



**BRAVE**  **HEARTS**  
ETHIOPIA

Quarterly Progress Report • 1 July - 30 September 2019



**Brave Hearts**

**Ethiopian Residents' Charity Organization**

## **BHE Forth Quarter Progress Report 1 July - 30 September 2019**

*Cover Photo: Kids in the program joyful on the day they got their back to school new bags.*

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**BRAVE  
HEARTS  
ETHIOPIA**

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## Message from the Director

*Brave Hearts Ethiopia is filled with joy and hope as we usher in the Ethiopian New Year of 2012 (from September 2019 - 2020 GC). The summer break, winter season in Ethiopia, passed wonderfully as the children were engaged in educational and fun activities to keep them sharp and ready for the next year. They received English, Math and Computer Skills tutorials provided by our summer volunteers who mentored the children. The kids also spent the summer drawing, making crafts, book reading and playing games which kept them warm and joyful throughout the break. We ended the quarter with Ethiopian New Year's and Meskel celebrations.*

*I would like to express my gratitude to School of Tomorrow, which awarded our special needs student, Lemma, a scholarship for the second year to complete his 12th grade education. We are all extremely proud of Lemma who has worked hard and scored good grades in such a competitive private school. I am also very proud of nearly all the children in our program who passed to the next academic year.*

*I also happily congratulate our youth who passed their National Exams. While saddened by some of our students not passing their exams, I am still proud of their hard work given all the challenges they have had to face in their young lives. BHE will support those who were not able to get promoted in finding ways for them to continue education and training.*

*We had great news at the end of the quarter when Bogalech, one of our graduates started work in her field of study. BHE's partners Pittards UK supported us in finding Bogalech employment. I deeply thank Reg Hankey, CEO of Pittards and Tsedenia Mekbib, Managing Director for their support in*

*empowering orphaned and vulnerable children and youth. I also express my gratitude to Peter Racklyeft of Soul of Africa who had sponsored and supported Bogalech throughout her journey for contributing to her success.*

*I express my appreciation to Yehenew and the Yamral Africa team who visited BHE and the children in our program. Yamral Africa has placed BHE as one of the charities on its website to support our cause and strengthen its partnership.*

*Special thanks to Dr. Jenny Ouliaris, a family therapist who visited BHE, shared knowledge on menstruation and reproduction with the girls. I express my gratitude to Dr. Ouliaris for her visit and for donating 50 menstrual hygiene packs recently. My special thanks also to Nadia Waber for her wonderful visit and encouraging support for our work on the ground.*

*I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dean Hanson and the Hanson Family Foundation for their continued support of our holistic care program and their commitment to supporting orphan and vulnerable children through BHE. Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, sponsors, volunteers, my amazing team on the ground as well as our team in Australia for their continued support in fulfilling our mission of empowering children and families.*



*(Signed)*

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

## Major Highlights

BHE had a good start to the quarter with three of its university students graduating with their degrees. Bogalech, one of the graduates also earned a job soon after with the support of our partners. Our BHE Australia team also organized an awareness raising and fundraising event in Melbourne.



*Bogalech one of the three youth graduates*



*BHE Australia holds fundraiser and awareness event*

Summer activities included book reading, computer, Math and English tutorials to boost the children's studies while engaging them in creative activities at our drop in center. The children also received new cloths and bags for the academic year ahead.



*Children engage in fun and educational summer activities*



*Students get their back to school materials*

## Highlights

*Three university students in the BHE program graduate with their degrees*

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*BHE Australia organizes awareness raising and fundraising events*

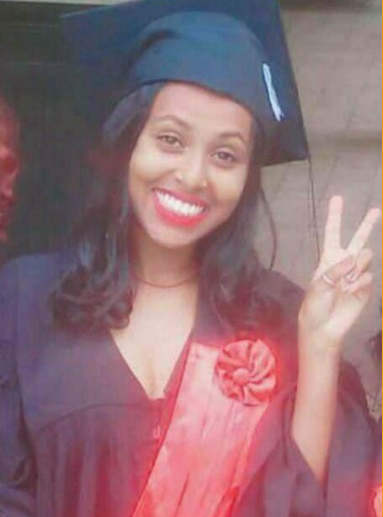
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*Summer activities and tutorials kept the children engaged*

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*BHE warmly received visits from Yamral Africa, Dr. Jenny Ouliaris and Nadia Waber*





*Abiba earned her degree in Food Science & Nutrition*



*Bogalech earned her degree in Accounting & Finance*



*Dawit earned his degree in Water Engineering*

## Educational Program and Tutorial Services

BHE is currently supporting 18 students in primary school, 11 in secondary, 5 in higher education, 2 in vocational training, 1 in special needs training. Eight youth are in a transition period from the program where BHE is supporting them to complete their self-reliance. During the summer the children engaged in computer, Math and English tutorials provided by summer youth volunteers.



*48 children and youth & 41 guardians in the program*

- ✓ *89 hours of summer tutorial support*
- ✓ *20 in primary school*
- ✓ *9 in secondary school*
- ✓ *6 in higher education*
- ✓ *2 in vocational training*
- ✓ *8 in transition*
- ✓ *3 ongoing or indirect support*

New school cloths, exercise books, materials and bags were provided for the children for the new school year. Computer and library access were also available for the children to engage in reading and digital learning during the summer. Different fun activities such as coloring, making bead jewelry and games helped the children build their creative skills while keeping them active.





## Nutrition and Health Services

Despite the rainy season during the summer the children were able to play outdoors on clear weather days. They played different games including table tennis, table football, basketball and trampoline. These activities helped the children stay fit and physically active.



*Photo taken by Joanne Mogridge and edited by Dean McLaren*

Six children in need of medical attention were provided support to get effective treatment. Children also continued to receive healthy after school snacks so they may get re-energized for their tutorial sessions. Monthly food allowance and sanitation materials were provided for the children.

Children and youth with special needs including extra food for those with HIV/AIDS was provided to make sure their full basic needs are fulfilled. BHE also support wheelchair and personal transportation for a special needs child in the program.





## Guardian Support and Income Generation

BHE is working to strengthen its guardian income generation association (IGA). Three guardians were provided with loans to support their IGA activities. Three sessions related to guardian Income Generating Activities were held. The guardians discussed their common problems on their small business activities and issues related to raising the children in their care.



BHE supports the guardians who have difficulty repaying loans due to health problems and other challenges. IGA is aimed at supporting families in finding a sustainable path towards self-reliance. BHE also provides guardians with food support on holidays.





## Psychosocial Activities

Nine Saturday Sessions were held at drop in center focusing on various topics such as 'being proud of oneself and self-worth', 'tips on how to be smart student and achieve outstanding result', 'loving others and living with difference', 'rules and regulations', 'what is hard work', 'who influences you in life', 'discipline', and 'changing undesirable behaviors'. These discussions are aimed at building life skills for the children and youth. The topics inspire the children and youth to develop their communication and reflect on their actions and behaviors.



BHE's social worker conducted 13 individual counseling sessions and 3 group sessions with the children to ensure the children received follow up and addressed psychosocial issues they faced.





## BHE Hosts Visits from Supporters and Partners

BHE received a visit from Dr. Jenny Ouliaris a family therapist from Australia along with her kids Selam and Micky. Dr. Ouliaris ran a wonderful session for girls at our drop in center on menstruation and reproduction. She also previously donated 50 menstrual hygiene packs with washable pads and underwear for the girls in our program.



BHE also received a visit from Nadia Waber, a trainer, coach and facilitator who spent time with the children in the program and shared experiences with the youth.



BHE also received a visit from Yamral Africa, a safari and tour firm who partnered BHE in linking our donation to their website and supporting our program. Visit the BHE link at [www.yamralafrica.com/donate](http://www.yamralafrica.com/donate)



## BHE Celebrated Ethiopian New Years, Demera and Meskel

BHE marked the Ethiopian New Year by celebrating the eve with the children and guardians. Each family were provided with a chicken and eggs to make the traditional Ethiopian holiday stew 'Doro Wot'.



BHE also celebrated Ethiopian Demera and Meskel holiday was celebrated warmly at our BHE drop in center with a traditional bonfire. The children enjoyed an evening of songs and celebration around the bonfire along with delicious traditional barbecue 'tibs' and coffee.







## BHE Australia Raises Funds and Awareness in Melbourne

BHE Australia held a successful Back to School awareness raising and fundraising dinner on July 13, 2018 in Melbourne Australia. BHEA board members, volunteers, supporters and friends of BHE in Australia attended the event making unforgettable remarks and moments in support of BHE's cause of empowering orphaned and vulnerable children and their families.



*Photos by Lucy Spectrum Photography*

The BHEA team worked tirelessly to ensure the dinner was a success and the community had a memorable time while making an impact. We deeply thank everyone who volunteered, attended and supported the event.

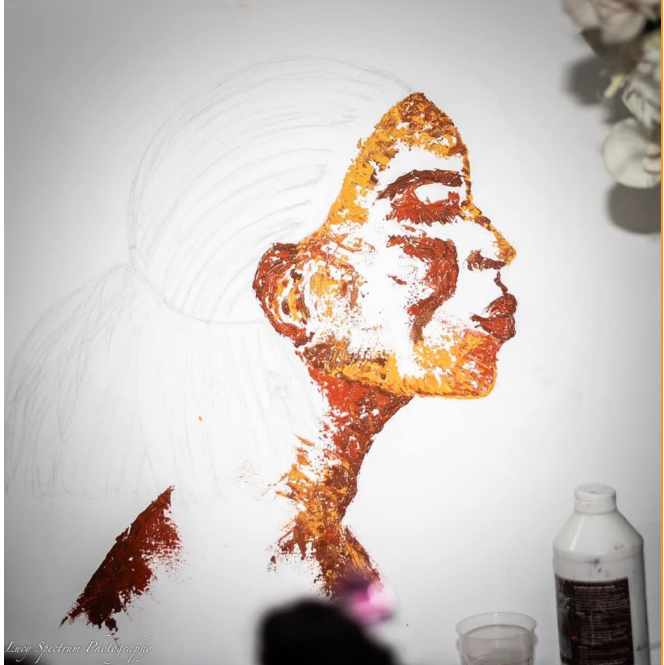


# BHE Australia Activities and Art Exhibition

BHE Australia has also further supported BHE’s activities through additional activities. Zion Yaynu, a talented artist and supporter of BHE, held an art exhibition titled ‘Artistic Noiz’ and donated a beautiful painting to BHE. The painting was titled ‘Flower Child’.



Zion Yaynu has also supported BHE in other events by doing live painting during fundraisers.





Quality Education for  
Orphan and Vulnerable Children



Support BHE on GlobalGiving!

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/quality-education-for-orphan-and-vulnerable-children>

## Administrative Activities

### Basic Needs, Health and Sanitation

- Monthly provisions were made for food allowance, extra food support, school materials, house rent, savings and sanitation materials were distributed for the children
- Students received new school book, bags, cloths, uniforms and materials for the year
- 100 soaps and 37 pads were distributed for the children and youth

### Reporting and Planning

- Quarterly reports were submitted to government authorities and donors.
- Weekly activity planning, reporting and staff minutes were conducted along with planning and evaluation of activities.

### BHE Community Outreach

- BHE donated 23 dozens of exercise books to public schools initiative through Woreda 7 Education Office

### Human Resource and Finance

- Follow up of saving accounts for guardians to transfer monthly food allowance for the children.
- Quarterly financial activities were conducted including purchasing of materials, disbursements, posting and bookkeeping.

### Social Media Outreach

- BHE reaches 770 likes on its facebook page, 123 followers on its instagram and 71 followers on its twitter page.



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