

# BRAVE HEARTS

ETHIOPIA

## *Quarterly Progress Report (QPR)*



*October - December 31 2021*

*January 2022*

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

## *Director's Forward*

This season has not been easy with COVID-19 continuing to present a global challenge and Ethiopia 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.

This quarter Eyerusalem graduated with her Diploma in Accounting. As the students started their new academic year, we continue to support and strengthen our after school tutorial support so they succeed in their studies. I am proud of our older students and our youth volunteer who support the younger children in their studies. I congratulate our social worker Beniyam Kedir who graduated with a Masters of Social Work from Addis Ababa University.

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.

I am grateful to Marta Borena, BHEA board of directors, and her friends in Australia for the kind donation of Birke pads. I also appreciate Asefash Alene and Betelhem for their invaluable support. I also thank our wonderful friends Yeshiwork Woldehar, Director, Ghion GAS PLC, Nolawit, Nehemiah and Sosina, Admasu who re-visited the BHE youth at our drop in center.

We paid 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)*



## *Educational and Tutorial Services*

BHE is currently supporting 32 students in primary, 19 in secondary, 4 in higher education. This quarter the students attended 250 hours of after school tutorials. Eyerusalem graduated this quarter earning her Diploma in Accounting. Eyerusalem joined the program in 2014, BHE supported her to attend a private college and continue her education after high school.



BHE also provided extra lessons and tutorial support through its youth volunteer. The volunteer supported children with their after school tutorials, assisted them in their assignments and provided them with English and Computer lessons.



The students make use of the computer and library to support them in their school work. BHE provided the children with extra school materials including 96 pens through the quarter. BHE social workers have undertaken 10 school visits this quarter since the start of the new academic year to follow up on students' progress.

## *Nutrition and Health Services*

During this quarter, BHE provided 86 soaps to the families and 24 sanitary pads to the girls in the program. Five children received assistance to get effective medical care during the quarter. BHE also distributed 60 hand sanitizers this quarter to keep up COVID-19 protection.



This quarter we also provided 78 after school meals at our drop in center. We are grateful to Marta Borena, BHEA board of directors, and her friends in Australia for the kind donation of Birke pads for our girls and young women we support.

We appreciate the dedicated support of Asefash Alene and Betelhem for overseeing the distribution. BHE has monthly provision of pads so girls can continue their education without interruption.



This quarter the children engaged in gardening and environmental hygiene. Thanks to the donation of Braun Hanson, the children enjoyed playing outdoor games with new balls including basketball, football and soccer balls.

## *Psychosocial Activities and Counseling*

This quarter BHE Social Workers conducted 12 group sessions regarding different topics that help them build life skills. Children or youth receive counseling support and life skills group sessions regularly at our drop in center. The topics included positive thinking, empathy, self esteem, maintaining hygiene, motivational speaking, maintaining happiness among others.



During group discussions the children and youth exercise their ability to speak confidently and express different opinions. This quarter 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.



BHE's Social Worker conducted 3 individual sessions and 8 home visits 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 H.E. Julia Niblett and her Team*

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. It was a joyous occasion as the children, guardians, staff, invited guests and the BHE Board warmly welcomed the Ambassador at our drop in center.



The BHE children shared their heartwarming stories and showcased their talent in a spectacular display of traditional and modern dance performance for our guests. BHE Board of Directors and friends of BHE attended and supported the event.

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.



We are excited to continue our partnership with the Australian Government in empowering vulnerable children and their communities in breaking the cycle of poverty.

## *Visit by Braun Hanson*

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.

Braun's visit was an immense joy and we feel greatly privileged and thankful for the wonderful support of Braun and the Hanson Family.

## *Visit by BHE Supporters*



We were grateful to our wonderful friends Yeshiwork Woldehar, Director, Ghion GAS PLC, Nolawit, Nehemiah and Sosina, Admasu who re-visited the BHE youth at our drop in center.

They shared stories and engaged the children in stimulating conversation. The kids also enjoyed a delicious snack, cookies and soft drinks kindly brought by the wonderful friends of Brave Hearts Ethiopia.

## *Tribute to Romona Hanson*

We 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.



In 2014, the BHE Library was established due to the generosity of Dean Hanson and his donation of 20,000 books to support our mission of English literacy. The BHE family gathered at our centre to mark the official renaming of our library, 'Hanson Library' in memory of Ramona Hanson.

We send our heartfelt condolences to her son, Dean Hanson, and the entire Hanson family. We hope that they find solace in her love and in knowing that she is resting peacefully in heaven.

## *BHE's Community Engagement*



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.

At our drop in center, we discussed with the children and youth the current situation of the country and how they can safely stay informed and support their community.

This quarter, 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.





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