



# S.E.E.D.S

*Sustainable East African Educational & Development Society*

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

**Issue N. 1 - Winter 2009**

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## A year at a Glance

SEEDS has completed another successful year. From a Board perspective, we continue to experience the challenges of managing a project so far from home. Keeping our finger on the pulse, while communicating conditions to our supporters here in Canada, is always a challenge, and demands a great deal of effort and communication with staff in Ethiopia.

Two divergent issues seem to be impacting families and children in Ethiopia in a significant way. Rising costs for accommodation and food coupled with significant drought and food shortages, are creating great hardship for people. That being said, new legislation is pending, that will see privately run schools converted to public schools, providing greater and more equitable access to education.

These issues combined, challenged the SEEDS Board to examine whether continuing to operate the Chapter 1 Pre-school Program in Addis Ababa,

was the most feasible use of our limited resources. As a result, this past September Chapter 1 was closed, which allowed us to focus on our operations in the north Sekota region.

As previously reported, when Meheret returned to Ethiopia in 2008, she set up a sister organization in Sekota, named 'Wag Hemra SEEDS of Education.' Rather than just hiring our own staff to operate things in this region, we wanted to build capacity in the community by assisting them to establish their own organization and management structure. We then fund Wag Hemra SEEDS of Education to carry out our work through a partnership agreement, which stipulates various funding, programming and reporting requirements.



Orphaned children being supported by SEEDS

In Sekota we continue to support six orphaned siblings, all with severe medical issues. SEEDS supported the relocation of the children from the village of Chila to the zone capital of Sekota. Wag Hemra SEEDS of Education has rented a house for the children to live in, they are receiving regular nutritious meals and have a guardian who helps them with their daily needs. The house also acts as the sister organizations office. SEEDS is requiring your continued support to help fund their medical care as all six siblings have various stages of goitres (an enlargement of the thyroid gland appearing as a swelling on the front of the neck) and the oldest sister is blind.

This last spring in May, Westbrook Elementary School held a spring tea with all proceeds going to SEEDS. Activities included a rummage sale, bake sale, silent auction and of course drinking tea! The event raised an impressive \$2525! A special thanks goes to our volunteers, Lisa Lypowy and Gail Faurschu for spearheading the event, as well as all the other parents, students and teachers who contributed in various ways. It was a wonderful opportunity for Westbrook students to show support for fellow students on the other side of the world.



## Current Projects

### *And upcoming Events*

Although we closed Chapter 1 Pre-school in Addis Ababa, we have not abandoned the children and families we were serving. We continue to support 39 preschool children and secondary level students and families in Addis Ababa.

While we await the pending legislation that will convert private schools to public schools, we are covering the 55-65 birr tuition costs for the preschool children to continue their education in schools other than Chapter 1. We also continue to provide for the children's school uniforms, other clothes and supplies.

We will soon be embarking upon a micro credit pilot project to test this service strategy in an effort to prove the long term well-being of these families and their children. We are presently working on putting in place the government documentation required to operate at this type of service.

With the help of Wag Hemra SEEDS Education we have been able to sponsor 50 orphaned and vulnerable children in the Sekota area, as well as 46 children in the village of Chila.

For the children in Sekota, SEEDS provides a clean, safe after school care facility for these children. Each child has access to a library, receives

support from a volunteer teacher to help them with their schooling and a snack at the end of the day. With your continued donations SEEDS would be able to increase the support given to these children, as well as reach out to the over 8000 other orphans in the Sekota area.

Wag Hemra SEEDS of Education continues to collaborate with the elementary school in Chila supporting the 48 children we sponsor to attend school on a regular basis. They are also provided with clothing, shoes and school supplies.

Because of the cost of travel and funding uncertainty, Meheret did not travel back to Ethiopia this past summer, but hopes to this coming year.

**Budget Forecast For 2010 at our current operating levels is \$25,000.**

***Ideally we would like to include all 39 families with preschool children in Addis Ababa to be involved in the Micro credit pilot project. We estimate at a cost of \$250 Cdn. Per family, this pilot would require an additional \$9,750.***

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

The SEEDS website is being reconstructed! Please visit it regularly for updated pictures and fundraising events.

[www.seedseastafrica.com](http://www.seedseastafrica.com)

Please use one of the following 3 e-mail addresses to contact us, depending upon your interests.

[info@seedseastafrica.com](mailto:info@seedseastafrica.com) - for general inquiries, interest in the board, etc.

[fundraise@seedseastafrica.com](mailto:fundraise@seedseastafrica.com) - for fundraising information, or willing to volunteer.

[donate@seedseastafrica.com](mailto:donate@seedseastafrica.com) - for people to inquire about donating (paypal), or for donation inquiries

Other fundraising events to look forward to:

- A table at all Northern Lights Folk Club concerts



Meheret, Janice and Katie visiting a sponsored family.

Without your support, SEEDS would not be able to support children's education in Ethiopia - so thank you to all of our donors!

A big thanks goes to:

- The Congregation of Knox Metropolitan United Church
- Bill and Betty jo at the Northern Lights Folk Club
- All organizations who donated to our silent auction
- Jessica Heine, Karla Anderson, Rob Heath, Bill Werthmann, Maria Dunn, and Bob Jahrig for performing at our Spring concert last year
- Amsale at Langano Skies Restaurant
- Westbrook Elementary School
- Lisa Lypowy and Gail Faurschu
- Sherwood Elementary School
- Overlanders Elementary School
- Garnett Workun at Little Ceasars Pizza

## Donations Form

For as little as \$25 a month you can send a child to school for one month.

I wish to donate:

- \$25 (to support a child for one month)  
 \$50  
 \$75  
 \$..... (other)

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Email:.....

Please send me updates & newsletters via email.

Invest in a Future

Donate to SEEDS

or be an ambassador to SEEDS by telling your friends and family about SEEDS

SEEDS is in the process of applying for our charitable status. Therefore, if you require a tax receipt please make your cheque out to:

Knox Metropolitan United Church

8307-109 Street

Edmonton, Alberta

T6G 1E1

or online donations are accepted via paypal: [www.seedseastafrica.com](http://www.seedseastafrica.com)