

HOPE H2O Summer Newsletter

[formerly Hope for Rural Children and Orphans (HORCO)]

1-519-649-0271

info@horco.ca

www.horco.ca

June, 2020

Greetings to all of our partners and friends,

It's been some time since we have touched base with you. Some of you know that we have adopted a new business name, HOPE H2O, which we feel more accurately describes our mission. We expect to be launching a new website and Facebook presence in the Fall.

This has been a challenging time for us, as our partner in Ethiopia, the Kale Heywet Church Development Commission (EKHCDC), has been undergoing a major reorganization of management during the last year, and political unrest in Ethiopia has made development work difficult at times for charities. In addition, we are in the midst of a pandemic that the modern world has not seen in a century.

Many of you are stuck at home, unable to see friends and family and many of those close to us are at higher risk of contracting Covid-19 which is, of course scary for all of us. Now, imagine that you couldn't do the one thing that will help stop the spread of the virus. Imagine for one second, that not only do you not have hand sanitizer at the ready, but that you have no clean water to wash your hands! This is the issue being faced by many developing countries including where we work, Ethiopia.

The state of Covid in Ethiopia currently is unclear, as there have been only 3500 tested positive cases, which does not offer a clear understanding of the entire country's wellbeing due to lack of testing, especially in rural areas. In April, the country was put on a 5 month state of emergency to curb the spread of Covid in the country of 107 million people. Addis Ababa has a population of almost 5 million people and Ethiopia is home to 26 UN refugee camps which together house almost a million people from neighboring countries. These crowded places are fuel for spreading the Covid virus. The UN has established that water is a human right, and if there was ever a time that clean water was a global necessity, it is now. Yes, water is always necessary for life, but now clean water is also necessary to prevent the continuation of a worldwide pandemic.

HOPE H2O's mission is to help rural villages in Ethiopia develop their own clean water systems and sanitary practices. Thanks to the generous support our donors provided in 2019, we have the resources to start work again in September, all things being considered. The project is the second phase of our work with the Germama Village, where phase one work was completed at the end of 2019. See attached photos and financial summary for 2019.

We truly hope that you will continue to support our work when we hold our major 2020 fundraising campaign in the fall. We are aware that many people have lost their jobs, are facing financial hardships, and are unable to give right now. Hopefully things will be better later this year. We are thankful for the faithfulness of our supporters, both financial and otherwise.

We hope you have a safe and healthy summer.

Steph Card
Executive Director

Bob Kline
President & Treasurer

Financial Summary for 2019

In keeping with our pledge of financial accountability to our donors, the information below summarizes our 2019 finances. As explained above, several factors including project mismanagement by EKHDCDC resulted in delayed completion of the 2018 project and subsequently prevented the start of the Germama Village Phase 2 project in 2019. Since early this year, EKHDCDC appointed new leadership, with whom we are discussing possible work to start in the fall. We have been assured by external investigators that there was no financial fraud involved, but there was serious mismanagement which led to the breakdown of the organization. We are taking cues from other major funding organizations about when to feel confident in restoring funding to EKHDCDC.

We would be amiss not to mention our wonderful donors in 2019, all 254 of them, some of whom have been supporting us for over 10 years. Thank you for your faithfulness. Finally, kudos once again to Wendy and Fred Norman, who walked nearly 800 km along the El Camino de Santiago Trail to raise money for our work in Ethiopia; their 119 supporters donated \$21,101.

Balance Jan. 1, 2019

General Fund	6,063.95
Water Fund	<u>59,366.66</u>
Total	65,430.61

Revenue

General Fund	18,457.10	
	12,146.80	(13 Donors)
	6,310.30	(Dinner Tickets)
Water Fund	<u>68,188.85</u>	(241 Donors)
Total	86,645.95	(Dinner: 15,465.00; Camino: 21,101.35)

Expenses

General Fund	18,565.06	
	3,945.11	(Admin/office, insurance, travel support)
	14,619.95	(Fund-raising: dinner, website, online fees)
Water Fund	<u>5,000.00</u>	(Finish 2018 Project; 2019 project on hold)
Total	23,565.06	

Balance Dec. 31, 2019

General Fund	5,955.99	
Water Fund	<u>122,555.51</u>	(~\$70,000 for project to start 9/1/2020)
Total	128,511.50	



Nurturing hope in Ethiopia through clean water and sanitation