



"Laura's Place", a safe home for young orphaned women in Addis Ababa.

Partners in the Horn of Africa is addressing the problems of Ethiopia and follows two unique principles:

- 100% of all donations go directly into projects in Ethiopia. Our Board members work voluntarily and cover all operating costs.
- Each project has an Ethiopian "partner" who contributes 15-20% of the project cost, usually in the form of labour.

Where The Girls Are

Partners in the Horn of Africa believes that there is no surer way to advance the welfare of Ethiopia than by educating its women and, indirectly, their children.

There are more than a million orphaned children in Ethiopia. The girls are particularly vulnerable.

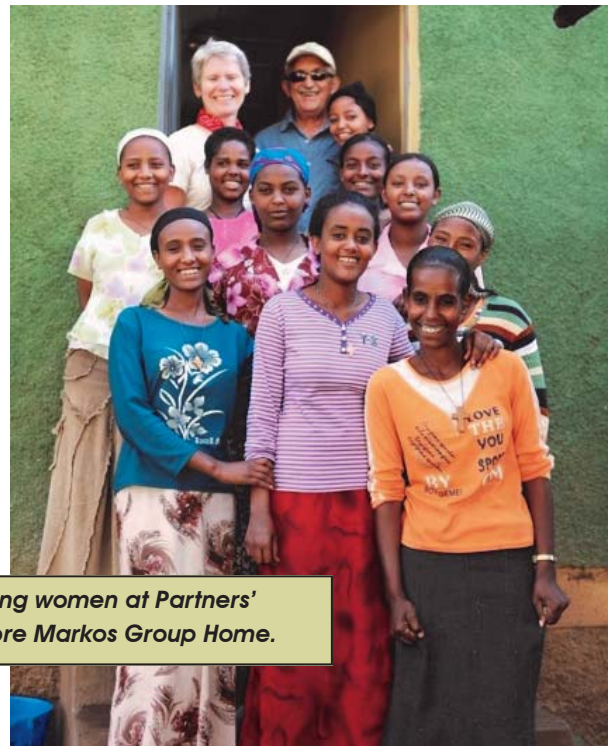
Partners initially addressed this problem by subsidizing foster parents who cared for young orphans and established a ratio of two girls in the program for every boy. That worked fine until the orphans graduated from elementary schools. They were typically from small villages where there were no high schools so they could not continue their schooling. Their future was grim. Orphaned girls without support often end up in the commercial sex trade where HIV is rampant. Alternatively, they are forced to marry early for economic security or to take dead end jobs in the local market. So *Partners* then opened Group Homes in two urban centers where girls could live while attending high school. Each home had a house mother and a dozen girls.

That program was also successful but led to another conundrum. The girls who did well and qualified for post secondary education would have to move to the capital or other large urban centres where they would need further support.

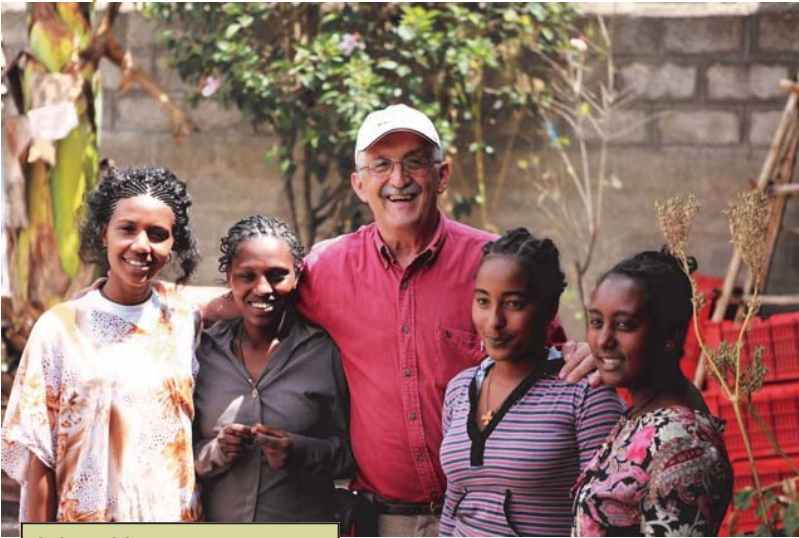
"We were very suspicious when strangers were coming to our villages. We used to think that they were government officials sent to force us to pay taxes. Our attitude has now changed. After we worked with Partners we started to think that people come to work with us on projects that can improve our lives."

- An elder from Kes Amba Village
West Gojjam Zone

In 2009 *Partners* opened a Group Home in Addis Ababa, again with a house mother, where the young women could live safely while continuing their education. That was the genesis of "Scholarship House",



Young women at Partners' Debre Markos Group Home.



John with young women at Laura's Place.

recently renamed "Laura's Place" after Laura Parkinson, a Canadian feminist, lawyer and social activist who was a great supporter of **Partners'** work with young women in Ethiopia.

Ten years after the start of the foster program in rural Ethiopia some of the young women are well on the way to becoming successful professionals. One is leading her second year class in medical school; another is on her way to becoming a C.A.. Others are studying nursing, teaching and accounting.

These young women were all "rescued" from dire straits. Now they live in a structured setting with loving house mothers and "siblings", have access to higher education and receive medical attention when they need it. They

have gone from among the most vulnerable, impoverished people in the country into the vanguard of educated Ethiopians.

Check out our new 2010 **"Introduction To Partners"** - a very informative 25 minute video available on our website, on YouTube, and on DVD by request. This video was generously produced at no cost to Partners, with many thanks to Allan Shewchuk and Mike Mattson.

"We are witnessing the soil healing and the moisture increasing. We are convinced that our lives will continue to improve if we care for the vegetation and we will protect the trees like we protect our eyes."

- A villager of Dinsir Metakir explaining the impact of the Reforestation Project

View from the reforested area on Mt. Adama, showing the eroded farmland below that will be restored because of this project.



Where The Trees Are

Canadians usually think of reforestation in terms of lumber companies replacing the trees they have removed. And because timber is harvested in remote areas, we seldom associate reforestation with rural people.

In Ethiopia only 1% of the original forests remain and erosion is a huge problem. Women (often young girls who should be in school) spend hours walking to remote areas searching for firewood to cook with.

Dinsir Metakir is a village on the slopes of Mt. Adama in central Ethiopia. Its people are impoverished and its men leave home each year to make money to feed their families. Many years ago the hillsides were stripped and the rich soil on the slopes where animals could graze was degraded with runoffs.

Last year, with **Partners'** help, villagers planted 66,000 trees on Mt. Adama and then guarded the new seedlings from livestock. The results were amazing. Almost 80% of the planted trees survived and took hold. Species that were not planted also rose from the soil (presumably from dormant seeds). Originally, the people of Dinsir Metakir participated in the

Meeting with the planters of Dinsir Metakir.



Yehalem Metiku, our Country Representative, shows the indigenous vegetation restored because of this project.

project to secure paying jobs over the rainy season and in the hope that they would be able to sell the timber from the new trees. All that changed once the trees took hold. Villagers decided that the continuing restoration of Mt. Adama and the restoration of a healthier environment was their priority. People marvelled at how their kids would now be able to see animals and birds that had been absent for years. At a meeting of the villagers one man summed up the community attitude: "We will protect the trees like we protect our eyes!!". Villagers from other communities were recruited to plant another 900,000 trees over the next several years!

There is another remarkable part of the Dinsir Metakir storyline. Funds for the project were raised by employees of EBA Engineering Consultants, a Western and Northern Canadian-based scientific and engineering firm. 242 employees, out of a total staff of approximately 600, raised more than \$27,000 in a week's time. Good on you, EBA!!

Planters on Mt. Adama - "We will protect the trees like we protect our eyes."



"We like Partners in the Horn of Africa because its funds go in to projects having visible results and (Partners) insists that its Ethiopian 'partners' contribute to project costs and allows them to play key roles throughout the life of the project." – Lake Ayalew, Chief Administrator of West Gojjam, Zone, Ethiopia



A thoughtful quote on the exterior wall of the Dembecha School.

Charities Alert!

Recently the CBC reported that in more than 200 cases, Canadian charities paid more than half the money they received from donors to external fundraisers. The Canada Revenue Agency recommends that no charity spend more than 35% of revenue on fundraising.

Partners in the Horn of Africa assures donors that:

- **Partners** does not spend any part of donations on fundraising costs and does not use external fundraisers.
- 100% of all donations to **Partners in the Horn of Africa** go to projects in Ethiopia. No portion of donations is used for **Partners'** administrative costs in Canada or Ethiopia. Our administration costs are covered by a sister organization funded by a small group of **Partners'** directors and individuals.
- Our Ethiopian 'partners', usually a village group or local charity, contribute 15-20% of the cost of each project except in a small number of cases where we work with the most marginalized groups in Ethiopia, such as HIV Orphans, where the ability to contribute is limited or non-existent.
- **Partners** does not sell or exchange names of donors. The identity and amount of donations by individuals are considered confidential.



www.partnersinthehorn.org

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

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

Our mission is to improve the lives of Ethiopians. We listen to their needs and partner with them on projects that empower communities and individuals and contribute to their well being.

Our Board of Directors

- John Baigent
- Mekonen Bayssie
- Kirsten Behler
- Patricia Blocksom
- David Cosco
- Marguerite Jackson
- Rebecca Maurer
- John McAlpine
- Seaton McLean
- Vince Ready
- Brooke Sundin

Rebecca Maurer (left), a Director of Human Resources and Kirsten Behler, an Urban Planner, both from Vancouver, were elected to the **Partners** Board of Directors at the 2010 Annual General Meeting in June. We are delighted to have them aboard.



Moving? Please let us know your new address so we can keep in touch.

Email? Let us know if you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email.

Your donations are making a difference in the lives of many Ethiopians. On their behalf, we thank you.

We are a recognized Canadian charity and issue tax receipts for all donations.

"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