elders' Caregiver



**Nigist**  
Daycare Cook



**(R) Sosena**  
HFK Country Director  
**(L) National Bloodbank Nurse**

## Women's Economic Empowerment Forum

### HFK Receives a Special Invitation to Participate

In March, HFK received very positive feedback from Ethiopian government officials during an annual visit and assessment of our programs. The very next day, the Addis Ababa Women and Children's Affairs bureau (WCA) invited HFK to become a member of their Non-Government Organizations' (NGO) forum on Women's Empowerment. WCA established this forum to create one strong voice and force in this area. The forum consists of successful NGOs working in women's empowerment. It is a privilege to be selected for this group as it will give HFK opportunities to speak into important women's issues, learn from others, share good practices, participate in research, and collaborate on resources and experiences. Together as NGOs, we can have a stronger influence, set bigger goals and achieve greater results with a far-reaching impact for the poor and needy.

## HFK's International Women's Day Dinner

Honouring the resilient and resourceful women of Korah



*A special candlelight dinner was something most had never experienced before.*

## Basket Weaver's Association

### We sold out at the Artisan Bazaars!

Much more than an opportunity to earn an income



It is an exciting time for HFK's Basket Weavers' Association (BWA). After months of perfecting their skills, these artisans have done extremely well, selling out at several international bazaars and currently working on a backlog of new orders.

The BWA offers an important avenue to empower women who do not fit a more traditional path to self-sustainability due to their older age, disabilities or personal challenges. Some of these women may not be candidates to run a business or become employed, but they do possess a great talent and are excellent basket weavers. In the past they did not value their ability or see this as an asset they could tap into. However that all changed as people began flocking to purchase their baskets, inspiring their confidence, self-esteem and motivation to soar. Each artisan works independently and receives all of the profit from their sales. Best of all, the BWA brings a sense of community as the women love working alongside each other, sharing life and helping one another perfect their skills.

## Did you know? Every week on "Wednesday Warrior" you can join

HFK Staff in Canada/Ethiopia as they share live video updates or post prayer requests on Facebook / Instagram - Making a Difference Through Prayer