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Hi Friends of the Hudad

Our **Benefit Event on the 29<sup>th</sup> July** was a brilliant afternoon, with over 200 people attending and helping us raise over \$15,000. We'll use these funds to continue building the school on the Hudad plateau, as well as running our FOTH office in Lalibela.

We would like to thank all of you who came along, as well as all the **musicians, dancers and comedians** and **volunteers** who helped out.

A special thank you to **Dean & Caroline** of **KONJO MAMA** and their team **Sally, Lisa** and **Chris**, who did an amazing job cooking wonderful Ethiopian dishes. **Andy, Andreas & Tom** who ran the bar so smoothly. To **Andrea & Nic**, our Front of House team. **Louella**, who jumped in at the last minute to MC the event. **Charlie & Janine of Nelson Alexander Real Estate** for being our auctioneers extraordinaire. **Josh** the sound-engineer. **Selam** for preparing the Ethiopian coffee ceremony and **Jenny** and **Leonie** for their continuous work behind the scenes. Photographers **Ben & Michelle of Pause the Moment Photography** did an excellent job in capturing the great vibes!

Last but not least **The City of Yarra, The Nelson Alexander Charity Foundation**, and all the people, companies and organisations for their donations to the Silent & Live auctions.

## WHAT'S NEXT

We are now in full swing preparing for the next stage of the project. In **October** a group of **volunteers** from **Australia, the USA & The Netherlands** will go over to

work on a number of fronts:

- 1) To finish installing the solar panels and pump so we can finally (hopefully) get water out the other end of the long pipeline that winds its way around the mountain to the school site.
- 2) To continue building the walls of the 2 classrooms we made a start on earlier this year. We're hoping to finish the stone walls and get the roof on at least 1 classroom during this trip.
- 3) We'll be carting stone, felling trees to build roof trusses, building windows, and then putting it all together to make an amazing classroom for all the children of the 4 villages we've been working with over the past 2 years.

## **POSITIVE FEEDBACK**

A few comments from **Sisay Maregu**, our Director on the ground in Lalibela. He attended a Govt forum for all NGO's in the local region – the North Wollo Zone. FOTH received a very good report card. International NGO's are bound by a strict ratio of how funds are expended in the service of charities within Ethiopia. A maximum 30% can be spent on Administration costs, with the remaining 70% going directly to the beneficiaries of the project.

### **In a recent email, Sisay said :**

“FOTH becomes 1st among 36 NGO's in proper budget usage in N.Wollo zone GO-NGO.” “Followed by Plan International ....we used the planned budget for the program activities keeping the rule 70% & 30% - while others use for luxury and comfort for their staff”

FOTH has always been very careful in the usage of money raised for our project, and are conscious that as much as possible should go directly to the farming families we're trying to help. When we first started the project we had little idea of the costs we would incur to bring the project to fruition. Our initial estimate for the entire project was \$60,000 and we thought we'd be there for 3 months to build a simple school.

Dealing with the rules and regulations of the Ethiopian Govt and having to become a registered NGO to implement the project has added significantly to the running costs, as well as the length of time it is taking to complete the project.

Another example - the initial estimate for the water system was \$5,000. Current estimate to complete this essential part of the project is close to \$80,000.

The FOTH Board is committed to being transparent in our transactions, and will, from time to time, post reports on how donors' funds have been spent. This also includes being transparent to the local communities of the Hudad, the ultimate

beneficiaries and owners of the project.

If any of our members have any questions about the expenditure to date please contact us anytime.

To date we have raised close to AUD\$150,000. These funds have been broadly spent on the following activities:

<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>Original Budget AUD</b>	<b>Cost to Date</b>
<b>Project Costs</b>		
Water System	4,848	75,000
School Construction	51,955	24,000
Ablution Construction	9,500	
Land Management	6,159	2,500
School Operating Costs	40,249	
Administration	15,012	29,000
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>127,723</b>	<b>130,500</b>
<b>Total Funds Raised to Date</b>		<b>146,078</b>
<b>Funds Currently on Hand</b>		<b>15,383</b>

## **ONGOING WORK**

While we've been busy raising funds both here and in Seattle, Sisay and the local community have been busy **planting** more **tree seedlings and vegetable seeds**.

Over the past couple of months thousands of seedlings (eg. Olia Africana, Juniprus, Hygienist Abyssinixa, Gesho) have been purchased and planted. Another ongoing initiative is local farmers joining the vegetable growing groups, as they see the results of last years' vegetable gardens. They have been planting a number of cash crops and crops for local consumption, with great enthusiasm and success.

If you are interested in being part of this project, join us at one of our **fortnightly meetings** or contact us on [friendsofthehudad@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthehudad@gmail.com)

Our **upcoming meetings** are **Wednesday 13 & 27 Sept @ 7pm** (please email us if you are interested in attending).



**Photography: Pause the Moment**

**We thank the following people, companies and organisations for their donations to the silent & live auction**

Pet art, Uimi, Le Café Flo, Glamour Puss Studios, The Moving Room, Fitzroy North Eye Centre, Jackson Dodds, Yarra Bend (adventure) Golf, Ashk, Pause the Moment,

l'Occitane, Kudos, Paws the Moment, Tradelink, Piedimonte's Supermarket, White's Bikes, The Deck, Mesob restaurant, Philip Lobley Wines, Aerospace Australia, Konjo Mama, Ethiopia Gold, Julius Meinl Tea, Girasole Pizzeria, Fire Station Café, Welshmans Reef Vineyard, Little River Wines, Brooklyn Brewery, Sedona Estate, Fortuna Villa, Mesnoy injera bakery, Raindrop Technique, The Little Toy Shop, Vair Buchanan Illustrator, Osteo4Health, Gargoyles & Dragons, Pearl Skin and Beauty Castlemaine



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