

# BRAVE HEARTS

ETHIOPIA

## *Quarterly Progress Report (QPR)*



*July - September 30 2021*

*October 2021*

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

## *Director's Forward*

As we warmly usher in the new Ethiopian year this quarter, we think of the different challenges faced by vulnerable children, youth and their families in the country. Despite the pandemic and national hardships, the strength and potential of our communities carries us forward towards a hopefully brighter future.

I was filled with joy as the majority of our students advanced to their next levels of education. During their summer break, we implemented our extra curricular education and recreation so that the children have a positive environment to spend the summer at our drop in center. Literacy through book reading, theater and drama as well as outdoor games and gardening are activities implemented through the quarter. These support the children in expanding their skills and talent beyond their academic studies.

The passing of Wro. Truwork, a strong and admirable woman, who took in an orphaned child when she had nothing to spare, filled me with deep sadness. Such acts of kindness and courage by those who are in hardship give us strength and remind us of our vision of a world where poverty is non-existent. We are encouraged to continue working towards our aim of breaking the cycle of poverty by empowering vulnerable communities to become self-sufficient through the transformative impact of high-quality education.

I am deeply grateful to our major partner, Dean Hanson and the Hanson Family Foundation, who has enabled us to continue supporting vulnerable children and families in these very difficult times. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Dulma Clark at Vivobarefoot and Nabil Ishak, CEO of Little Sun and their team for supporting our program with solar lamps for the children to study with and donating books to our library.

I also extend my gratitude to Sehen Sahilu, one of our founding board members who visited our drop in center and donated support. I thank Rotaract youth members who visited our program and donated hygiene and educational materials. Finally, I extend my warm appreciation to all our donors, partners, volunteers and staff that strengthen our program and help us reach our mission of improving children's and communities' lives.



*(Signed)*

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

## *Educational and Tutorial Services*

BHE is currently supporting 32 students in primary, 19 in secondary, 4 in higher education. All the students except one passed to the next level of their education. During the summer we supported the children in our program to improve their literacy skills through our summer book reading program. Our library at our drop in center has over 13,000 books that are leveled appropriately for children of different ages. 48 24 36



This 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.



Book reading and computer lessons support the children's literacy to develop while teaching them helpful skills that will support them in their academic and life skills. Summer programs help engage the children and youth in positive activities and spend their break from school on productive and enjoyable activities.

## *Nutrition and Health Services*

During this quarter, BHE provided 87 soaps and 24 sanitary pads to the children and families over the quarter. One child received assistance to get effective medical care. BHE also distributed 29 hand sanitizers this quarter to keep up COVID-19 protection.



This quarter we also provided 71 after school meals at our drop in center. As part of our holistic care program, we provide children and youth with daily meals at our drop in center. Students take their healthy after school meals before their tutorial lessons on weekdays. This helps them stay energized after a day of school so they can do their studies and homework with support from their tutors at our drop in center.



This summer the children engaged in gardening and environmental hygiene as they painted pots for plants. Apart from enjoying outdoor games, they also participated in compound cleaning and weeding the garden. These activities help them learn the value of maintaining our environment.



## *Psychosocial Activities and Counseling*

Children or youth receive counseling support and life skills group sessions regularly at our drop in center. This quarter BHE Social Workers conducted 23 group sessions regarding different topics that help them find healthy ways of communication, dealing with negative situations, build their speaking and writing skills as well as their confidence.



The children and youth practiced script writing and recitals as part of their summer activities. They acted out their parts passionately and enjoyed playing their roles. This enables them to develop their self expression and artistic talent.



BHE's Social Worker conducted 4 individual sessions this quarter. The individual sessions and home visits ensure in providing the children with guidance and counseling as well as follow up at home.

## *Visit from Little Sun and Partner Support*

We were immensely 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. The children and their guardians received an orientation on how to use the lamps.



The team also donated children's books to the BHE library, which was established in 2014 through the kindness of Dean Hanson of Hanson Builders and the Hanson Family Foundation and continues to empower the community in Kebena, Ethiopia.



We are ever grateful to our partners for allowing Brave Hearts Ethiopia to enable orphaned and vulnerable children to thrive through quality education.



## *Visit by Sehen, Founding Board Member*

All of us at Brave Hearts were delighted to receive a visit from a member of our founding Board of Directors. Sehen Sahilu (Mimi) came to visit our drop in center and met some of the children in the program, generously donating to support our educational program.



Before returning back to the United States in 2018 Sehen served alongside our founding directors. Her dedication, support and expertise was instrumental to the establishment of BHE. We are deeply grateful for her kindness and continued support of orphaned and vulnerable children through Brave Hearts Ethiopia.

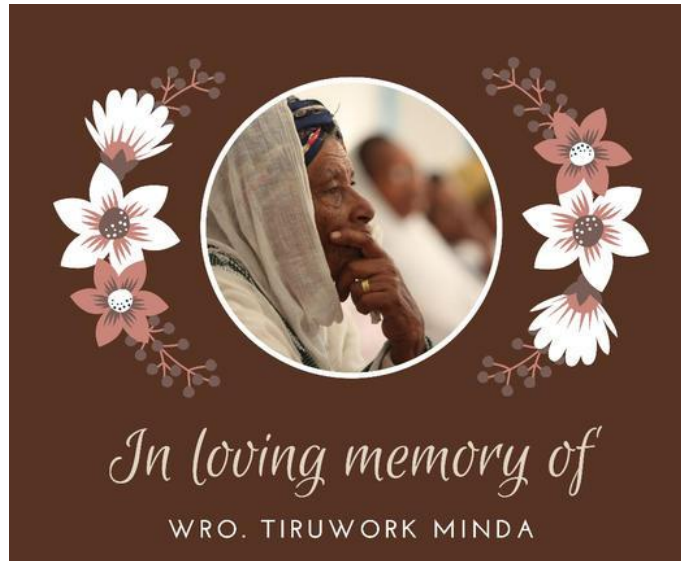
## *Visit by Rotaract Youth Members*

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.



## *Remembering Wro. Tiruwork*

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. Although they were not related, Wro. Tiruwork, who had lived with Ejigu's mom, took care of him as her grandson after his mother passed away when he was only an infant. In order to provide for them, Wro. Tiruwork worked as a daily laborer for some time.



After joining BHE, Ejigu received holistic support as well as skills training. He graduated from the program in 2017 after gaining employment and becoming self-reliant. As a member of our elderly support program, BHE supported Wro. Tiruwork in undergoing eye surgery, access to health care to help her with her medical condition, as well as with provision of monthly nutrition allowance.

Wro. Tiruwork will be remembered for her kindness and graceful personality. She will forever be in our hearts. May she rest in peace.

## *BHE's Community Engagement*

BHE provided support for nutrition assistance to displaced persons with the local government as well as support for the national defence forces. BHE is committed to supporting sustainable development, peace building efforts and empowering vulnerable communities through our program. BHE's online outreach through its Social Media following has reached over 3,230 likes on Facebook, 317 Instagram followers and 106 Twitter followers.





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