

## **HOPE FOR RURAL CHILDREN & ORPHANS (HORCO)**

(Ontario Corporation No.1670425; CRA No. 82604 0941 RR001)

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

#### **Summary of Administrative Activities**

*Charitable Tax Status.* The year 2008 began with a hopeful sense that HORCO Canada would soon receive registered charitable status. After satisfying the CRA requirements for having an approved Agency Agreement with HORCO Ethiopia, the next step was to revise our Objects of Incorporation with the Provincial Government. CRA indicated that the original Objects were too broad and they were not prepared to offer us charitable status without refining our Objects. With the help of the CRA, we reworked our Objects and received an approved *Supplementary Letters Patent* from the Province of Ontario to be involved in the following developmental work:

1. To improve the quality of drinking water in developing nations by constructing wells and water treatment, irrigation and sewage treatment systems.
2. To advance education by:
  - a) providing school supplies, books and/or other basic necessities to students in developing nations; and
  - b) providing minor repairs/improvements to schools in developing nations
3. To promote public health in developing nations by increasing awareness concerning HIV/AIDS transmission, as well as methods of prevention and control."

With this in hand, the CRA granted us a charitable registration, effective June 6, 2008. Donations received after that date were eligible for tax receipts. Donations received prior to that date (2006, 2007, 2008) were not eligible, as the donations were made to support Objects that were not approved by the CRA. This has been an interesting journey!

#### **Development Projects**

*Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the Holeta Region of Ethiopia.* Approval of this \$5,000 project using non-receivable funds was granted in late 2007. Half of the money would be used to provide school supplies and uniforms for 20 orphans, and the other half of the money would be used to help generate sustainable income for guardian families of the orphans. The latter would be accomplished by providing sheep to the families, along with instruction on how to breed them to create sustainable income.

\$5,145 CDN was wired to HORCO Ethiopia on April 4, 2008. We received some preliminary feedback on the project when Dagim Almaw visited one of the supported families in Holeta during his Ethiopia trip last summer. This particular family consisted of a mother with breast cancer and her daughter. Dagim had a video of his visit, in which the woman thanked HORCO Canada for her support. Her sheep breeding was going well. At the date of this writing, we are waiting for a final report of the entire project from HORCO Ethiopia.

## **Fund-raising**

*Water/Sanitation Project in Gimbichu District.* Part of the charitable registration process involved having a detailed proposal for our first charitable activity. We set-up HORCO Ethiopia as our Agent to implement a \$40,000 CDN water/sanitation project in two villages of the Gimbichu District. It involved protection of two natural springs and construction of pit latrines and washing tables to service an estimated 1,000 families. Currently the women and children walk 12-15 km each day to collect drinking water.

A goal of raising sufficient funds to complete services for one village (\$20,000) was set for 2008. To accomplish this brochures were printed and numerous letters were sent out to targeted donors in late summer. In addition to the mail appeal, we planned and held a fund-raising event called *An Authentic Ethiopian Evening*, on October 18, 2008, at Hillside Church. This was an evening of Ethiopian food and culture, which served as a “public launch” for HORCO Canada’s development activities in Ethiopia, as well as a fund-raising event. By all measures the evening was a great success. Approximately 175 people enjoyed a wonderful Ethiopian meal, learned facts about Ethiopia, experienced the “coffee ceremony”, and learned about HORCO Canada and HORCO Ethiopia. There was a table of *Treasures of Ethiopia*, where people could buy Ethiopian items, a video about Ethiopian culture and tourist attractions, lots of free souvenirs, and special music by Bernie Campbell, who lived and worked as an aid-worker in the Rift Valley area of Ethiopia a number of years ago. Bernie sang songs that he wrote about his experiences. Another special guest was Getachew Yemane, Executive Director of HORCO Ethiopia. The guests were an eclectic group of all ages, younger and older, white-collar and blue-collar, black and white, men and women. The event was well-supported by the local Ethiopian Community, who provided lots of help at the event, and several important parts of the meal itself, including 250 injera! Tickets at \$15 each covered the costs for the evening, and donors gave us nearly \$6,000 towards the Gimbichu Project.

By the end of 2008, we had raised just about \$14,000 for the Gimbichu Project. Tax receipts were sent out for those who donated funds after June 6, 2008. We had about 80 donors overall. Based on several gifts yet to come and extra money in the General Fund, we expected to receive the remaining \$6,000 early in the New Year, so that funds could be sent to Ethiopia to implement the first-half of the project in the Spring, 2009. *[Note: New legislation passed by the Ethiopian Gov’t in February, 2009, put a hold on all new projects. We will hold onto the funds until further notice.]*

## HORCO Board Members in 2008

Howard Katz	President and Director
Dagim Almag	Vice President and Director
Bob Kline	Secretary/Treasurer and Director
Ruth Atkinson	Director
Dan Fischer	Director
Kevin Webb	Director

## HORCO Canada Financial Report for 2008

<b>Balance Jan 1, 2008</b>	<b>5,849.97</b>	
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>General</b>		
Donors	5,295.25	
Churches	-	
Other	3,028.00	Dinner tickets, sales
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>8,323.25</b>	
<b>Gimbichu</b>		
Donors	12,356.00	
Churches	500.00	
Other	1,100.00	Ethiopian Organization
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>13,956.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,279.25</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>General</b>		
Admin	86.11	Bank Charges
Admin	248.55	Letterhead, postage, business cards
HORCO Ethiopia	5,145.00	Holeta Orphans Project
Legal	2,030.48	Menear Worrad Assoc., Supplementary Letters Patent
Other	3,704.36	Fundraising (brochures, all dinner-related expenses)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,214.50</b>	
<b>Balance Dec 31, 2008</b>	<b>16,914.72</b>	
<b>Funds Available</b>		
<b>General</b>	<b>2,958.72</b>	
<b>Gimbichu</b>	<b>13,956.00</b>	