

Partners in the Horn of Africa **Annual Report of the Directors**

The Organization

Partners in the Horn of Africa is a registered Canadian charity operating in Ethiopia and 2004 was its third year of operation.

Partners has two operating principles that distinguish it from other charities: First, *Partners* does not use donations for administrative expenses. The organization is run by the directors who work voluntarily and who personally pay all operating expenses. Second, with all of our projects we have an Ethiopian “partner” who contributes a minimum of 20% to the cost of the project. The contribution usually takes the form of supplying labour or local materials. This approach ensures that *Partners’* projects reflect local needs and empower the communities we work with.

Our directors are Canadians from Alberta and British Columbia, and Ethiopians: John Baigent, Mekonen Bayssie, Dave Cosco, Marguerite Jackson, John McAlpine, Vince Ready and Brooke Sundin. Directors meet regularly and visit our projects in Ethiopia at least twice each year. At the Annual General meeting in March, 2005 the membership will be invited to re-elect these directors and two new directors, James Hickling and Yehalem Metiku.

Projects In 2004

In 2004 *Partners in the Horn of Africa* completed or had in progress 13 projects in Ethiopia. Five projects were involved with the AIDS pandemic: educating people on prevention, placing HIV orphans in fostering situations with extended families and, when there were no family members available, in group homes. Two of our HIV projects focus on Skills Training for older HIV orphans. During the training period *Partners* subsidizes their siblings until the eldest completes his/her training and secures employment.

Partners also completed a third footbridge - this one in the Bale Region of central Ethiopia - serving 25,000 people who were previously cut off each year from markets, schools and medical care during the three-month long rainy season. In Bale we also completed renovations of a high school library which was so dilapidated that it had been taken out of use. Today it serves some 1,500 students. And, in the town of Agarfa, again in Bale, piped water was brought to strategically located water distribution points which serving several thousand people (Ethiopian homes in rural areas are not plumbed).

A women’s educational centre ... where women could be informed about basic hygiene (model latrines and showers on site), AIDS and malaria ... was built in the Gojam Region of Ethiopia. In the same region construction of eight wells in a drought prone area was commissioned. The wells will be completed by April 1st, 2005.

Partners undertook two micro-financing programs ... one in Addis Ababa, the other in a rural area ... helping unemployed and under-employed women. Under these programs women take a short, basic course on running a business and then are given small loans which, when repaid, entitle them to increasingly larger loans. Approximately 450 women have taken out loans under these two programs. The default rate to date is less than 1%.

In the Wollo Region of Ethiopia where food shortages often arise we installed a flour mill that serves 1,500 families in five remote villages. Before the mill was installed women had to walk four hours each way ... carrying 20 kilograms of wheat to have it milled. And this in the dry season when rivers were passable. For three months during the rainy season grain was milled by hand by women using heavy flat rocks.

The cost of these projects ranges from \$3,500.00 to \$25,000.00 and in each case our local 'partner' contributed 20% or more of the cost of the project.

In Canada

Back at home our major accomplishment over the past year, apart from fundraising, was the installation of a database of donors and members and the transfer of our organizational documents to a secure and private server. We now have in place a computerized system that will allow *Partners* to expand its support base and deal efficiently with our many contractual obligations and ongoing evaluation reports.

Throughout the year *Partners* was able to maintain its policy of not using any donations for administrative costs. The unavoidable hard costs which were incurred (flights, office supplies, postage, phone, etc., etc.) were paid by the directors or covered by Local 1518 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in British Columbia or by Tirecraft Corp. in Alberta.

Partners has received project approval and a grant for \$9,984.00 from the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta for a Skills Training program for destitute youth in Addis Ababa. We have also been approved for matching grants from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). CIDA has delayed the consideration of new applications pending a policy review by the new government. If and when the matching funds program is activated, we will be applying for \$100,000.00 to assist in a major training program in Addis Ababa focussing on training older HIV Orphans so they can be employed and in a position to support their siblings.

Our Donors

Our donors were generous in 2004. The chart below offers year-to-year comparisons of donations and supporters as well as the number of projects made possibly by those donations.

Year-to-Year Comparisons

	2002	2003	2004
Number of Projects	1	4	13
Number of Donors	18	154	181
Donations for the Year	\$21,450.00	\$103,261.00	\$191,000.00

We are starting to have more ‘repeat’ donors which allows us to plan for the future with some confidence. *Partners* selects and commissions projects in advance, trusting that we will be able to raise money but never entirely sure of just how much. With a core of repeat donors we can select projects with more confidence. This year we also instituted a direct debit system - something requested by several of our donors who prefer to give on a monthly basis.

More of our donors and directors are visiting *Partners’* projects in Ethiopia. During the past year two directors (John McAlpine and Dave Cosco), Colin Pritchard, Alison Moscrop, Bryan Williams and Andrea Zwack, all members and supporters of *Partners*, visited our projects.

Financial Statements

Our Financial Statements were prepared and our accounts audited by Murray Rossworn Inc., a Chartered Accounting firm in Enderby. Copies of those Financial Statements will be distributed at the Annual General Meeting and are available on request for members.

Although *Partners* had approximately \$150,000.00 on hand at the end of 2004, it has ongoing obligations for work in progress (approximately \$35,000.00) and for group and foster homes where our obligations are ongoing (approximately \$10,000.00). The cost of projects presently under consideration for 2005 is approximately \$228,000.00.

Vancouver, B.C.
March 3rd, 2005

Projects For 2005

<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Injera Ovens City of Kobbo, Wollo Region AWWA The proposal is for a pilot project manufacturing 1,700 concrete ovens to be distributed to local households. The ovens would be made using a clever German design filling six moulds with concrete. The finished pieces are then joined together like a jigsaw puzzle. The result is a “closed” oven which will dramatically reduce the need for firewood and eliminate the need for women to spend hours each week scavenging for wood. More importantly, the ovens address the deforestation and attendant soil erosion problem in the highlands of Ethiopia. The project would employ five women to manufacture the ovens. The ovens would then be distributed to the various kebeles (small political units - approximately 20,000 persons) where women would be trained in the installation and use.</p>
<p><i>Partners’ Cost</i> Note</p>	<p>\$15,000.00 The unit cost of the stoves works out to approximately \$9.00 and they could be sold for \$3.00. This is an exciting project which could have tremendous ramifications for Ethiopia.</p>
<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Health Post Mindina Mindina Village (Wollo) - site of flour mill - two hours by mule, from Tekulesh which is at the end of a road 37 kilometres from Kobbo on the main highway. AWWA Community Health Posts are built according to a standard government plan. The Health Post itself would be about 32’ x 20’ containing three rooms and would provide basic primary service to a minimum of 5,000 people in the target community. Its main role would be to assist women in childbirth and to treat malaria and other common but serious diseases. Once constructed, the government would provide the necessary equipment, medications and staff.</p>
<p><i>Partners’ Cost</i> Note</p>	<p>\$32,000.00 The people in this community are presently four hours away from health care which effectively means it is inaccessible for any serious illness. The cost of \$32,000.00 is high.</p>

<p>Project Location</p> <p>Partner Description</p> <p><i>Partners' Cost Note</i></p>	<p>Assistance to Tekulesh and Mindina Elementary Schools</p> <p>Tekulesh is at the end of a 37 km road to Kobbo. Mindina is four hours by foot from Tekulesh.</p> <p>AWWA and the two school administrations</p> <p>Tekulesh Elementary has five cement block and four chika (mud over eucalyptus framing) school buildings but no desks or chairs. Kids sit on stones or logs on a mud floor.</p> <p>In Mindina the community has just completed two chika school blocks, each with two rooms since the walk to Tekulesh is too far for kids in the lower grades. The Mindina School has no desks, chairs or decent floors. It also lacks a foundation.</p> <p><u>Tekulesh</u> - the proposal is for 211 desks (three kids per desk, two shifts per day), chairs and tables for teachers, and construction of outdoor latrines for students and staff.</p> <p><u>Mindina</u> - 50 desks and chairs for students, cement floor and foundation for two-room school blocks. Window frames and doors.</p> <p>Tekulesh - \$5,200.00; Mindina - \$6,000.00</p> <p>The Tekulesh School which has been in operation for some time is very well run but very poor. We should consider this school - and the one at Mindina - as an ongoing project.</p>
<p>Project Location Partner Description</p> <p><i>Partners' Cost Note</i></p>	<p>Footbridge across Shelal River</p> <p>Between Tekulesh and Mindina - high mountain range</p> <p>AWWA and Community</p> <p>Steel footbridge allowing people in Mindina access to schools and markets in Tekulesh throughout the year.</p> <p>\$15,275.00</p> <p>This cost is high. For other similar bridges we have paid \$9,000.00 - \$11,000.00 - this was before Ethiopia introduced a 15% VAT.</p>
<p>Project Location Partner Description</p> <p><i>Partners' Cost Note</i></p>	<p>Irrigation - Reservoir and Water Distribution</p> <p>Near Mindina</p> <p>AWWA</p> <p>This is a small-scale project to divert water from a year-round spring into a small reservoir from which the water would be piped to a lower level to irrigate cash crops. Presently, the farming is entirely of a subsistence type - grains, peas, etc., etc. Irrigation would permit cash crops and income to the farmers.</p> <p>\$9,000.00</p> <p>We have to consider whether \$9,000.00 can be justified for providing irrigation to such a small area. A desperately poor area.</p>

<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Two footbridges across the Zenbel and Korecha Rivers Central Gojam AMA 35,000 people in this area are regularly stranded from the highway, schools, markets and health care each rainy season by three rivers that become impossible to ford three or four months each year. When the rivers can be forded about 10,000 people do so each week. Last year with heavy rains eight persons drowned trying to cross and the community was cut off for four months. The proposal is for two footbridges covering two of three crossings allowing most of the 35,000 people to access the highway and towns of Dembecha and Emmanuel. One bridge would have a span of 18 metres - the other 12 metres.</p> <p><i>Partners' Cost</i> \$19,500.00 for two bridges <i>Note</i> A lot of people would benefit from these two bridges and the unit cost is reduced since there are two. We will be asked to fund the third bridge next year if we agree to these two. We are presently seeking a price for doing all three bridges this year.</p>
<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Group Home for HIV Orphans Debre Markos - Gojam AMA Our HIV Fostering program takes kids to the end of elementary school after which they have to travel to an urban area for high school. This project is designed to accommodate up to 10 orphans when they graduate from elementary school and have to attend high school in Debre Markos. The cost would include a full-time live-in guardian.</p> <p><i>Partners' Cost</i> \$5,000.00 a year <i>Note</i> This home would involve a five-year commitment.</p>
<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Polio Rehabilitation, Grarbet Ledukeman Clinic Butajira Gurage Region, two hours south of Addis Ababa Grarbet Ledukeman Rehabilitation Manufacture of crutches and braces for polio victims and orthopaedic surgery to stretch and free up ligaments and muscles bound by years of atrophy. This program has been in operation for many years and is well thought of and effective. The Clinic also operates an outreach program and benefits a large and populous area.</p> <p><i>Partners' Cost</i> \$22,000.00 <i>Note</i> There is an issue whether we should be helping well-established, large successful organizations like Grarbet Ledukeman. It is also noteworthy that they would be putting up more money than <i>Partners</i> in this particular project - about \$25,000.00.</p>

<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Training Centre for Girls Addis Ababa ARG ARG presently trains about 75 young women in a compound located in central Addis Ababa. Originally the idea was to intercept young women from rural areas who were regularly inveigled into the sex trade by brokers who prey on young girls coming to the city. ARG has expanded its operation to extend its training to attract young women in menial and low paying jobs (carrying firewood or housework at very, very low wages). ARG offers training in three skills - furniture manufacture, leatherwork and silkscreen work. I have suggested to the woman running the program that we look at a modest initial contribution in the neighbourhood of \$5,000.00 to complete some construction work in the compound and/or provide meals to the girls who presently attend courses. If ARG thrives under its new management <i>Partners</i> can consider a more substantial contribution in the future.</p>
<p><i>Partners' Cost</i> Note</p>	<p>\$5,000.00 I think we should go slowly with this program. It is presently rather disorganized and offers low quality training. However, the woman who has recently taken over is well thought of in Ethiopian circles and is competent and hardworking.</p>
<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Denkula Primary School Five hours south of Addis Ababa Kana Family Community Development Association The proposal is for a two-block primary school with one block to be built initially and a second block in 2006. The land for the project has been donated to the Orthodox Church by the government.</p>
<p><i>Partners' Cost</i> Note</p>	<p>\$25,000.00 over two years I am nervous about the idea of locating the school on Church property and the considerable distance of this project from Addis Ababa. At the same time the Kana Family Community Development Association is run by competent and dedicated people.</p>

<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Community Peer Education Addis Ababa Hope for Children This would be a parallel project to the one initiated last year in which Hope For Children sends workers to thousands of homes in a Kebele. The visitors attend and provide coffee and sugar for a coffee ceremony (the traditional and regular event in each home each day), and stimulate discussions on HIV. Each worker visits two homes per day and on the Friday of each week representatives from the households visited that week attend a community discussion for further education and discussion of HIV. The project will reach approximately 2,750 households over a one-year period.</p>
<p><i>Partners' Cost</i> Note</p>	<p>\$15,000.00 The first project has proven successful. HFC is well run and well thought of.</p>
<p>Project Location Partner Description</p>	<p>Group Home and Information Centre For HIV Town of Babile near Harar in Easter Ethiopia Hope for Children Information Centre - a home which could be rented and staffed to conducting workshops and public education on HIV. The home will also offer healthcare and sponsorship (i.e. caregivers and stipends for families) to 40 HIV orphans in the area. Babile is a town which has no programs to address HIV/AIDS, a large number of Somali refugees, an army base (a recipe for sexually transmitted diseases) and no operating NGOs.</p>
<p><i>Partners' Cost</i> Note</p>	<p>\$7,500.00 The issue is whether we should be reaching out into another area five hours from Addis Ababa. There is a definite need. HFC has in the past required little guidance from us and regular inspections should not be necessary. If we undertake this, it will become an ongoing annual cost.</p>

Project	Hand Dug Wells
Location	Illani Community near Agarfa
Partner	ASHO
Description	Hand dug wells for cattle watering and human consumption. The people of this community live along a long valley bottom - about five kilometres in length. They are seriously into cattle and the only water for the community and the cattle is found in large hand dug wells spotted along the valley. These are unsatisfactory and often collapse in on themselves since they have no concrete lining. Cattle contaminate the water since there is no separation of the watering facilities now in place. The area is strewn with abandoned wells in which cattle break their legs regularly. The proposal is for hand dug wells with concrete foundation walls and manually operated pumps distributing water separately to both cattle and people.
<i>Partners' Cost</i>	Approximately \$3,000.00 per well - five have been proposed
Note	The strength of this project is ASHO and the presence of Mohammed Amin, the mayor of Agarfa and head of ASHO.
Project	Elementary School Library
Location	Ambentu Community - not far from Agarfa in the Bale Region
Partner	ASHO and Ambentu School administration
Description	Ambentu is an amazing school which, despite its poverty and remoteness, regularly turns out students with top grades in the national examinations. They propose a library equipped with furniture and reference books.
<i>Partners' Cost</i>	\$10,750.00
Note	A very well-run but poor school. Construction would be overseen by the municipality of Agarfa and Mohammed Amin.
Project	Agarfa High School - two classroom blocks with additional 10 classrooms in building
Location	Agarfa, Bale Region
Partner	ASHO
Description	This school where we renovated a library last year and which is a designated "pre-university" high school needs 10 more classrooms and proposes to build two blocks of five classrooms over the next year.
<i>Partners' Cost</i>	\$21,000.00
Note	The community will match our contributions 50/50 on this project if we proceed.

Total cost of these proposed projects

\$228,000.00

