

# BRAVE HEARTS

ETHIOPIA



Annual Report

2019

[www.braveheartsethiopia.org](http://www.braveheartsethiopia.org)



**Brave Hearts**

**Ethiopian Residents' Charity Organization**

## **BHE 2018 Annual Report 1 January - 31 December 2019**

*Cover Photo taken by Ralph from Vivobarefoot*

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## Message from the Director

*As the year 2019 comes to a close, we at Brave Hearts Ethiopia are blessed with the joy of including 17 new children into our program and seeing 3 of our youth graduate from university. The children who joined the program were deeply affected by extreme poverty, HIV/AIDS prevalence and/or the loss of one or both parents. We worked extensively on each of their cases assessing their needs and the support they required to overcome the trauma and challenges they faced so they continue and thrive in their education.*

*I am extremely proud of Bogalech, Dawit and Abiba who earned their degrees in Accounting and Finance, Water Engineering and Food Science and Nutrition respectively. They are exemplary role models for the younger children and youth in our program showing them they can turn their lives around through hard work and education.*

*During the year we were also grateful for the successful undertaking of two children's surgery who were able to return to school after their recovery. My deep gratitude goes to Daniela Berger, Dr. Rick and staff of Cure Hospital who undertook the difficult surgery of one of the children who had sustained injury from a broken arm.*

*I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Dean Hanson and the Hanson Family Foundation for its continued support to empowering orphaned and vulnerable children and their families through our program. I also thank Berhane Hanson for donating outdoor games for the children and Luke Hanson for supporting our project as well. The generous support of Dean and the Hanson family has enabled the program to sustain and grow and our hearts to strengthen in carrying on our work.*

*I deeply wish to thank Reg Hankey and Tesdenia Mekbib of Pittards PLC for supporting Bogalech and their efforts in helping her find employment soon after her graduation. I also thank Peter Racklyeft for his continued support to Bogalech throughout the years.*

*Special thanks to the BHE Australia Board, volunteers and supporters who run successful and informative fundraising campaigns and events during the year. Their efforts supported BHE's Back to School program helping raise funds for the children's bags, exercise books and materials for the new school year. I also thank student volunteers from Bingham Academy for activity supporting our tutorial and library services in their spare time.*

*Finally, I wish to warmly thank all our donors, partners, supporters, volunteers and dedicated staff for ensuring we meet our goal of empowering orphaned and vulnerable children and their families through holistic care.*



*(Signed)*

*Konjit Yimer  
Managing Director  
Brave Hearts Ethiopia (BHE)*

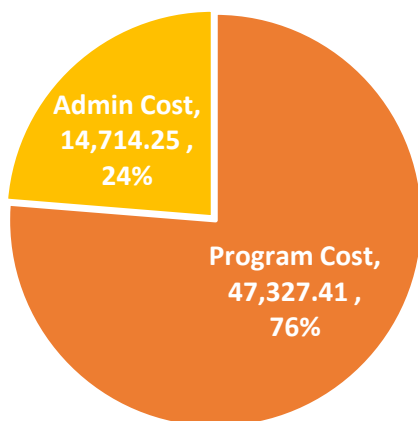
## Major Highlights in 2019

BHE is supporting 167 children, youth, guardians and family members by the end of 2019. Three of BHE's higher education students, Bogalech, Dawit and Abiba graduated from university this year with degrees in Accounting and Finance, Water Engineering and Food Science and Nutrition respectively. This was a proud moment and achievement for the program as these three orphaned youths have overcome several hardships. Bogalech also started employment soon after her graduation. BHE is also supporting the others in earning their employment and becoming self-reliant.



BHE implemented its activities with a total expenditure of 62,041.66 USD in 2019. The program costs covered 76% (47,327.41 USD) of the total expense, while administration costs covered 24% (14,714.25 USD), in accordance with the budget allocation regulations of the local government.

Program Expenditure in 2019 (USD)



### Major Program Services

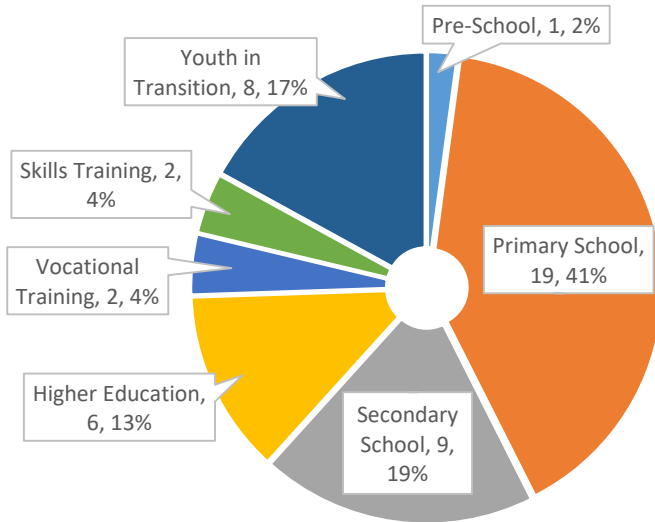
- ✓ Educational support
- ✓ Nutrition and materials
- ✓ Sanitation and health
- ✓ Skills training and IGA
- ✓ Counseling and Psycho social support
- ✓ Monitoring and follow up
- ✓ Community outreach

BHE effectively carried education, nutrition and health, sanitation, skills training, income generation, counseling and psychosocial support activities with very positive impacts on the children's academic skills, overall health, life skills along with their family's financial security over the year. BHE successfully handed over its latrine reconstruction project to the local community.

## Educational Program and Tutorial Services

BHE is currently supporting 19 students in primary, 9 in secondary, 6 in higher education, 2 in vocational training and 2 in skills training. One child is in pre-school. Out of these children and youth, BHE supports three youth with special needs, one in secondary, one in higher education and one in skills training.

No. of Children and Youth in Education and Training



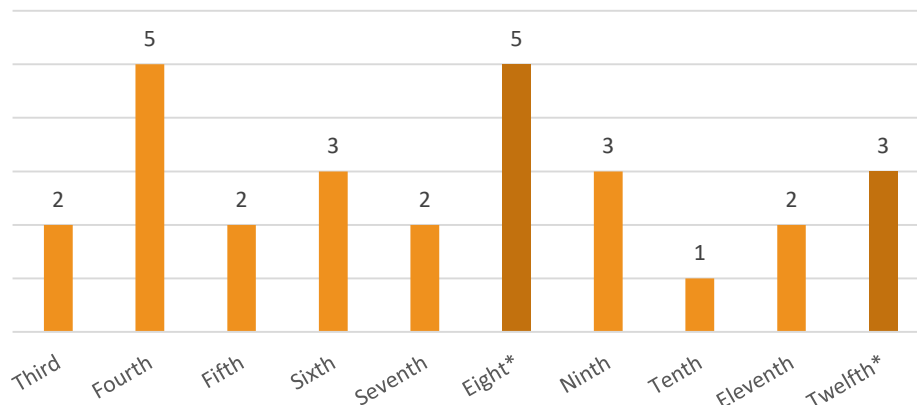
*47 Children & Youth & 31 Guardians directly supported in the program*

- ✓ 962 hours of tutorials
- ✓ 160 school visits
- ✓ 1 in pre-school
- ✓ 19 in primary school
- ✓ 9 in secondary school
- ✓ 6 in higher education
- ✓ 2 in skills training
- ✓ 8 in transition

The success of Bogalech, Dawit and Abiba earning their degrees reflects on the BHE's mission of supporting orphaned and vulnerable youth through holistic care and quality education. They also become good role models for younger students in the program to strive to succeed in their education.

BHE provided children in primary and secondary school with educational materials, bags, clothes and books for their academic year. They received 962 hours of tutorial support in 2019. Library and computer support are provided to the children to support their studies and learn new skills during the summer.

No. of Students in Primary & Secondary School



\* Grades where students take national exam

## Health and Nutrition Services

BHE provides students with healthy after school snacks so they may be re-energized for their daily tutorial sessions. BHE also provides coverage for health expenses of children and guardians. In 2019, 25 children and 2 guardians received effective medical care.

At the end of the year BHE supported the surgery and recovery of two children under the program. Both underwent and completed their surgery successfully and are now recovering well to get back to school. CURE Hospital supported one of the children's surgery to treat his broken arm. BHE supports speedy health access so children may recover and go back to school without unnecessary delay.



BHE supports children and youth with special needs ensuring their medical needs are met. This includes extra nutrition, physiotherapy, wheelchair maintenance and special needs skills training. BHE also provides children and guardians with sanitation and hygiene material support. It has distributed about 400 soaps and 100 pads over the year.



Outdoor games and activities have been expanded in 2019 so the children have fun while staying active and physically healthy. The children now have table tennis, table football, trampoline and basketball for outdoor activities. Children were provided with healthy after school snacks so they may get re-energized for their tutorial sessions.

## Guardian Income Generating Activities (IGA)

BHE supports guardians through its Income Generating Activities (IGA) association by providing initial loans for a revolving fund that members save towards. Supporting families mostly run by single mothers through IGA provides these women with empowerment and ownership to maintain a sustainable livelihood. Out of the 41 guardians under its support, 15 of them have taken loans for their small business.

Guardians who newly took loans this year are doing well establishing their small business while guardians who had been taking loans previously are sustaining their business well. Sitota was able to change her very small house and now has better housing. Bizunesh also works hard with dedication for her business.



BHE has also held 12 guardian group sessions in the year 2019 to discuss issues related to their small business or raising the children under their care. BHE provided guardians with chicken and eggs for major holidays.



## Psychosocial Activities and Counseling

Psychosocial services support children and youth develop life skills and cope with past trauma through group and individual counseling sessions. BHE has held 38 Saturday sessions this year to help children and youth build their self-confidence, self-expression, develop tolerance and listening to others as well as debate and discussion skills.



Through these discussions the social worker guides them by raising their awareness on peer influence, study habits, healthy relationships, time management, health and sanitation and community support.

BHE's Social Worker undertook 42 individual counseling sessions in 2019. Individual and group session help the children cope with issues they may be facing at school and at home. Group sessions help children express their problems and ideas together and build a sense of helping each other solve problems.





## BHE Visits from Donors, Partners and Supporters

BHE received several visits from its donors, partners and volunteers this year. Children, guardians and staff made guests feel welcome with warm gatherings and traditional bread and coffee.



and staff made guests feel welcome with warm gatherings and traditional bread and coffee. The children and youth actively participated in events by performing drama, dance and poetry for guests.

Dean Hanson CEO of Hanson Builders and his sons Luke and Berhane Hanson, who support BHE through the Hanson Family Foundation. The Hansons visited the homes of the children and guardian's IGA. They continued their support to the orphaned and vulnerable children through BHE.

BHE welcomed a visit from Reg Hankey CEO of Pittards UK and his team. They brought joy, gifts, and treats for the children and youth in our program. The team spent time discussing and sharing with the children. Reg and the team also supported one of the youth, Bogalech, who graduated from university to find employment in her field of study.



BHE also received visits from Dulma Clark, Managing Director of our partner Soul of Africa UK along with the Vivobarefoot team including Galahad and Asher Clark, CEO and Design Director at Vivobarefoot respectively along with their team. Andy Parrit also visited our drop in center. BHE Australia supporters and friends visited the program and also brought delicious food and packed gifts for each child in our program.



BHE received a visit from Dr. Jenny Ouliaris a family therapist from Australia along with her kids. She shared experiences and lessons with the children and also previously donated 50 menstrual hygiene packs. BHE also received a visit from Nadia Waber who spent time with the children in the program and shared experiences with the youth. BHE received visits also from Dr. Yayehyirad Mekonnen who inspired the children, and Yamral Africa who supported BHE's cause by linking BHE on their website.

## BHE's Community Outreach and BHE Australia

BHE supports the community through its two community toilet projects which benefit members of the community where the children in the program live. In 2019 BHE handed over the second community toilet it reconstructed successfully. The latrine included toilet, shower and hand washing basin facilities as well as a septic tank and pipe water with flush systems.



BHE also disseminates information regarding its activities through its website and social media Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to expand its reach and raise awareness about the program. BHE Australia supports BHE through raising awareness and funds as well as strengthening cultural ties between the communities of Ethiopia and Australia.



BHEA board members, volunteers and supporters organized wonderful events with lively entertainment to raise awareness and funds for children and youth supported by the BHE program. The children and youth were very happy and energized to receive school materials and clothes increasing their excitement to attend their schooling.



## Our 2019 Opration in Numbers

Overall Support	Tutorial Support	School Visit Follow Up
167	962	160
<i>47 Children and youth 41 Guardians and 78 family members supported</i>	<i>Hours of tutorial sessions were provided for the children</i>	<i>School visits were conducted</i>
Psychosocial Support		IGA Trainings
42	38	12
<i>Individual Counseling Sessions</i>	<i>Saturday Sessions on Life Skills</i>	<i>Guardian training sessions on IGA</i>
Hygine and Sanitation		Community Outreach
400	100	1,013
<i>Soaps disbursed to children and youth</i>	<i>Menstrual Hygine Pads disbursed to girls</i>	<i>Benefited from Larine Reconstruction Project in Woreda 7</i>
Medical Support	IGA Members	Social Media Reach
27	41	1,000
<i>Program participants received effective medical care support</i>	<i>Guardian members of the Income Generation Association supported by BHE</i>	<i>Over 1,000 likes on BHE's FB page, 137 followers on Instragram and 72 on Twitter</i>



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