



2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

# CHANGING LIVES IN A CHANGING WORLD.

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Adaptation is the  
keystone of resilience



## Executive Director's Note

### What a year it has been!

Real Humanitarian has had to overcome many unexpected challenges, adapt to change, and work within globally paralyzing restrictions, while continuing its work to create a future of hope and opportunity for destitute children.


This year has not been easy.

In February, 15 volunteers and staff were detained and imprisoned while providing medical and dental care to students in the Gondar province of northern Ethiopia. This was a great hardship to the volunteers, their families, our supporters, and to the entire Organization.

Thankfully, everyone returned home, and the medical and dental equipment has been returned to us.

Then in March, COVID-19 hit. All Real Humanitarian supported students were affected by school closures, lockdowns, and sheltering at home requirements, similar to what we experienced in North America. But unlike North America, 75% of the families in our programs suddenly had no income, no food, and no access to support services.





Within days of the lockdown, Real Humanitarian shifted a substantial portion of our resources to survival. Projects that had land grew crops of potatoes, maize, wheat and teff. We established relationships with food growers and wholesalers. We grew, bought, and distributed tons of food to our students' families. At the same time, we continued student education through tutorials which were printed and distributed weekly.

The year-end reports from our students are particularly raw this year, as they describe the trials they have endured. But they remain hopeful. Many plead that we not forget them, for we are their lifeline, their chance at a better future.

We, and our students have had to be resilient, and have had to adapt to unexpected changes, but we have succeeded.

Thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and partner organizations for lifting, supporting, and serving our students and their families - for changing lives forever.


YOU are their lifeline and hope of a better future.

**Richard Northcott**

Executive Director

Children gain daily support at Education Support Centers that are structured on the Holistic Child Centered Network.



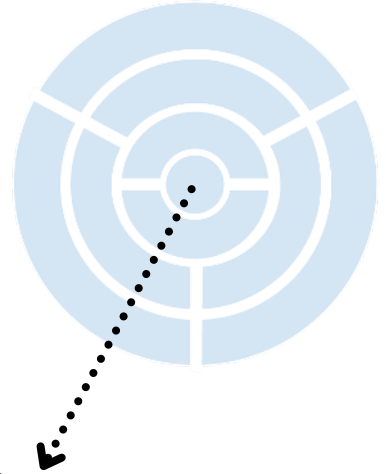


This year, we adapted our activities based on the same holistic model to meet changing circumstances during COVID.

# child

issue vulnerable and insecure  
due to shifting realities  
during the pandemic

response this year our focus  
shifted to their basic  
survival





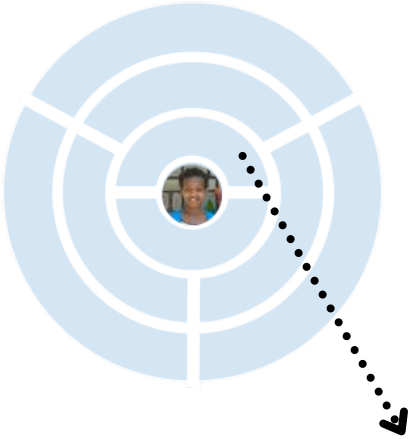
# home

quarantine and  
isolation orders  
unable to attend school  
or the center

issue

student and family support  
was brought home  
to them

response



# center

issue

gathering restrictions  
and social distancing  
no large group meetings

response

became the hub for staff to  
organize food, and hygiene  
distributions

pickup and drop-off of tutorial  
packets

social and interest clubs  
converted to small groups  
or "shifts" based on local  
restrictions



# nutrition

food scarcity, and no  
communal meals

monthly food distributions to  
support whole families

pre-packaged snack bags  
for students at  
the center

issue  
response



# education

issue

schools were closed, but  
students didn't want to  
fall behind

response

distance education through  
tutorial packets  
weekly homework designed and  
graded by center tutors





# health

lack of resources  
increased vulnerability

issue

food & sanitation hampers

increased mental and  
emotional health supports

response



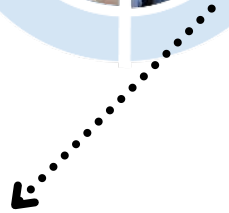
# guardians

issue

loss of work and  
income

response

expanded programs to  
build future literacy and  
income capacity





# volunteers

global travel restrictions

issue

expeditions on pause  
following global travel  
guidelines

response



# field studies

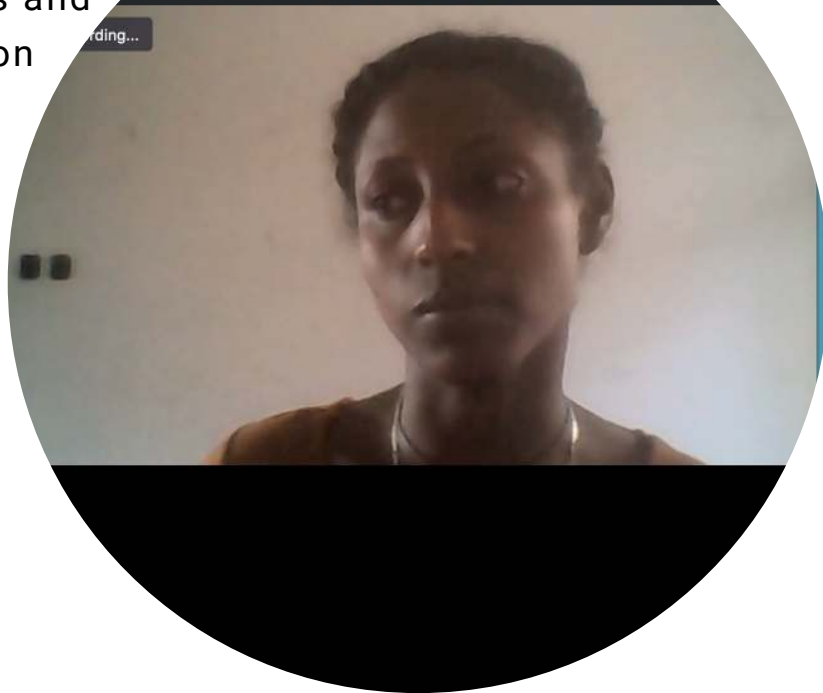
issue

travel and gathering  
restrictions prevent face  
to face implementation

response

building curriculum and planning  
for the future

virtual interviews and  
data collection



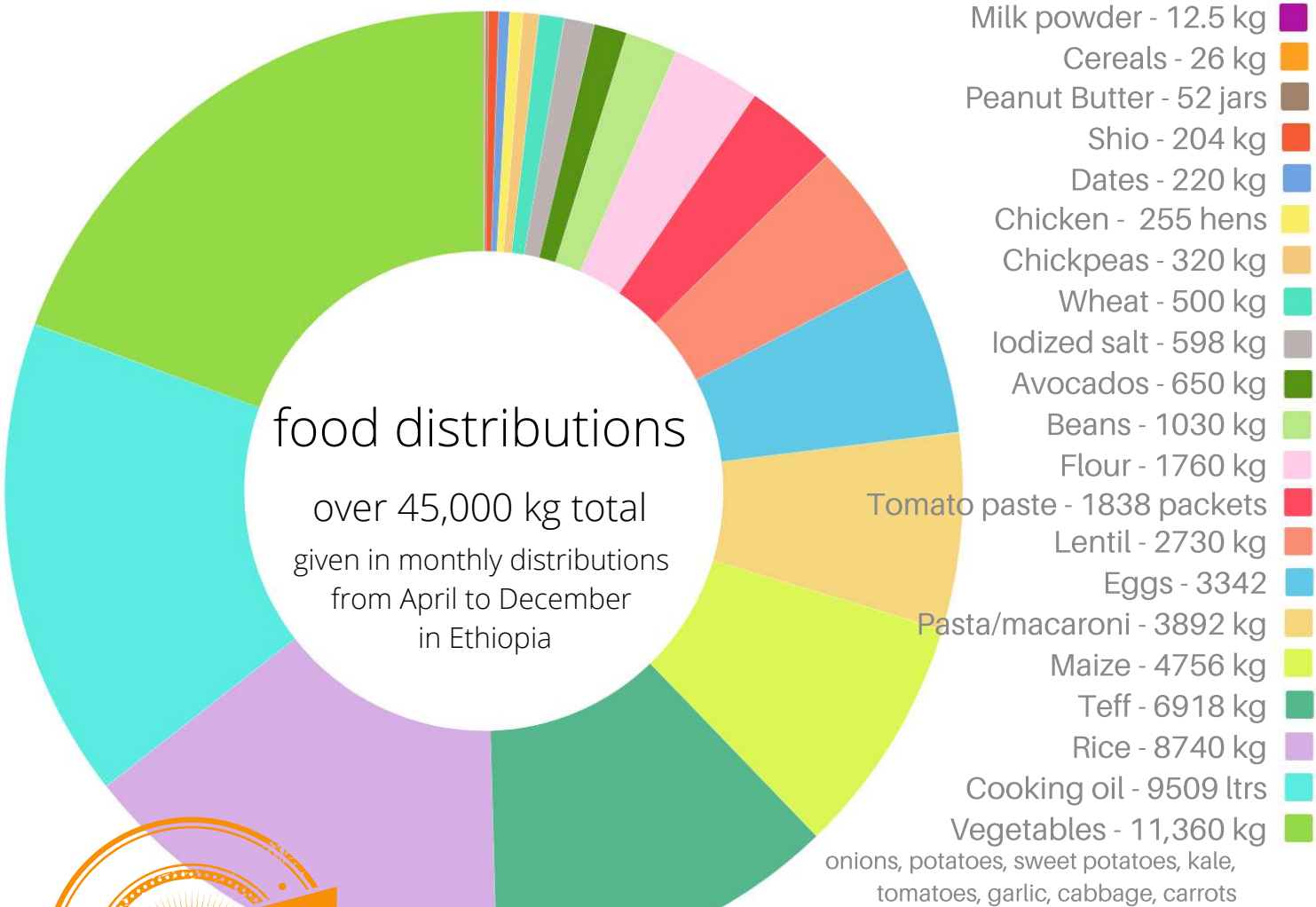


# holistic model

creating the tools to bring hope  
for tomorrow

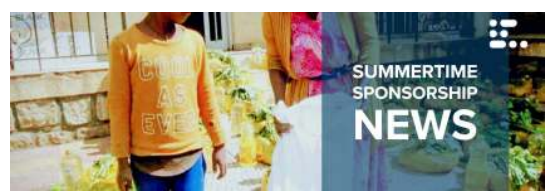


# making a difference



that's 45 TONNES!

see our  
summertime  
newsletter



**APR, 2020**



## FIRST DISTRIBUTION

- ✓ Immediate need for food and hygiene supplies for all 392 families across all our education support centers
- ✓ Monthly food distributions planned and begun

**JUNE, 2020**



## GARDEN VEGETABLES

- ✓ Garden projects at Kality and Kersa produce good crops
- ✓ Fresh vegetables from our gardens are incorporated into the monthly food distributions

**JULY & AUG,  
2020**



## SSCM SCHOOL STUDENTS INCLUDED

- ✓ Students from the Vocational Training Center reported a need for nutrition support while most jobs were on hold
- ✓ An extra 50 food disbursements were made for the next 2 months

**DEC, 2020**



## DISTRIBUTIONS ON HOLD

- ✓ Food security and availability has improved in the country.
- ✓ Students are receiving a prepacked snack at the center.
- ✓ Program Managers will continue to monitor the needs of the students and their families.

**AS  
ALLOWED,  
2021**



## HOT MEAL PROGRAM

- ✓ Our regular nutrition program includes a hot meal at the center for students every day.
- ✓ When communal meals are again allowed by local authorities, the full nutrition program will be reinstated.

▲ = 100 units



Body Soap - 3714 bars



Laundry Soap - 4756 bars



Hair Oil - 624 bottles

## hygiene supply distributions in Ethiopia

To ensure proper personal hygiene, an important part of health safety and major component of COVID prevention, students and their families were also given tutorials on careful hygiene habits.



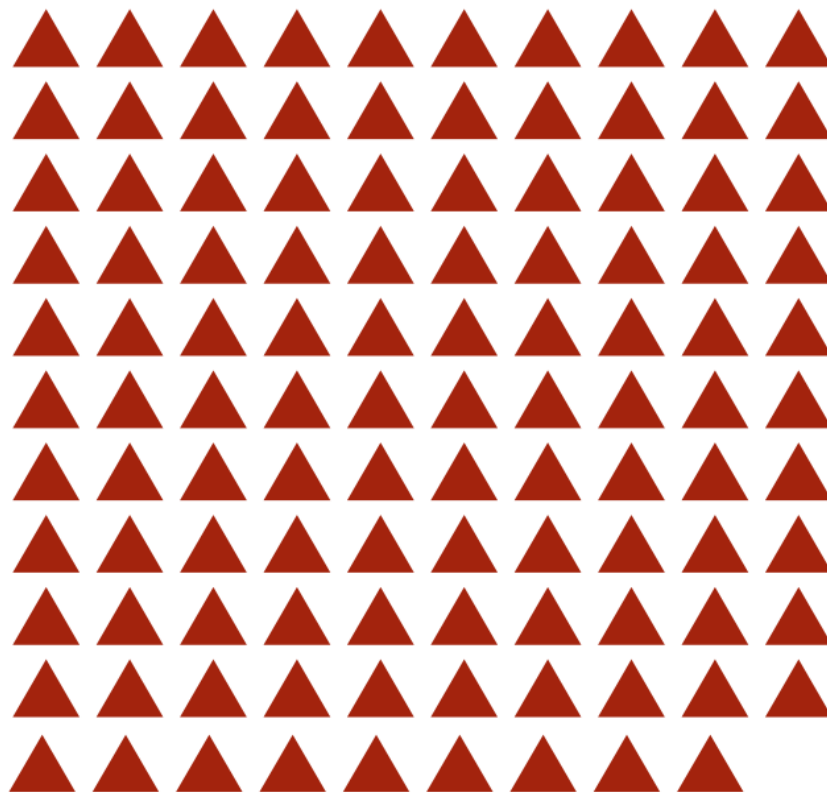
Sanitary Reusable Hygiene Kit - 72





Center Staff developed tutorial plans for each grade level, so that every child could keep up their education and learning at home.

▲ = 100 units



■ Remote Tutorial materials - 10,916 packets

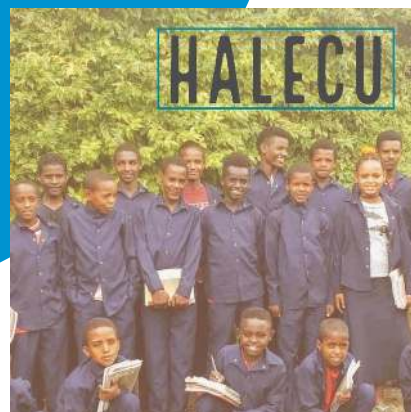
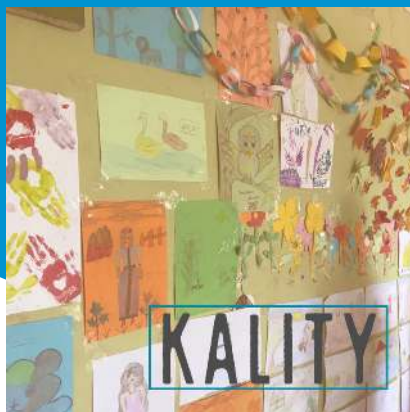
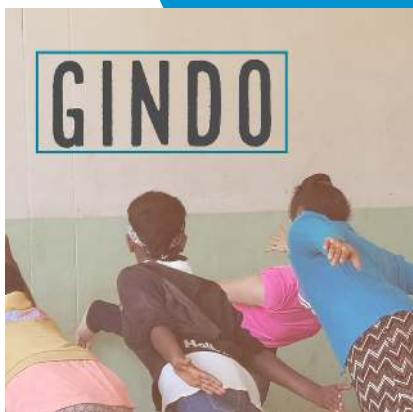
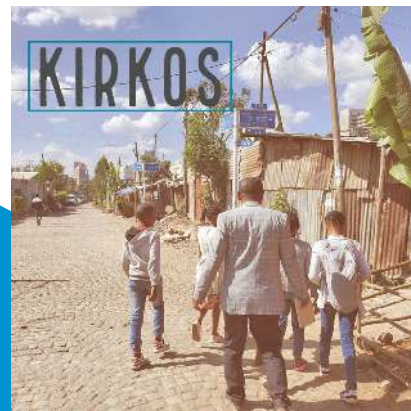


# 400 students impacted

monthly distributions of food and hygiene supplies were given to each student for their entire household



Alemgena - 50   Gindo - 50   Guelele - 50   Kality - 70   Kersa - 50  
Kirkos - 60   SSCM - 50   Turge - 20



Click on a square to see photos from throughout the year



# special partnerships

Part of our response has been to strengthen our partnerships and draw on our collective creativity and experience to forge paths forward in the new normal of our participants lives.



In 2019, we formed an alliance with the US-based REALgirl Foundation, founded by Anea Bogue B.Ed., M.A..

**REALgirl is currently creating and implementing a customized version of their program for all of our Ethiopian centers. Their weekly workshop program will be run by our on-site local staff.**

**With schools slowly starting to re-open we cannot wait to begin leading this empowering and transformative workshops with all the girls and boys in our programs!**

**The REALgirl program takes a 'holistic' approach to empowerment and covers topic areas that are most critical to the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of children, including goal-setting, human rights, puberty, menstrual health, consent, violence prevention, and more.**

REALgirl is an internationally-acclaimed girl empowerment and gender equity program which specializes in supporting whole communities (girls, boys, families, and schools) to help each member of the 'human team' reach their highest potential and foster safe and equitable communities.



When we began collaborating with REALgirl, we decided to also bring on their Guatemala project: SERniña (To Be A Girl). SERniña was founded in 2014 and since then has worked with over 1000 children, offered over 5000 hours of workshops, and collaborated with over 20 at-risk communities.

### Key points of success of SERniña are:

- Maintaining 94% school retention rate among girls
- Less than 1% of participants have become teen mothers
- Over 80% of participants have demonstrated improved personal agency and resiliency

COVID continues to affect Guatemala in devastating ways. Much like Ethiopia, many SERniña families were faced with loss of income, food shortages, and increased poverty. A particular concern to SERniña was the growing “Shadow Pandemic” which is the massive increase in cases of domestic violence due to lockdowns and isolation. Sadly, many of the young girls in the SERniña program were identified as victims of abuse.

To respond to these issues and school closures, SERniña innovated their programs and provided the following supports in 2020:

- Online empowerment courses  
(Menstrual Health, Puberty, and Healthy Relationships)
- Food hampers for most at-risk families
- Remote psychology support for individuals
- Community support based on unique needs

With schools still closed in Guatemala, SERniña looks forward to finding new ways to connect with and support the children in their program, and launching a more comprehensive violence prevention and response program





## **WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THE CHALLENGES FACING OUR STUDENT GUARDIANS.**

COVID 19 restrictions within Ethiopia caused a major setback to guardians earning livings in traditional ways. Once our first response to bring emergency assistance to families was in place, we have been working hard to search out a way to bring employment resilience for our guardians.

Several years ago, we were introduced to Hope Arising. Working exclusively with adults in Ethiopia, Hope Arising offers a comprehensive business and self-reliance training, partnered with mentoring and opportunities for start-up business funding. They bring years of experience and success to our new collaboration.

## **GUARDIAN EMPLOYMENT DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE STABILITY OF OUR STUDENTS' LIVES.**

With background and Masters in Business, D Lawrence Penner volunteered to assist in implementing a self-reliance, entrepreneurship program in partnership with Real Humanitarian.

It is exciting to find and work together with individuals and organizations that have such opportunity to change lives permanently. We look forward to 2021 as this initiative becomes a reality.



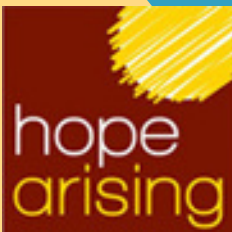
*interweave*  
SOLUTIONS

Interweave Solutions provides education materials for improving literacy, English as Second Language, and business training.

Hope Arising is moving to add their manuals and training programs to their already successful adult self-reliance and business program.

The added support to the work they are doing in Ethiopia, and for Real Humanitarian beneficiaries is an exciting development.

Working together, Hope Arising, Interweave Solutions, Real Humanitarian and D. Lawrence Penner promises change for those we serve.



# *Goats for Kids*

Goats provide income and food for families, with cheese and milk production and selling live animals.

Begun as a fundraising initiative by Melanie Bott and Dr Ivan Hucal, "Goats for Kids" is one way we are helping families become self-sustaining in the long term, using this year when parents and guardians regular work is on hold to build resiliency and a successful financial plan for the future.

With both immediate and long term impact, the "Goats for Kids" initiative will help our students and their families get through COVID and still get their education, while giving their families the skills and assets they need to weather this and future hardships.

Each Participating



1 pregnant



1 year of feed for  
goat & kids



4 veterin  
checku

g Family Receives



ant goat



arian  
ups



1 year business  
mentorship

## Ethiopia

Families from rural programs such as Halecu, Kersa, Turge and Gindo will participate.

To date 10 pregnant females have been given to families, with 3 new baby kids born before the end of December 2020.

2021 will see more baby kids born, and more families receiving a pregnant goat to begin their herd.

## Malawi

We are excited to be able to share this program with our scholarship student communities in Malawi.

Families living in the Mchinji and Mkanda Districts are scheduled to apply in 2021 for this opportunity.



# Nunya MUSIC ACADEMY

Our partners in the Nunya Team have been hard at work moving forward construction of the school building as much as has been possible this year. And progress has been made! The roof is now complete! In line to be finished next are the electrical and water connections. It's amazing to see the transformation, and we are excited for when the school can open and classes start up in the new building.



[SEE THEIR WEBSITE](#)





# Stewart Scholarship Award

The Stewart Scholarship is a scholarship established in 2019 by the generous contributions of Dr. Calvin Stewart, and his wife Mrs M. Anne Stewart for graduates of the SSCM Vocational Training Center, which they have personally visited. Those who pass their Federal Certificate Exam are given a gift of some basic items of their trade, and one exceptional student is also awarded a scholarship prize.

The 2020 Awards have had to be delayed until students are able to return to class and complete their Certification Examinations, which were postponed due to COVID19.

## Stewart Family Foundation

Real Humanitarian has supported scholarship students in the city of Gondar for the past 7 years. They did not have the support of an after school center, or the other benefits that come with Real Humanitarian's full child support network.

The Stewart Family wanted to help provide support where it was needed, providing long term support for students in Ethiopia. Matching the needs of the Gondar community with the Stewart family's desire to serve long time began in time for the end of the 2019 year.

With the challenges of 2020, closures of schools, sheltering at home, and civil unrest in the Tigray region, students are hoping 2021 will bring new support and a return to their education.

# MANJI-BURGHARDT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

In February we were pleased to present this scholarship award to four amazing, hardworking students who had excelled in their education in 2019.

Enrolled in post-secondary degree programs in Accounting, Finance, English Literature, and Adult Education & Community Development, each student had to receive top marks in order to qualify for this scholarship.

The Manji-Burghardt Scholarship is a prestigious academic scholarship established in 2013 by the generous contributions of Drs. Rizwan and Jacqueline Manji. Rizwan and Jacqueline have both excelled during their academic careers, due in part, to the opportunity to access scholarships. They in turn have a desire to motivate and support Ethiopian youth as they find success at a high academic level.



Fedila



Besufikad



Tekeste



Mintesnot



# creative fundraising

This year saw our first ever virtual events as we adapted our fundraising efforts.

Online giving days, virtual marathons, social distanced color runs, and a stay-at-home gala became the heartbeat of our efforts on our home ground. Amazing volunteers put in countless hours to help make it happen.

## Be the Helpers

COVID19 Response:  
bringing food  
hampers, water, and  
hygiene kits to  
students and their  
families

Empowered Girls  
Empower Girls  
an online workshop

Giving Tuesday  
Now

THE TEST OF HUMANITY  
a month long  
virtual challenge

CHICKENS FOR KIDS : CLOTHES FOR KIDS : GOATS FOR KIDS

Volunteer expedition members raised extra funds to enrich the lives of the children they met in February.

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

\*click on any fundraiser for more details

## HUES FOR HUMANITY

**Harmony: Fort McMurray:  
Medicine Hat**

From virtual color tosses to color run bingo, Hues for Humanity got a makeover this year

Toronto  
Waterfront  
Marathon

## HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Our first ever stay-at-home gala

Going virtual gave us an opportunity to connect directly with those in our programs in Ethiopia - with live and pre-recorded segments coming from the students and our Country Representative

Giving  
Tuesday

**FILL IT UP**  
our invitation to fill  
your world with  
giving and make a  
difference in a  
child's life.

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec



# organization financial report

## WHERE IT CAME FROM

Expeditions - 3.7%

Grants - 36.8%

Fundraising  
- 19.4%

General Donations  
- 23.4%

Child Sponsorship  
- 16.7%

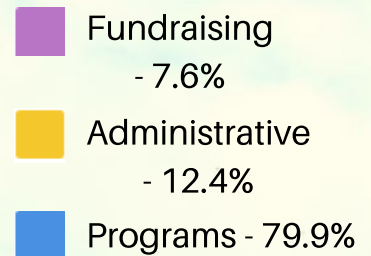


\$67,828

\$110,558

\$711,146

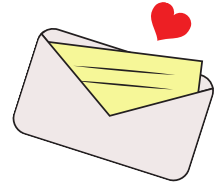
## HOW IT WAS SPENT





# from our students

We asked each student to write us a letter, responding to this question:  
"What will you remember most from this unusual year?"



After cases reported in our country school closed immediately. I cannot meet with my friends, no group study and no library. with school closed we remained at home. The center provided us tutorial papers and this helped us to be attentive to continue our study. Our center opened for half day only. it benefited me that the center was not closed. We received tutorial papers, we take bath and plant vegetable gardens I love my center because I feel safe there and learn many needed things. I was very happy with the successful first filling of the Nile Dam. I am lucky its done in my age

The many distressing things happened this year, there were good things too! People supported each other during the difficulty period. The monthly food and sanitary items support we received from the project has helped us a lot, as our families were not able to work because of COVID 19 Not only me, but other beneficiaries can't forget this.



I am one of the best in my education. Then came the outbreak of COVID 19 and the political unrest and extreme nationalism in the country. There are many changes in our country. Our currency changed. I used to participate in dancing and drama clubs at the center. But the center is not fully functional. I and my friends cannot continue the clubs and more over we are interrupted in our education. School closed and we cannot meet with friends. We have been all staying at home. I was attending an art class for painting which I most interested and loved but as a result of the pandemic we cannot continue the class. Our center was also half functioning there was no lunch, no tutorial and activities except bath, computer, and gardening. We received emergency aid from the center and I would like to thank you for taking this opportunity. Without you, we would not have had way to pass this difficult time. Thank you very much, we love you so much . I hope a better day will come. When COVID go away, we will meet again. I love you. Thank you for your supporting us.



The outbreak of COVID and the conflict between nations is my memory. Due to the virus schools closed down, we start to use face mask and sanitizer when studying. I take bath, study and received tutorial papers from the center.

Students stayed at home and it was very difficult to study by own without the support of tutor or group help. We hear of conflict and political unrest on mass media and social networks. There were a few number of people in our village infected with the virus and we were afraid. The pandemic affected people normal life.





# thank you

Anytime Fitness Medicine Hat  
Balsom Communications  
YMM Magazine  
Jim Patterson Broadcasting Group  
Chat News Today  
My 96.1 FM  
Harvard Broadcasting Group Mix 103.7  
FM-100.5 Cruz FM  
Holt Renfrew - Calgary  
The YARD  
Summit GM  
Walnut Beach Resort  
Scotiabank Medicine Hat - Brenda Dyck  
Yoke and Hem  
Medicine Hat Brewing CO.  
South Country Coop  
The Cooperators  
The Kommon  
Yoga You4ia  
Speed Pro Signs  
Grit City Distillery  
Earls Restaurant Medicine Hat  
SIX ONE SIX  
FUN and GAMEZ  
Hamilton and Cahoon  
Eagle Ridge Barbers  
Achieve Wellness Spa  
Fort Mc Murray Orthodontics

Mr Mikes Steakhouse  
Chocolates and Candlelight  
Doug Barnes Cabin  
Dedicate Healthy Kitchen  
EYE Image  
Dreamline Canada  
NuFloors Fort McMurray  
Layers Wellness and Spa  
Gym Nation  
Hair by Destiny  
Eagle Ridge Starbucks  
Calgary Municipal Land Corporation  
Fiasco Gelato of Calgary  
John Timms Association LTD  
Stay At Home Fundraising - Drew Vincent  
The Groundskeeper  
Gaslight Dental  
Financial Solutions  
Crescent Heights Medical  
Medicine Hat Toyota  
Szocs Family Foundation  
Ten -01 Designs  
Shooting Star Events  
Oz Heating  
Hagens Travel  
IG Wealth  
Copy Works  
Ci2 Group  
Graystone Dental Center





MNP of Medicine Hat  
ServiceMaster Restore of Winnipeg  
Big Ridge Grocery - Manitoba  
CORE Linepipe Inc  
SAAMIS Immigration Society  
Kenny Cheung  
Christopher Grover  
David Northcott  
Larry Penner  
Ellie and Carter Siebens  
Jason Cormack  
Don Chomyn  
Dieter and Kit Brand  
Jayne Brooks  
Dyck Family  
McLeod Family  
Dr Matt Gibb  
Vern Hyde  
Dr Tony Jeraj  
Paul Morrell  
Amanda VanderMolen  
Danilo Moran  
Dr Justin Steed  
Andy Szocs  
Amanda Szocs  
Zada Szocs  
Andrew Allen  
Lance Watson  
Jodee Wentzel

Stan Sakamoto  
Amanda Olsen  
Deddy Geese  
Megan and Nathan Nunweiler  
David Stephens  
Donna Bengert  
Dylan Elias  
Brian and Nancy Lokhorst  
Kim Boehme  
Dan Northcott  
Sian Rhydderch  
Dr Todd Beaulne  
Nic and Shea Seaton  
Matt May  
Dr Ted and Mrs Sylvia Cowtan  
Lyle and Sharon Taylor  
David and Alana Friesen  
Susan Marrier  
Douglas and Shirley Garrett  
Sharon Barr  
Shawn Hass  
Dawn Skogen  
Michael Lang  
Jake Knelsen  
Suzanne Downey  
Doug Dirks  
Julie Van Rosendaal  
Jessica McIntyre  
Marijana Agicic

# partners & sponsors



**ACGC**

ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR  
GLOBAL COOPERATION



*interweave*  
SOLUTIONS



*Nunya*  
MUSIC ACADEMY



Manitoba Council for International Cooperation



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**COMMUNITY  
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*of Southeastern Alberta*



*Stewart Family*  
**Foundation**

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*D. Lawrence Penner*

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