



The Friends of the Hudad newsletter

It is with great pleasure and pride, that we can finally say, without reservation:
WE ARE OFF AND RACING

We have finally been granted the title for the land for the school. What could be more symbolic than dirt passing hands? It is such a positive and joyous moment for all of us. Our Ethiopian representative, the FOTH team, our friends and the Hudad community have been working so hard to make this dream come true. At times it seemed like it would not be possible, but we have made it so.



Community gathering



The last part of the mountain path to the school site



lots of excitement

But now is the time for action

The first part of the project - to bring drinkable water to the site - is now underway. This week the whole community are taking part in bringing the 40 tonnes of sand and cement up the 3 hour trek from Lalibela. These materials will be used for constructing the water reservoir and the trenches for the water pipes. A four km long pipe will bring the water from a few local springs to the school site.

Madge and Conrad are going on a self-funded trip on November 27th to finalise design and start construction of the water system, including potential utilisation of Australian designed hydraulic ram pumps, which require no fuel or electric power source. They are working with the community to get the water system project started and continue the planning for the school.

The water is essential for the success of the school, providing clean drinking water, sanitation and washing facilities. Initially however, the water will be used to make the mud bricks for building the school.

This water will also be available for irrigating trees; both for reforestation and the orchard and vegetable garden. These will provide essential nutrition to the local community and also hopefully some surplus can be sold at the market, giving them a source of income.



Derebe our country representative



collecting sand and cement



measuring the land

Fundraising

To make the project succeed we need to raise a further \$100,000. Partly this is because of the decline of the Australian dollar (we have to convert to \$US dollars to do business in Ethiopia). Also, the budget has increased due to unforeseen costs, most of which is attributable to previously unknown aspects in the water system.

We need your help and generosity

We understand that everyone who receives this email has already supported our project in so many ways. We would like to take this opportunity to let you know how much we appreciate your support! Maybe you could spread the word a little further, amongst your friends and families. Every little bit helps!

We now have a campaign on the Social Enterprise site "Chuffed", which has details about our project and provides an easy way to donate with a credit card from anywhere in the world. They do not take any commission and all the funds come directly to the project. Take a look



<http://www.chuffed.org/project/the-friends-of-the-hudad>

We also have a beautiful Christmas gift card. Perhaps you would like to use this option to spread generosity during the festive season



These beautiful cards can be ordered directly on the chuffed site and will be mailed to you in 4 working days.

If you know other people who like to donate as part of their festive celebrations and gifts, we would appreciate if you could pass the information on to them. And assure them that the overheads for our project are minimal. All the money raised goes directly to the project and all the Australian people involved are all volunteers.

If you would like some hard copies of the gift cards to show your friends or put on display at your work please email us and we will pass them on.

Here are some links to our facebook page and website for further information and updates about the project:

<http://www.facebook.com/friendsofthehudad>

www.friendsofthehudad.org

Future plans for volunteers wanting to come to Ethiopia

We will be focusing our efforts on completing the water system over the next few months. Once the water system is up and running we will update you all about potential dates for those interested in coming to help with the build. There will be several opportunities, as it will be done in a staged approach.

Wishing you all a very joyous festive season

Warm regards

The Team at Friends of the Hudad in Australia and Ethiopia and the Hudad Community