

Ethiopia Calling

The newsletter of **Partners in the Horn of Africa**

Partners has been busy

We now have completed 40 projects in Ethiopia and have 46 on the go.

All of these projects were true to Partners' two basic principles:

- 100% of donations go directly into projects in Ethiopia. Our directors work voluntarily and cover all operating costs.
- All **Partners'** projects have an Ethiopian "partner" who contributes 15-20% of the project cost, usually in the form of labour.



Micro Finance loans allow rural women to start their own businesses

A Great Big Run for Africa

Act I, Scene I: (6 a.m., a small, smoke-filled mud hut in rural Ethiopia. A woman stokes a firepit to prepare breakfast for her children)



100 kms. is a long way...even in the lovely Okanagan Valley

Eteferhu, a young single mother of 4 is starting the day full of anticipation and with a new sense of purpose. She is poor, recently widowed, and depends on handouts from relatives to feed and clothe her kids. Today will be the first day of what she hopes will be a new life. With a small loan from **Partners in the Horn of Africa** she will buy oranges from a local farmer and resell them at the market. This is her new business: this could be the start of her new life.

Act I, Scene II: (6 a.m. on the same day at a busy intersection on the outskirts Kelowna, British Columbia, two young women are shedding their warm up gear)

Crystal and Stephanie, two successful Okanagan business women, are getting ready

to run 100 kms. to raise money for loans to marginalized Ethiopian women. They don't know Eteferhu and have never been to Ethiopia, but they know how desperate the lives of women can be in sub-Saharan Africa and they want to do more than write a cheque. They want to connect with Ethiopian women and they know that in a country famous for its runners, women will understand why Canadian women have chosen to help them by running.

Act I, Scene III: (11 a.m. a busy, open air market in rural Ethiopia)

Eteferhu has already sold two dozen oranges and smiles with the happiness and pride of a woman who knows that a new life lies in front of her...one where a "hand up" may have ended her life of "hand outs", a life where she will be able to keep her kids in school and walk with her head high in her village.

Act I Scene IV: (11 a.m., on a highway bordering Kalamalka Lake)

Crystal and Stephanie are joined by other women along the route who have collected pledges for each kilometre they run...money for micro loans to Ethiopian women. A warm sun is rising over the lake and the women will return to their homes that night knowing that they have been part of a very special day...a day in which they were 'partners' with women on the other side of the world whose lives will be immeasurably enriched by *A Great Big Run for Africa*.

Fade Out. 11 hours after starting the runners



100 kilometers later at the Partners' office in Enderby



Firefighters in Enderby escort runners the last mile

arrive at the office of **Partners in the Horn of Africa** in the "downtown core" of Enderby, accompanied by Fire Engines with blaring horns. Oranges and water, as well as a dish of fowl, a favourite Ethiopian snack, are handed out. A quick tally indicates that approximately \$45,000 has been raised. The curtain falls on an amazing group of Canadian women.

* * * *

A Great Big Run for Africa was the brainchild of Alison Moscrop, a Canadian woman who visited **Partners'** projects in Ethiopia three years ago and decided to do what she could to raise awareness and help for the women of Ethiopia. This year's run was organized by Nicole Rustad, from Kelowna.

There are many ways of helping people in the third world. Increasingly Canadians want more involvement in the charities they work with. They insist that the charity be lean, be meaningful and effective.

Partners in the Horn of Africa is helping women like Eteferhu and we invite you to get more directly involved in the work we are doing. Think about your own fundraiser or take on a specific project with us (a group home for orphans, a community well, desks for a school) and educate your community in the process.

Some of the Amazing Women Involved in A Great Big Run for Africa



*"We are strong supporters of **Partners** because Ethiopians themselves are directly involved in project decisions, and also because all of the donated funds go directly to projects."*

Bill and Lynda Workman

After careers in Social Work and Education, Lynda and Bill retired to Kelowna, BC in 1997.



Crystal Flaman

Entrepreneur, athlete, professional speaker and facilitator for businesses, organizations and conferences across Canada and internationally. Kelowna, BC

"The organization is run so efficiently and productively and most importantly, so many women's lives, along with their families, are forever changed with the micro-financing opportunities made available to them."



*"I believe in the way **Partners** is delivering aid to disadvantaged women and children in areas within Ethiopia that are not helped by other aid organizations. I've now found a very satisfying way to give back, knowing 100% of my fundraising dollars are being spent responsibly. I'm so pleased to be able to help in my small way."*

Alison Moscrop

Senior Commercial Account Manager
Interior Savings Credit Union. Kelowna, BC

*"I became committed to supporting **Partners in the Horn of Africa** because of the way they deliver aid in both a sustainable and groundbreaking way - through community driven projects that empower the people and communities who benefit from them to help themselves."*



Nicole Rustad

Mother, Committed Volunteer, Financial Planner Kelowna, BC



*"I heard the story of Alison Moscrop and her trip to Africa with the **Partners** group. I couldn't believe that 100% of the funds went to the projects and I loved the idea of the African people really having a part in the projects."*

Stephanie Moore

Personal Trainer, BCRPA and owner of Active 8 Fitness. Kelowna, BC

*"As an entrepreneur and a self employed business woman for many years, I understand the importance of financial aid and emotional encouragement. It takes care, money, attention to detail, followed by action and a great respect for local customs, to make a difference in the lives of destitute families. This is what **Partners in the Horn of Africa** is all about."*

Afke Zonderland

Interior Designer, raw gourmet chef and columnist, Enderby, BC



Some of *Partners' New Projects*

1. HIV Education and mobile testing service in rural Ethiopia
2. Three new micro finance Projects
3. Manufacturing and distributing washable sanitary pad for 4000 girls who now miss two days of school each month.
4. A major English language upgrade programme for 483 Elementary School Teacher
5. Two new Girls' Group Homes for orphaned high school students...a place to live, to be safe and to be educated
6. New construction, renovating, bringing water and installing latrines at 11 elementary schools in the Bale Mountain Region of Ethiopia



Woinshet Mekuria, Ethiopia & Katherine Johnston, a runner from EBA Engineering Consultants

Partners is having an impact in the Horn of Africa. The problems are immense but your donations do make a difference in the lives of many Ethiopians. **On their behalf we thank you.**

Partners in the Horn of Africa directors:

John Baigent
David Cosco
Seaton Mclean
Brooke Sundin

Mekonen Bayssie
Marguerite Jackson
Vince Ready

Patricia Blocksom
John McAlpine
Cindy Stewart

REMINDER

We have to receive your donation **before** December 31 to issue a tax receipt for 2007

Partners in the Horn of Africa

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Partners in the Horn of Africa is a recognized Canadian charity and issues 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 ~

This newsletter is published courtesy of the United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Local 1518