



2008

Annual Report

Who we are and what we do

Partners in the Horn of Africa is a Canadian charity working exclusively in Ethiopia. This is our 7th year of operation.

Partners works with Ethiopian community organizations, building schools and bridges, digging wells, providing micro finance loans to marginalized women, caring for HIV orphans and running a hospice. We also do a lot of community education and run group homes that allow poor, rural kids to continue their education. These are just some of our projects. To date we have completed over 100 community-based projects.

Partners is supported by Canadian citizens, corporations, unions and service clubs. We do not receive or are dependent in any way on government funding.



Two aspects of **Partners** are unique. We do not use donations for administrative expenses. 100% of our donations go to projects in Ethiopia. Our administrative expenses are paid for by a sister organization, Friends of the Horn of Africa. **Partners'** directors, and a few other individuals fund Friends. Our "100% rule" is also facilitated by "in kind" donations from union and corporations. Many items and services from office furniture, to computers, to publishing costs, office and professional services are donated directly.

The second unique feature of **Partners** is that each project has an Ethiopian 'partner' who contributes 15-20% of the project cost (in cash, labour or local material). This ensures that all projects reflect real community needs and empower our 'partners' by giving them an important role in the development of the project.



2008: "It was a very good year"

Partners biggest project in 2008 was the construction and completion of Gubaya Junior High School in the Gojjam Region of Central Ethiopia. This was **Partners'** largest project to date (with a cost of about \$200,000). The school was built in a remote area where education had typically ended at Grade 8 because the nearest high school was beyond walking distance. The new high school opened in September and the enrolment in the first year (each year another grade will be added) was 500 students, 20% of whom had finished Grade 8 in previous years but had been unable to continue their education. **Partners** share of the costs for this project was donated 100% by Club Penguin, the interactive children's website, operating out of Kelowna.



2008 saw **Partners** open "Scholarship House" a home in Addis Ababa where orphaned or vulnerable, rural girls can pursue a post secondary education. Many rural girls with high marks have no hope of following their dreams to attend technical colleges or universities for lack of funds. Scholarship House is a "safe home" with a resident housemother where further education happens for bright but impoverished rural girls.

In the town of Adet **Partners** operates a

home for 36 orphaned street kids who now attend school. The home-based center also provides free kindergarten classes to 80 poor children. Interestingly, the house and compound were donated by a retired civil servant who lived there and started the project.

Partners continued digging wells and protecting springs in regions where less than 25% of the population has access to clean water. Water projects are dear to our heart. They not only prevent water-borne diseases, but a village well means that girls who would otherwise spend hours fetching (dirty) water from great distances are free to attend school.

With Hope for Children, a well regarded Ethiopian charity, we run group homes for HIV orphans, hospices for sick parents and offer community education

and play therapy to orphans dealing with the loss of their parents. This year HFC and **Partners** initiated "community conversations" which bring villagers together, assisted by skilled facilitators, to identify community problems and craft solutions. A community might discuss HIV or early, arranged marriages and try and reach a consensus on how to address these issues. These open consensus building sessions are proving more effective than "lectures" or "advice" from outside the community and are, increasingly, an important

tool which allows a community to take charge of its own destiny.

A novel **Partners'** project in 2008 involved our introduction of washable and reusable sanitary pads to rural schools where rural girls typically miss 2-3 days of school each month for lack of sanitary pads. With financial assistance from Mom and Me, a wonderful group of mothers in West Vancouver, **Partners** started fabricating washable, reusable pads. The project proved immensely popular and we are presently distributing some 20,000 pads and 2500 modified panties in one school district. The girls pay a modest amount for a kit of 8 pads and two modified panties with

Partners picking up the balance. For each \$5,000 spent on this project there is an increase of 7000 girl school days each year!!! It's not just the girls who are the winners. The pads are made by women in **Partners'** micro finance program who now bring home a regular pay cheque.

Some numbers. In 2008 **Partners** raised

\$877,853 from 720 donors. We spent \$626,737 on projects with no expenditures for administrative costs. At year end we held \$1,171,414 to cover existing project commitments.



In 2008 we started 20 new projects and supported another 11 on-going ones.

Partners' Financial Statements, and those of Friends of the Horn of Africa, are audited by Murray Rossworn Inc. of Enderby, BC. Copies of those statements are available on request.

2009: A challenging year as storm clouds gather

The current financial crisis is a real threat to international aid and the people in less developed countries. Charities are laying off staff and the flow of aid dollars to developing countries is slowing. **Partners** will not be immune to this phenomenon and we expect donations will drop off in 2009. Still, we have decided not to scale back our plans. We have a contingency fund in the bank and expect that most of our donors will continue to fund our work

even as they cut back on other expenses.

In 2009 we are taking on some major challenges. With the support of EBA Engineering Consultants we have started a 7 year water project that will bring clean water to approximately 100 villages in an area where only 22% of the population has access to safe water.

We are mid way through construction on the



BC Main Office

PO Box 309
Enderby, BC V0E 1V0
Phone: 250-838-2111

Alberta Fundraising Office

9333 - 37 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T6E 5N4
Phone: 780-993-2999

www.partnersinthehorn.org

Our Board of Directors

- John Baigent
- Mekonen Bayssie
- Patricia Blocksom
- David Cosco
- Marguerite Jackson
- John McAlpine
- Seaton Mclean
- Vince Ready
- Cindy Stewart
- Brooke Sundin

Partners in the Horn of Africa is a recognized Canadian charity and issues tax receipts for all donations. We thank you for your support; we are making a difference in the lives of many Ethiopians.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

(Continued from page 3)



Edmon-Ayu High Level bridge, a project funded by supporters in Edmonton. This 55 metre footbridge will provide 50,000 people with access to hospitals, schools and markets during the three month rainy season. It will prevent a minimum of 30 drownings a year and many more deaths of people who otherwise would not be able to access health care.

In the Bale Mountains we are rebuilding 5 schools and in Gojjam we are hooking up school latrines to biogas digesters. The methane generated will fuel ovens where orphan-students make bread to sell to the community so they can cover their expenses. In Addis Ababa we are manufacturing thousands of washable sanitary pads, expanding our work with HIV Orphans and training older orphans in technical colleges so that they in turn can care for their siblings. We are doing more community conversations, extending micro loans to hundreds of marginalized women and building more footbridges in rural communities that are presently isolated from essential services for several months each year.

These are some of our main projects for the coming year. All of them are going to improve and save lives in Ethiopia. Our work depends, as always, on the largesse of our supporters but that is an area where we have reason to be confident.

Enderby, BC
April 2008

Special thanks to Patricia Blocksom for photos from early 2009 in Ethiopia.