

YEAREND
FIELD
REPORT
2023





LETTER from the FOUNDERS



Co-founders Dr Richard and Deb Northcott enjoying the photo booth at the annual Beyond Belief Gala

We are pleased to bring this report from the field to you, sharing the happenings of Real Humanitarian during the last 6 months of 2023. Real Humanitarian's vision of eradicating poverty guides our activities. We work to create lasting impacts that are real and transformative through everything we do. Good progress has been achieved by our programs, individual families, and students. As you will see in this update, students are flourishing. Our 20th anniversary year has been amazing!

We are proud of the young people working hard to learn. With you solidly behind them, they are able to dream of a day of employment, independence, and being able to provide for their own

families in the future. (more on this on page 4)

The expedition teams from November and December 2023, heard a common message "Thank you for all you are doing" paired with "please don't forget us." Ethiopia struggles with high inflation, food insecurity, currency devaluation, goods distribution interruptions and even some regions are experiencing civil conflict. Our programs are needed more than ever!

Our partner efforts have been fruitful. The Nunya Music Academy opened for its first full term, with the building completed and ready for students to study. The Dzabe Youth Development Foundation business training has yielded new self-employed entrepreneurs. Guatemala Children learning thru SERNina programs have grown in confidence.

On the Canadian side, organizing travel teams, planning fundraisers, applying for grants, and presenting at conferences have yielded positive results. Thanks to the continued hard work hap-

pening here, support is available for overseas.

Gratitude to our donors and funders seems inadequate. We wish to express the depth of thanks that matches the power of your support. Your help touches lives daily and has meant that 2023 has been a life changing year.

To all our volunteers who travel, help from home, or are involved in some way with Real Humanitarian, Thank you. You give life that keeps programs operating and serving so many. And to foreign staff in Africa and Guatemala, who are the "boots on the ground", you who are giving vital day-to-day support to students and their families, another huge "Thank you"! You are pivotal in delivering services that change lives permanently.

We are excited to see what 2024 year will bring as we work together.

Deborah Northcott
Richard Northcott
Co-Founders

*real*Humanitarian:..
real results.

NEWS from our PROGRAMS

“THE WORK BEING DONE BY REAL HUMANITARIAN IS MAKING REAL CHANGE FOR SO MANY!”

- THERESA, EXPEDITION VOLUNTEER, DEC 2023

The children, youth and young adults pursuing academic learning have been working hard.

In Ethiopia, significant changes were made to the administering of the grade 12 national examination by Ethiopia’s Ministry of Education. The country reported that only 3% of 2023 students (845,188 students) achieved a 50% mark.

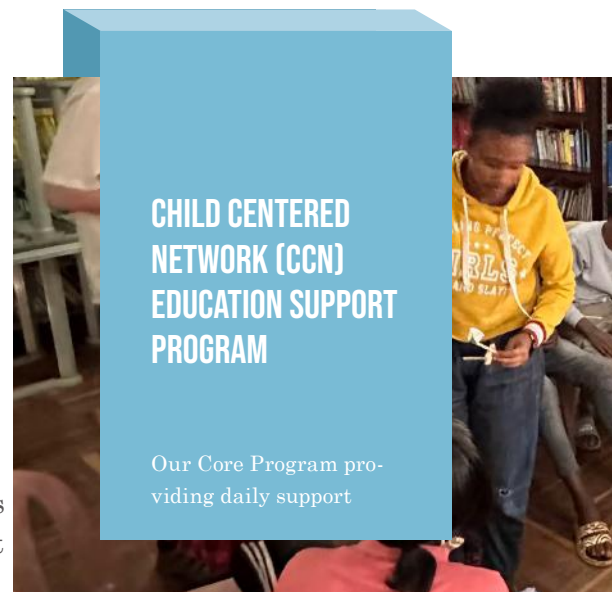
Our students began receiving their personal results in September 2023. Many of our Ethiopian grade 12 students were able to move onto University or College programs. Several have been admitted to prelaw, pharmacy, medicine, and engineering faculties. This is a HUGE success for them, and a giant step forward to making their dreams of professional training a reality. Younger students also saw success with 90% passing their annual grade exams.

After school special clubs continue to provide an opportunity for

developing talents. Garden clubs are helping students learn about nutrition and food security, as they practice good growing habits, their fresh produce is used for their center’s daily hot meal, with excess food shared with families or their community.

Students from the Gulele program were invited to the Addis Ababa Canadian Embassy, to sing traditional songs as part of the Ethiopian New Year Celebrations- September 2023. Students loved meeting the Ambassador and his staff, entering the Embassy grounds to perform.

The EDEN adult self reliance programs in Ghana and Ethiopia provide business training and mentoring. In each country, 57 new entrants were able to receive business training, of which 46 Ethiopian and 54 Ghanaian adults successfully received start up loans. During the November and December expeditions, team members were able to visit businesses and witness their success.



CHILD CENTERED NETWORK (CCN) EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Our Core Program providing daily support

In Guatemala, SERNINA conducted over 1300 workshops, touching the lives of 445 children, 80 mothers and 20 fathers. The workshops help bring about individual and family empowerment, nurturing positive change within Guatemalan communities.

The Nunya Music Academy in Ghana completed its first fall academic term. Only small infrastructure projects are left to complete the school building and campus, allowing the team to shift their focus to essential education services and enriched music programs. The annual summer music camps had incredible success. Part of the music camp activities was a beautiful inauguration ceremony. A special fundraiser helped the Nunya School purchase a school bus.



SERNINA



SELF RELIANCE PROGRAM - ETHIOPIA



SELF RELIANCE PROGRAM - GHANA

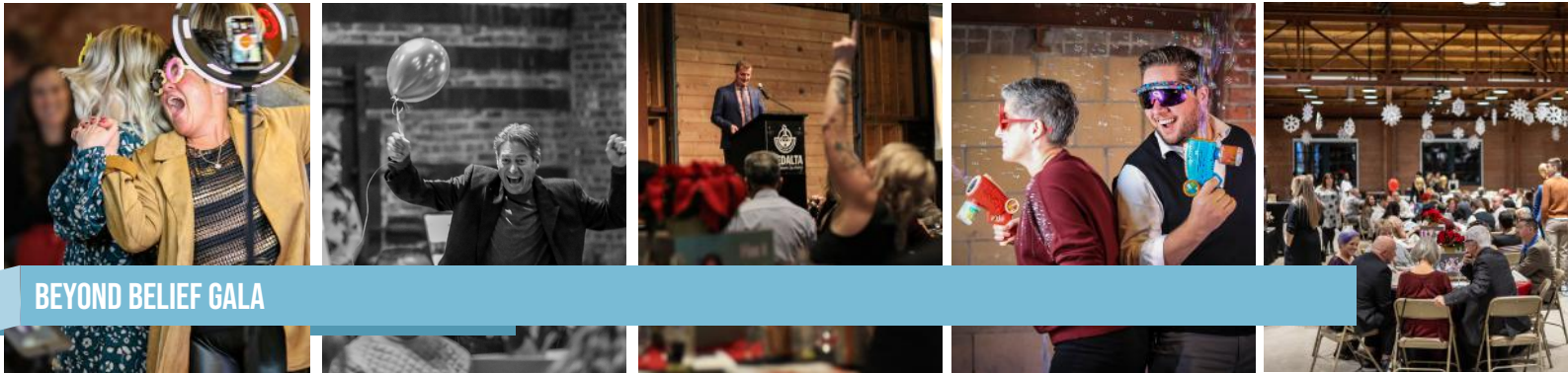
CHANGING LIVES ONE BY ONE



NUNYA ACADEMY

FUNDRAISING Successes

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES CHANGE HAPPEN!



BEYOND BELIEF GALA

VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, SPONSORS, GRANTORS, AND EVENTS

Thanks to you, the final months of 2023 were instrumental in ensuring that programs are supported well into 2024.

Our child sponsor program matches one of our students to a family in Canada who contributes towards their education journey. Sponsors get to see firsthand how the program impacts the student's life, and the student receives letters of encouragement from their sponsor. Knowing someone on the other side of the world believes in you is an incredible boost for a student's confidence and hope for the future. Thank you to all those who are provide this ongoing financial and emotional support to young people.

Our new granting writing team helped us to successfully win several significant grants for our trade school campus, education programs for girls, and gardening efforts at the after-school centers.

Volunteers from Calgary and Medicine Hat worked with the head office to plan Gala events with our 20th anniversary as the theme. It was a treat to reach back in Gala history and invite guests, expedition volunteers, and many others who have been involved with Real Humanitarian during our first two decades. The Gala evenings were a lot of fun, creating new memories, bringing people together to reconnect, and relive their time with Real Humanitarian programs. Thanks for all who participated in raising over \$51,000 at the Gala events.

Our annual "Changing Lives in a Changing World" campaign received an incredible outpouring of support! Beginning with Giving Tuesday at the end of November and going until the end of December, this effort raised \$178,000 towards essential programming for students. Education support, nutrition programs, youth and adult training programs will all benefit from your generous support!

GET INVOLVED

There are opportunities for everyone to be involved with Real Humanitarian. All contributions are meaningful no matter way or the size. We invite you to consider how you can join thousands of Real Humanitarian supporters in this effort to overcome poverty.

SUPPORT CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITIES

- 1 STUDENT SPONSORSHIP**
Bring the full impact of the Child Centered Network into a students life.
- 2 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER LEARNING**
Support students after graduation to gain a technical, college, or undergrad degree.
- 3 FACILITIES UPDATE**
Our Centers in Ethiopia are in need of a refresh! Help provide funding to repair, renovate, and upgrade student spaces such as the computer lab and tutorial room.
- 4 RESERVE FUND**
Provide long-term sustainability by growing our Reserve Fund. Our goal is to have a full year's budget in reserve.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

- 1 PLAN AN EVENT**
Host a fundraiser in your community! From small dinners to color runs, contact us for ideas
- 2 JOIN AN EXISTING COMMITTEE**
Find out if a fundraiser is already going on in your area, and contact the planning team.
- 3 TRAVEL WITH US**
Join an upcoming expedition and volunteer your time and expertise to bring services to our students and their communities.



HOPE FOR TOMORROW GALA

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Szocs Family Foundation
Mortgage Connection
Rotary Club of Canmore
Calvin & Jennifer Braun
Samuel & Laureen Bouey
Stewart Family
Fig Tree Foundation
D. Lawrence Penner

David Penner
Rizwan Manji & Jackie Burghardt
Ellie & Carter Siebens
Vulnerable Children Society
MCIC
Sofia Lopez
Unifor Social Justice Fund
Children Inc

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25th - Medicine Hat Hues for Humanity - now a part of the Rise Up Festival!
(see more about the festival <https://www.ourcollectivejourney.ca/rise-up/welcome>)
June 1st - Fort McMurray Hues for Humanity
June 15th - Calgary Hues for Humanity

TRADE SCHOOL Renovation

The demand for more trade skilled workers is increasing in Ethiopia. To help meet that demand, we initiated a full renovation of the trade school campus with our Ethiopian partner, SSCM, in July 2023. The capacity of the school will double the student population able to complete training in a year.

With efforts in Ethiopia overseeing renovation and construction, and in North America to find sufficient funding support, the renovation was completed in early November. Thank you to those who helped donate funds to make this possible and oversaw the day to day renovation activities to completion. We look forward to more students finding employment after their training.

MAIN FLOOR

A new classroom

An outdoor porch was enclosed to create more classroom space and extend the square footage.



GARMENT MAKING

More students, more classes

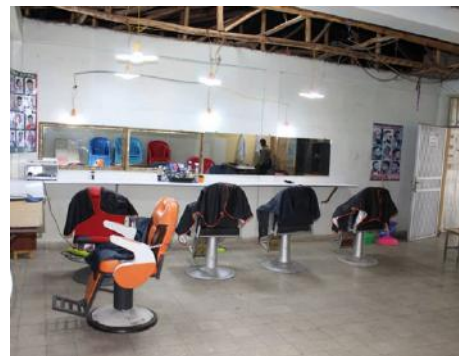
More than doubled the number of sewing machines and upgraded this class from a part-time to full time schedule to allow for more students and better practical application. Serger, sewing machines, embroidery machine, plus hand sewing techniques are now used in the classroom to prepare students for this career.



UPGRADED FACILITIES

Water and Hygiene

Toilets and septic system upgraded to handle larger student population. Classrooms updated and refreshed for a new semester, and floor plan rearranged to provide larger classroom space for students. Including a brand new indoor space for the barbery class.



FIRST CLASS GRADUATION

With the new larger class size!

With 60 graduates in this group the gathering hall was doubly full for our first graduation post-expansion!



SCHOLARSHIP STORY

Helen has passed the grade 12 National Exam, and is now waiting to hear which post-secondary campus she will be placed at. Helen will be studying Chemical Engineering.

Helen joined the Kality CCN Center when she was in Kindergarten, and completed all of elementary, middle, and high school with the support of our program. She has always worked hard to get top grades at school, and loved being in the dancing, soccer, art, and music clubs after school.

Helen is an exceptional young woman with a bright future. When she joined the program, her family was struggling as both her parents were too sick to work regularly, and none of the children were in school. Now Helen will be attending University and gaining skills to be well employed and self-reliant in her career and future.

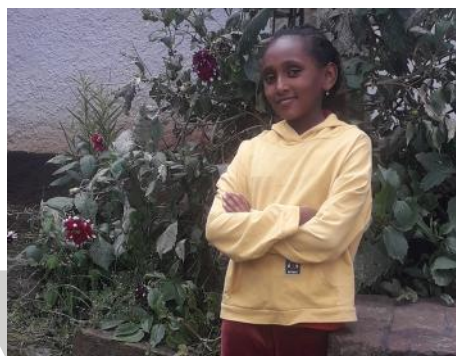


HELEN ANNUAL PHOTOS IN 2020, AND 2011 (INSET)



BILAL

New to our Center this year, Bilal lives in a rural village with his family (parents and 4 siblings). He loves the center for the opportunity, and the soccer club! His family is so happy that Bilal was able to join the program.



REDIET

Rediet lives with her widowed father, who is going blind. He expressed his gratitude for the help the program gives his daughter, as he is illiterate and cannot help her with her studies. Rediet has been in the program 4 years, and is grateful to be able to be in school, and have good shoes.



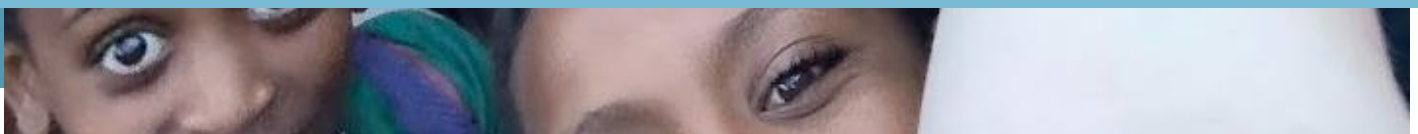
YARED

Yared has been in our program for 9 years. He told us the best moment this year was when he passed the Grade 8 Regional Exam - meaning he can continue into high school! He loves coming to the Center for a nutritious meal, and to spend time with his friends.



“ My expedition with Real Humanitarian was nothing short of life-changing. We had the opportunity to share meaningful experiences with various volunteers, employees, and most of all the children. We had the opportunity to learn about the culture, the landscape, the food, and the lovely people. We were welcomed with open arms and although we went there with materials to share, it was us who were taught so much. From the dances, the games, and the smiles... the relationships that we fostered there will hopefully last a lifetime. ”

Jordan, Spring 2023 Expedition Volunteer



EXPEDITION Report

AS WE RETURN TO REGULAR VOLUNTEER TRAVEL, WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE FIRST-HAND THE IMPACT OF THESE PROGRAMS WITH YOU

After several years of being unable to travel, it is refreshing to see this vital part of our support efforts in Africa begin again.

Real Humanitarian had 21 volunteers travel to Ghana and Ethiopia in the last 2 months of 2023, to serve programs in both countries. Some volunteers were able to visit the new Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia at the Embassy in Addis Ababa, and felt it was one of the highlights of their experience.

Volunteers raised additional funds that helped to purchase new shoes, clothing for students. Many played games, sports, shared crafts, and life skills. Home visits, and visits to small busi-

nesses gave an insight to the successes of the businesses, and the challenges being faced by each country economically.

Trainings to help build staff capacity, or to benefit families directly were all part of the many services brought by Canadian volunteers.

We so appreciate the time, energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge that volunteers offer that helps Real Humanitarian students' families feel loved, hopeful, and remembered, and provide needed service.

We are looking forward to an active 2024 year! If you are able, please consider traveling with us.



DEALING WITH GRIEF

One of the volunteers brought her counseling experience along as she created culturally sensitive Grief Circles for student and guardians who have experienced loss.

Lisa's work to help families and individuals move through grief when loss becomes part of their life was impactful and needed. The grief circles will continue to meet to help each other through their loss journeys.

SPORTS COMPETITION

We know how intensely our students love to compete - and soccer is definitely a favourite for everyone.

One of the groups organized a sports camp and competition day for multiple centers to attend. They quickly found out that the students are more accustomed to the high altitude!

Everyone had a wonderful time, and the winning team was ecstatic with their success.

HOME VISITS

Visiting our students in their homes and doing a family wellness check-in is a personal and meaningful experience.

The 3 teams were able to visit 15 different student's homes in total. Home visits were made during sessions at the Kality, Kirkos, and Guelele Centers.

Total Service Hours from Expedition Groups: 711

LOOKING FORWARD! JOIN US NEXT YEAR AS WE TRAVEL IN THE SPRING, OR THE FALL!



Students harvesting lettuce as part of the Gulele Center's Gardening Club initiative.

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