

BRAVE HEARTS

ETHIOPIA



Annual Report
2021

www.braveheartsethiopia.org



Brave Hearts

Ethiopian Residents' Charity Organization

Annual Report

1 January - 31 December 2021

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1. Message from the Director

As 2021 comes to a close, we reflect on this year and express our heartfelt gratitude for all of our supporters. The year has not been without its challenges. COVID-19 continues to present a global challenge and Ethiopia is still facing the greatest challenge of our time. Yet with resilience and brave hearts, we continue to strive to create a better future by combating poverty.

At Brave Hearts, we continue our work in ensuring vulnerable children and youth succeed and thrive through quality education. This year Tigist graduated from university earning her BA in Construction Management Engineering and Eyerusalem graduated with her Diploma in Accounting. To our delight, Lemma also graduated from high school with outstanding grades and started his first year at university studying Computer Science.

Everyone at Brave Hearts is immensely proud of the dedication and success of these talented young individuals. I am filled with utmost pride by the academic achievements of the majority of our students. This year has been a record for academic excellence at Brave Hearts, as we awarded 10 children and youth prizes for earning results at the top of their class.

Our BHE family was also delighted to receive visits from Braun Hanson of the Hanson Family Foundation and the Australian Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Julia Niblett and her team. We truly appreciate our continued partnership with the Hanson Family Foundation and the Australian Embassy and their commitment to helping improve the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children.

As the year ends, we fondly remember Wro. Tiruwork, the kind guardian of one of our program graduates, who passed away. We also pay tribute to Ramona Hanson, who has touched all of us at Brave Hearts and left a lasting legacy.

I would like to convey my deepest gratitude to our major partner, Dean Hanson and the Hanson Family Foundation for their dedicated support to empowering vulnerable children and youth through our program at Brave Hearts Ethiopia.

I also extend my warm appreciation to Reg Hankey, Tesednia Mekbib and the Pittards team, David Khandan, the Austability team, Sharon and George Marshall. Thank you to all our supporters, amazing staff, board of directors and volunteers. I am incredibly grateful for your unwavering dedication to the children at Brave Hearts.



(Signed)

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

2. Vision, Mission and Overview

Vision

We envision a world where poverty is inexistent. We aim to break the cycle of poverty by empowering vulnerable communities to become self-sufficient through the transformative impact of high-quality education.

Mission

Brave Hearts' mission is to empower orphaned and vulnerable children, youth and their families to become sustainably self-reliant by providing holistic care, access to quality education, nutrition, health care, life skills training, micro-finance, and psychosocial assistance.

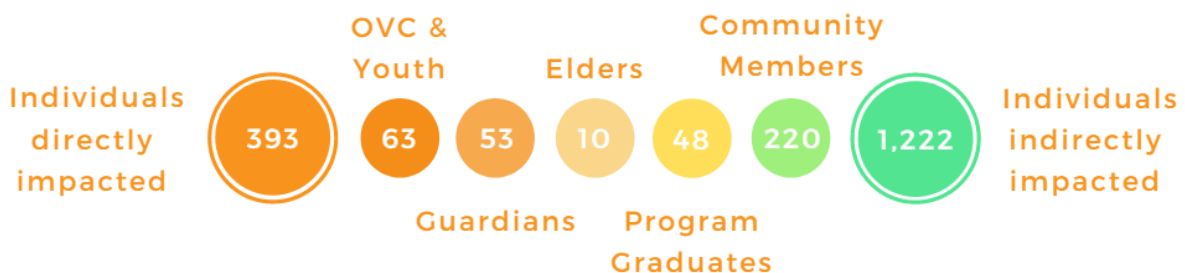
Program Overview

Brave Hearts Ethiopia (BHE), is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 2014, registered and licensed under the name Brave Hearts Ethiopian Resident Charity with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Charities and Society Agency (CSA).

The program is designed to implement a holistic kinship model of care to improve the living condition of Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC), enabling access to basic needs and creating opportunities to support OVC eventually to create self-reliant and productive citizens.

Brave Hearts Ethiopia has directly benefited more than 393 children, guardians and community members through educational, health and psychosocial support, as well as through microfinance programs and sanitation projects. Out of those; 111 were orphan and vulnerable children, 52 of them were children's guardians and the remaining 220 were community members.

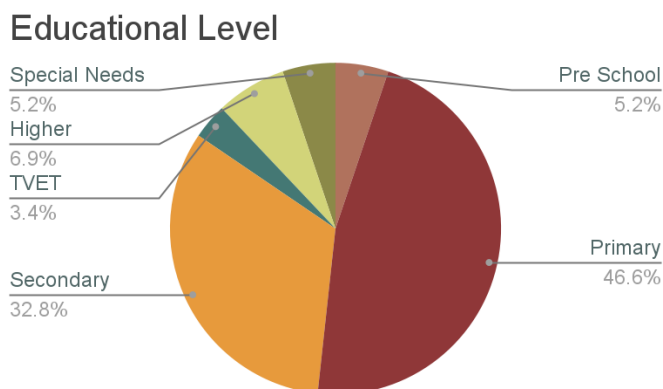
The project has also benefited more than 1,222 individuals indirectly, including the children's and guardian's extended families, workers employed for project activities and community members. Currently, BHE supports 63 children and youth along with their guardians and 10 elders.



BHE's major project services are based on a holistic care model where we provide: material and technical (tutorials) educational support; library services; after school meals; medical assistance; nutritional allowance; income generating activities and micro financing; providing startup capital; training on saving and credit; group and individual counseling; training on HIV/AIDS; and life skill training. BHE also provides special needs support for the children in the program who require additional food, physiotherapy and medical support.

3. Educational Program and Tutorial Services

BHE is currently supporting 3 students in pre-school, 27 in primary, 19 in secondary, 4 in higher education and 2 in TVET education. This year, the students have attended 815 hours of after school tutorial sessions.



Over the summer, the children undertook 48 hours of book reading, 24 hours of computer lessons and 36 hours of drama training. During their training the children enacted drama scenes involving different characters they observe in their community. Older youth supported the younger kids in computer lessons.



This year Tigist graduated from university earning her BA in Construction Management Engineering and Eyerusalem graduated with her Diploma in Accounting. To our delight, Lemma also graduated from high school with outstanding grades and started his first year at university studying Computer Science.



We joyfully awarded the excelling students in our program with certificates and gifts on Saturday, 5 June 2021. We were extremely proud that four of our students ranked 1st and five ranked up to 10th in their class. BHE social workers have undertaken 104 school visits this year to follow up on students' progress with their teachers and discuss areas of success or improvement.

4. Health and Nutrition Services

BHE has provided children with 293 after school meals during the year so they may be re-energized for their daily tutorial sessions. BHE also provides coverage support for the children's health expenses. In 2021, 11 children received effective medical care assistance.

Over the year, BHE has distributed 341 soaps, 93 pads, 163 sanitizers and 77 masks to support hygiene and sanitation support as well as assist children and families in staying safe from COVID-19. We are grateful to Marta Borena, BHEA board of directors, and her friends in Australia for the kind donation of Birke pads and Asefash Alene and Betelhem for their support.



The kids are encouraged to do different indoor and outdoor activities including games, table tennis, coloring and gardening. The children and youth regularly participate in environmental hygiene and cleaning so they learn the importance of maintaining their environment.



We are grateful to the donation of Braun Hanson for new balls including basketball, football and soccer balls. Thanks also to Reg Hankey and the Pittards UK team the kids received a lego set and operation game for indoor recreation.



5. 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 70 group sessions this year to help children and youth build their self-confidence, self-expression, positive thinking and listening to others as well as debate and discussion skills.



Through these discussions the social worker guides them by raising their awareness on positive thinking, empathy, self esteem, maintaining hygiene, motivational speaking, and maintaining happiness among others. The children and youth practiced rehearsing speeches and drama scripts which helped them increase their public speaking and arts skills.



BHE's Social Worker undertook 76 individual counseling sessions this year. Individual sessions help the children cope with issues they may be facing at school and at home. The children are able to express their problems and ideas with our social workers for support and guidance.

BHE's Social Worker undertook 48 home visits in 2021. The home visits ensure the children are getting support through counseling and follow up at home.

We were proud that our social worker, Beniyam Kedir, graduated with a Masters of Social Work from Addis Ababa University. Binyam is an excellent social worker and a wonderful member of our team.

6. Guardian Income Generating Activities (IGA)

BHE supports guardians' income through various Income Generating Activities (IGA) by providing initial loans for a revolving fund that members save towards. The guardians micro finance association has 66 members. Five guardians who are able to start and improve their business have been provided loans this year.

Medina works hard to strengthen their small business. Medina is growing her small business preparing and selling 'Berbere' (chili powder), incense and charcoal with the loan she received.



Hareg has been able to improve her shop with the loan she received where she sells socks and undergarments in her community. Hareg and her husband worked as daily laborers and found it difficult to support their three children including Simon.

Sitota has improved her veggie business by diversifying the types of veggies and improving her shelter. Her son Yibeltal is also a bright young boy in our program. He recently ranked 4th in his 9th grade class. She successfully returned her first loan.



BHE provides guardians with loans to improve their business, renovate their shelter and work places which are in poor condition as well as support them in their time of need. Guardians, the majority of which are women, are empowered through micro finance.

The aim of the BHE income generation activities project is to ensure the children in the program and their families have sustainable livelihoods in order to have a lasting impact on their lives.

7. 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. The children and youth actively participated in events by performing drama, dance and poetry for guests.

We had a joyous visit from our very own Braun Hanson from Minnesota. Braun has been a fantastic support to our project and we are grateful for his ongoing dedication and commitment to supporting our project. It was a very special day for our community. Our children and youth were excited by his generous gifts and thoroughly enjoyed Braun's presence and playing basketball with him. We are thankful for the wonderful support of the Hanson Family.



Brave Hearts Ethiopia was honored to receive a visit from the Australian Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Julia Niblett and her team from the Australian Embassy, Ethiopia on 22 October 2021. We are deeply thankful to H.E. Ms. Julia Niblett who generously donated books to our center and strengthened our continued partnership with the Australian Embassy.



BHE Visits from Donors, Partners and Supporters

We were deeply grateful for Dulma Clark at Vivobarefoot and the Little Sun team who visited our program. They generously provided the Brave Hearts children with solar lamps that they can use when studying at home during electricity outages. They also provided story books. The children and their guardians received an orientation on how to use the lamps.



All of us at Brave Hearts were delighted to receive a visit from a member of our founding Board of Directors, Sehen Sahilu (Mimi) who generously donated to our education program. Her dedication, support and expertise was instrumental to the establishment of BHE. BHE also received a visit from our wonderful friends Yeshiwork Woldehar, Director, Ghion GAS PLC, Nolawit, Nehemiah and Sosina, Admasu.

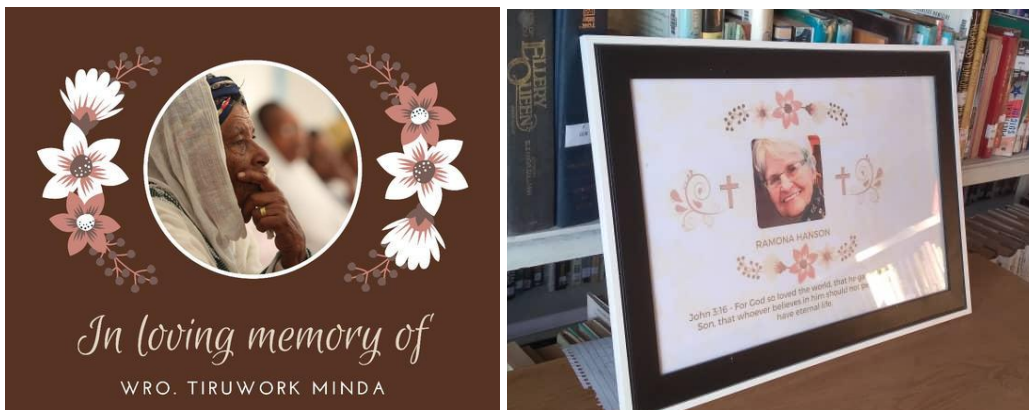


We were grateful to members of Rotaract who visited our program and donated education and hygiene materials for the children. The children and youth performed a musical drama for the group and enjoyed their time together.



8. BHE Tributes and Community Outreach

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Wro. Tiruwork Minda. She was a kind, tenacious woman who raised Ejigu, one of our Brave Hearts' graduates, after he lost his parents at a young age. Wro. Tiruwork will be remembered for her kindness and graceful personality.



We also paid tribute to Ramona Hanson, a loving woman and mother who has crossed over to heaven. Ramona was a wonderful woman of God who leaves behind an amazing legacy. She has touched all of us at Brave Hearts Ethiopia through the great kindness, love and care the Hanson family has shown orphaned and vulnerable children and communities in need in Ethiopia.

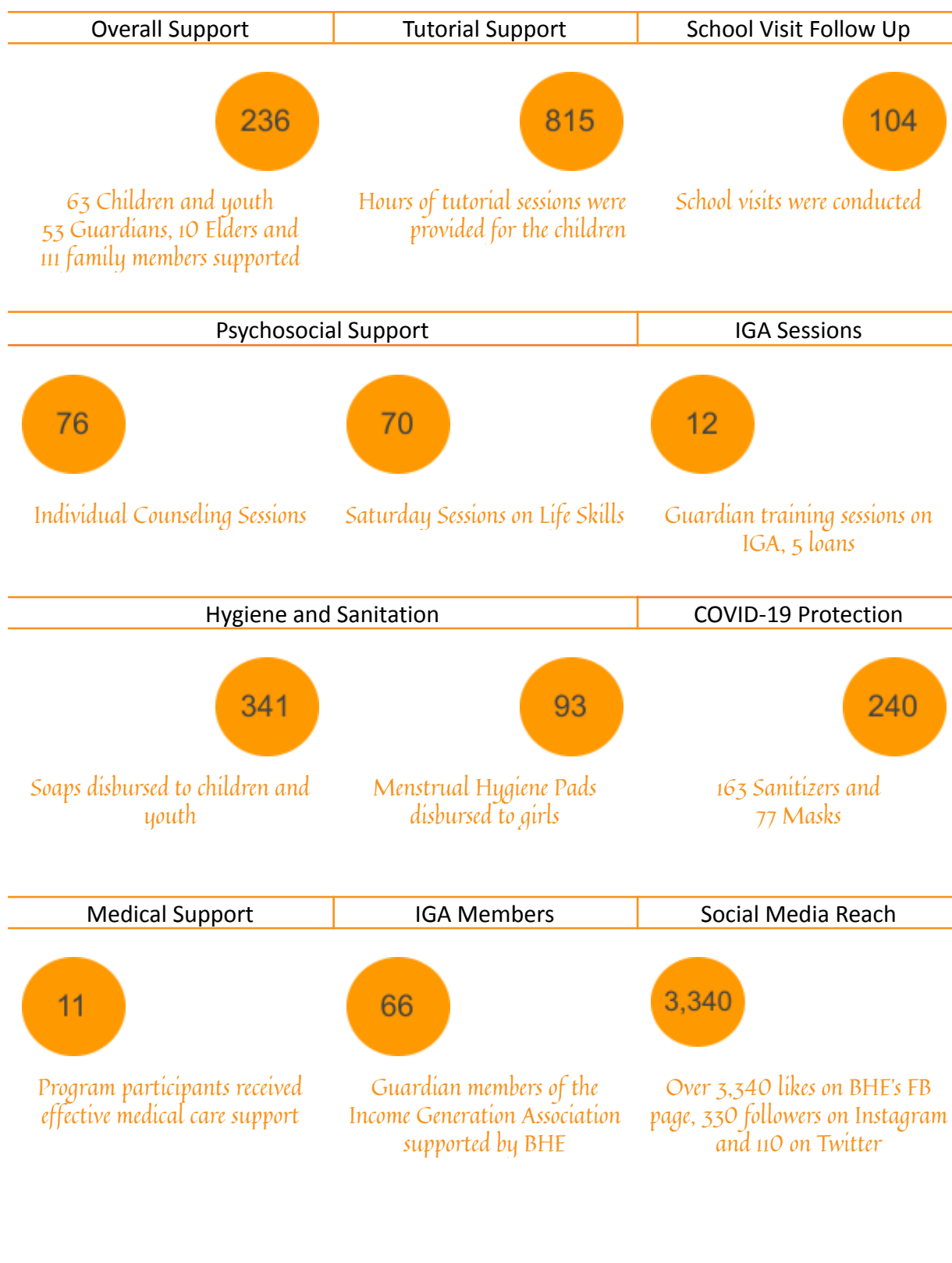
BHE donated 192 exercise books for Woreda 07 Education Office to provide support for children in public school. As part of our commitment to improved practice and collaboration, BHE's Social Workers attended a forum hosted by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs held in January and March 2021.



BHE attended a meeting hosted by Addis Ababa Women and Children's Office for NGOs on the current situation the country is facing. Raising awareness and combating misinformation were key points raised in the meeting.

BHE donated to those who have been displaced due to the conflict. BHE's online outreach through its Social Media following has reached over 3,340 likes on Facebook, 330 Instagram followers and 110 Twitter followers.

9. Our 2021 Operation in Numbers





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