



Protected spring and community water points

Partners in the Horn of Africa is a Canadian charity operating in Ethiopia. We work with both rural and urban communities, focusing our efforts and investments in areas of unmet need. Our projects respond to community requests, addressing a range of needs such as education, child protection, basic infrastructure, water and sanitation, gender equality, food security, natural resource management, and livelihoods.

We follow two basic principles:

- We work with an Ethiopian partner on each project, usually a community or local organization. Our partner proposes the project and is required to contribute at least 15% of the total cost in cash, labour, or materials.
- 100% of any donation to *Partners* goes directly toward project and programming costs in Ethiopia. Administrative costs are covered by *Friends of the Horn of Africa*, a sister organization that is funded by our directors and staff, and a growing number of committed individuals, trade unions, corporations, and foundations.

Partners has completed over 250 projects since 2001 and manages roughly 50 active projects at any one time. We are non-denominational.

Letter from Enderby

Partners has moved up in the world, literally. Thanks to the generosity of one of our long-time supporters, Murray Rossworn, we moved into new office space at street level in February. The 4-room space, located below Rossworn Henderson LLP (our pro-bono auditors), is an ideal place for *Partners* to call home and provides us with street exposure for the first time. We welcome you to drop by.

The beginning of February also marked another big change for *Partners*. John Baigent, founder and executive director, retired (sort of) to the multiple roles of board member and dedicated volunteer. John and his wife, Woinshet, remain solidly engaged with *Partners* as leaders, supporters, promoters, volunteers, and gracious hosts from their homes in Enderby and Ethiopia. It has been an honour learning from and working with John during our handover period, and I'm very thankful he will be playing an ongoing mentoring, advisory, and governance role.

In Ethiopia, we are also under new leadership. Tesfaye Kifle, *Partners'* deputy country representative and education leader since 2011, has taken over as country representative from May 1. Yehalem, to many the 'face' of *Partners* in Ethiopia, has



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.



Tesfaye Kifle with community leader

decided to move on to new challenges. Yehalem joined *Partners* as a volunteer, then board member, and then became country representative in 2006. We wish him the very best in his next steps.

I feel fortunate to have had the chance to visit Ethiopia in my second month as executive director to meet our Ethiopian staff and our partners, and to see and learn about our projects first-hand. This was my fourth time in Ethiopia but my first time to see *Partners'* work.



Abebech & Bancheyehu,
Debre Markos
Girls' Home

Two and a half weeks is much too short a period to take stock of 12 years of work but I was able to see a spectrum of the kind of work we do: footbridges, girls' homes, schools, water supply and protection, a hospice for people living with AIDS, and alternative education for children who cannot attend formal school.

I came away with many impressions, but what struck me most was our relationship with communities. It is clear they are leading our work. We are their partners, lending a helping hand along a pathway they've already charted.

It's a relationship I had to see to believe. Partnership is now the *modus operandi* of development assistance, but what falls under the umbrella of "partnership" can look and feel vastly different. Getting a feel for how *Partners* does partnership was one of my primary objectives for the trip. It is indeed different from what I've seen before in my 15 years of community development work.

The kudos for this way of working rest squarely with our founder and the principles he embedded in *Partners'* DNA and now with our Ethiopian staff who work with incredible energy, skill, and vision to bring them to life. I was so inspired by their commitment to the

work we do together and take great comfort in knowing they are the best co-stewards of *Partners'* mission and our supporters' funds.

I am excited to start writing *Partners'* next chapter with Melanie in Enderby (the friendly 'voice' of *Partners*, if you've ever called in), Tesfaye and his team in Ethiopia, our board members in Canada and the US, and all of you. Thank you for joining us.

Christine Parsons, executive director
cparsons@partnersinthehorn.org

What's coming up?

* May 30

AGM & Annual Ethiopian Dinner, Vancouver, 5:30pm
Call us to reserve your ticket in advance!

* June 12

Annual fundraiser in Calgary, at The Cookbook Company (722-11 Ave S.W.), 5pm

* July / August

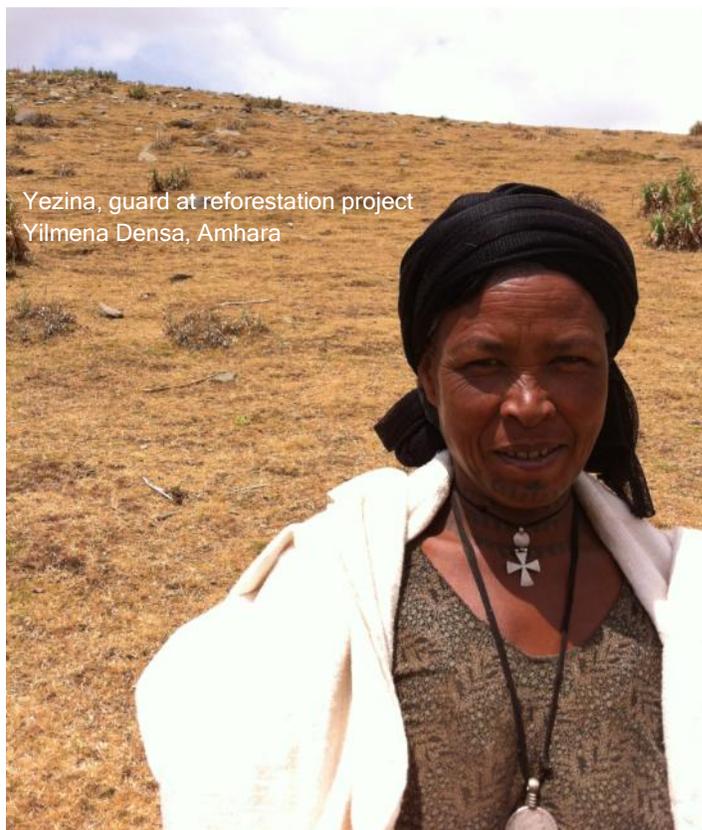
Look for our new website design! Find projects you can support, our most recent financial statements and reports, and connect with us through social media

* October 17

Annual fundraiser in Edmonton, at the Petroleum Club (11110-108th St), 5:30pm

* October – TBC

Fundraiser in Vancouver



Yezina, guard at reforestation project
Yilmena Densa, Amhara

project update

Yetnora High School (Re)Construction

During my visit in March, I had the opportunity to visit the future site of Yetnora High School. Yetnora town is a half day's drive from Addis Ababa, across the Blue Nile Gorge. It is estimated that fewer than 10% of those aged 15-18 attend high school in the area. With only two high schools currently in the *woreda* (district), distance from home to school is a major factor in low attendance.



The opening of the high school will serve students from 10 feeder elementary schools, many of whom would have left school following completion of Grade 8 if Yetnora were not built. The school is expected to enroll 685 students in its first year, and has the capacity to increase its student population to 1,000 in subsequent years.

Construction was well underway when I visited. A crew of mostly female labourers was avidly working in the midday sun. I stopped a team of two to ask a few details about their lives. Both were 18 and had left school after Grade 8 because the nearest high school was too far to walk to each day. However, with big smiles, they declared they would be enrolling in Grade 9 in September when the school they were building would open.

Partners, with the support of the **Kalamalka Rotary Club**, is renovating and finishing two classroom blocks that were built 22 years ago and never used, and newly constructing one new classroom block, a library, two science laboratories, a latrine, and admin blocks. All of these will be furnished and the library will be stocked with appropriate books and materials.

For all of our school building projects, *Partners* secures assurances from the *woreda* education offices that newly constructed schools will be appropriately staffed and administered and mainstreamed into the public school system. The school's teachers and administrators will be engaged in *Partners'* teacher capacity building project and librarians will also receive targeted training from *Partners*.

The surrounding local communities have contributed 36% of the total project cost, a sum of over \$65,000. And, each and every day, a member of the community committee is on-site to supervise the contractor's work.

Construction is targeted to be complete by the end of June. The doors will open to students, including its construction crew, in September 2013.



New classroom block under construction
Yetnora, Amhara



Partners would like to specially thank Tyler Matzen who raised over \$7,000 for a new protected spring and water system in Oromiya. Tyler, who just turned 6, hosted a fundraising concert in Bowen Island in November. "This concert is kind of like my birthday party except the money will go to a water well in Africa." During the summer, Tyler raised money at the BowFEAST Farmers Market selling fresh organic sprouts and peanut butter 'energy balls.' Tyler had a thoughtful phone conversation with John Baigent to assure himself that *Partners* would match his funds. Reports are that he was a tough negotiator.

Donating and your taxes

Federal and provincial tax credits give a significant portion of your charitable donation back to you, while *Partners* benefits from the full value of the donation. For donors who have already contributed \$200 to another charity, the actual cost of a donation to *Partners* is:

Donation amount to <i>Partners</i>	Actual cost of donation to you		
	BC resident	Alberta resident	Ontario resident
\$100	\$56	\$50	\$60
\$500	\$282	\$250	\$299
\$1,000	\$563	\$500	\$598
\$10,000	\$5,630	\$5,000	\$5,984

If you reside in another province, use the **CRA's online charitable donation tax credit calculator** to see the total value of credits on your donation (see <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng1b2-eng.html>).

From 2013-2017, **first-time charitable donors** get an additional 25% credit on donations up to \$1,000 under the new "super credit." For more information on the First-Time Donor's Credit, see <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2013/qa01-eng.html>.

If you **donate securities**, you do not pay capital gains tax and you receive a tax receipt for the market value of the securities. (We sell all donated securities immediately upon receipt.) For more information on tax incentives of donating securities, see <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/rcpts/dntn7-eng.html#q6>, or talk to your tax accountant.



Alternative Basic Education School
Geja Kejima, Oromia



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Have you moved too?

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