

YEAR END  
FIELD  
REPORT  
2024



*real*Humanitarian<sup>3</sup>..







# LETTER from the FOUNDERS



Co-Founder Deborah Northcott with the registrar for SSCM in November 2024

Real Humanitarian tries very hard to focus on all the positive stories and outcomes that are a result of your contributions to the work. Without your support, it would not be possible to have the deep impact that changes lives every day.

But while these stories are wonderful to hear, and the successes of each student heartwarming to receive, sometimes the sacrifices and challenges that are taking place to get to that positive outcome can be forgotten.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the effort that each child, and youth puts forth daily to pass their grade exams, to attend school despite prejudice because of their poverty.

Our students this year have faced

hardships such as evictions from their home, their family home being demolished and moving to new schools and neighborhoods, experiencing the death of a parent or close family member, rising costs for basic life needs, and pressure to leave school for work to help their families survive these challenges.

## THANK YOU FOR SHARING HOPE AND FINANCIAL MEANS, WHICH ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO KEEP TRYING.

Because of your support, most are choosing to remain in school; to complete their education so they can obtain jobs that will offer sufficient income to help themselves, and their extended family members.

You have helped with your letters, and as travel volunteers to lift their spirits knowing that there are those behind them, cheering them on, and believing in them. You reassure them that they are not invisible or forgotten.

Your contribution counts- no matter what it is.

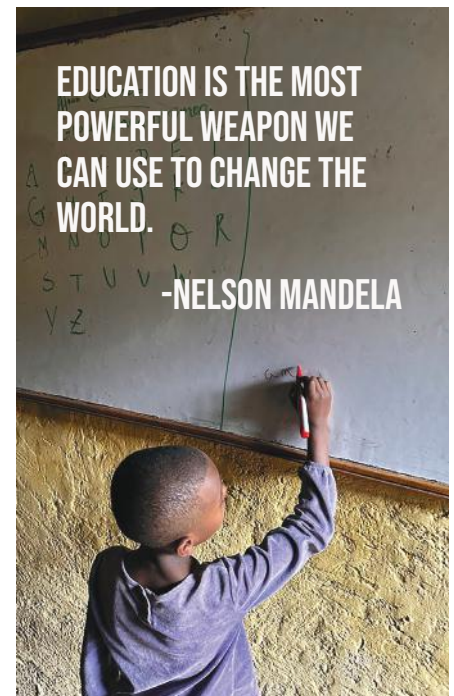
Thank you to those in Ethiopia whose daily interactions encourage, empower, and enrich each child's daily work to complete their education. Thank you for sharing hope and financial means, which encourages students to keep trying.

"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world" said Nelson Mandela.

You are part of that change.

Thank you!

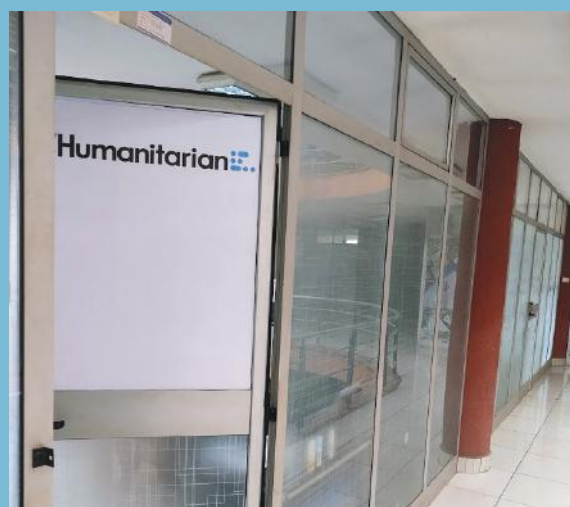
Deborah and Richard Northcott



*real*Humanitarian<sup>3.</sup>  
*real results.*

# UPDATING Our Spaces

## NEW OFFICE SPACES IN ADDIS AND MEDICINE HAT



Addis office moved to a commercial building close to the home compound in Ethiopia.



### ADDIS NEW OFFICE

Real Humanitarian Addis head office staff moved from a home base, to a commercial office building in August.

This was a big change for the staff after twelve years.

The new space is located only two blocks from the home compound, which remains accessible to everyone.

The old office continues to be used for the Country Representative, and Self Reliance staff members, as well as for group training sessions, gatherings for university students and special activities for students.

### MEDICINE HAT NEW OFFICE

Across the hall there has been an office space that has remained dormant for some time. Through discussion with the landlord, the approx 400 sq foot space has been donated for Real Humanitarian to use.

This is a big help to our everyday operations, allowing space for social work practicum student interns, New Comer Mentorship volunteers, and other volunteers to have space to work as we collaborate together.

We appreciate Midtown Property Group for this helpful donation for Real Humanitarian staff.



“ we make a life  
by what we  
give ”

-Winston Churchill





# NEWS from our PROGRAMS

## GARDEN PROJECT

Children's Garden & Food Security in Rural Ethiopia triumphed in meeting the most basic human need of sustenance for the three communities of Kersa, Turge and Halecu.

Over a thousand individuals, including children and their families, benefit from the sustainable gardens at Real Humanitarian's educational support centers in Kersa and Halecu.

Food security has increased, and food systems have improved for individuals living in extreme poverty.

## GHANA UPDATE

Dr Kofi Gbloyno, the founder of the Nunya Academy, has had several very successful groups travel to visit the academy in Dzodze, Ghana. A group of twenty-four students and two professors from Capilano University shared a two week volunteer expedition to the Nunya Academy in December. Real Humanitarian was thrilled

to collaborate with university student volunteers who wanted to earn college credit and global experience through volunteering in Music Education in Ghana. This group received grants from Capilano University that helped to pay for the travel course.

## GUATEMALA UPDATE

REALgirl (SERniña) provides transformative workshops dedicated to empowerment and gender equity for youth in Guatemala. Through REALgirl workshops and programs, youth develop the knowledge, skills, and courage to reach their highest potential.

Supports include art, craft, and educational supplies to fuel her creativity and support their learning all year long.

Participants get access to our violence response program, and comprehensive sexual healthcare services.

In 2024 we saw 219 girls participate in the girl empowerment programs and 175 boys participate in the positive masculinities program. 186 youth participated in other programs.

## GARDEN TO TABLE CELEBRATION



## SELF RELIANCE UPDATE

New cohorts in Alemgena and Gulele, as well as training for every graduating class from SSCM has brought the Self Reliance Program to 130 new participants.

With the training comes help to hold a bank account, the option to unionize, and ongoing support for their new business endeavors. For those who take the training and choose first to work for an employer (instead of starting their own business) the financial accounting skills and principals give them a head start to managing their new income so they can create a savings account and work towards improving their quality of life and supporting their families.



## GHANA UPDATE



HALECU  
THANK YOU TO THE DONOR  
FOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT



VOCATIONAL TRAINING AT  
SSCM

# CHANGING LIVES ONE BY ONE

## GARDEN TO TABLE





# MORE NEWS



## ETHIOPIAN MONEY ENTERS GLOBAL MARKETS

In the fall of 2024, the Ethiopian Birr entered the global market for trade for the first time in its history. The positive outcome for this decision was that businesses in Ethiopia would be able to purchase items outside of Ethiopia with appropriate currencies, since their own birr could now be traded with other countries. However, within 48 hours of its entry to the market, it lost more than 100% of its buying power, going from 1\$USD = \$54 Birr to 1 \$USD = 120 BIRR. This reduction in purchase power, coupled with inflation, and distribution issues has made life difficult for those who are on limited income. More than ever, vulnerable families need assistance to adjust to the new economic reality. Fortunately, this means your dollars go further in helping us keep those supports in place that help them get through these tough times.



## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Real Humanitarian was invited to participate in a multi-city, multi-school Junior High School Leadership Conference on October 19th, 2024 held in Medicine Hat, Alberta. In our presentation we discussed how global action fits into leadership development and how leadership can bring about global change.

Three classes of twenty students attended RH's breakout session. Students chose a RH Ethiopian student to communicate with by letter, as an example of how one can get involved now.



## STUDENT TO STUDENT LETTERS

In November 2024 students from Ethiopia wrote letters in reply to the ones they received from Alberta youth.

High school students had written letters during the Real Humanitarian breakout session at the Leadership Conference in Medicine Hat in October.



# HOPE SMILES

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EMPOWER

EDUCATE

ENRICH





# In Memory Of Paul Morrell



We are deeply saddened by the passing of our board member, Paul Morrell on December 1st, 2024. Paul served as a board member for Real Humanitarian from 2014, attending his last board meeting November 6th, 2024, a few weeks before his passing.

Despite fighting cancer in the past 5 years, Paul continued to be actively involved in humanitarian relief activities and economic ventures. He travelled to Ethiopia often.

Paul supported special humanitarian efforts around the world, such as Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Uganda Haiti and Kenya. But Ethiopia is where his heart was most engaged. Paul sought to bring revolutionary dry farming and irrigation techniques, now being adopted by the Ethiopian government and they are seeing amazing yields. Paul was the impetus for finding forever families

for close to 30 Ethiopian children when their orphanage could no longer function.

During the last months of 2024, Paul met with many of his friends, colleagues, and family members to continue to raise awareness and funds for Real Humanitarian education programs

If you are able, please consider donating to a special scholarship created in Paul's memory, "Hope for Girls" that helps educate vulnerable girls in Ethiopia.

<https://www.realhumanitarian.com/morrell-hope-for-girls...>

Thank you, Paul. You will be remembered for all that you have helped us with, as we carry on in those efforts that were close to your heart.

# CHANGING Needs



## ANNOUNCING THE END OF BEKA AND DEGNET PARTNERSHIPS

Farewells are always difficult. For Real Humanitarian, our work and association with each of these Ethiopian partners has seen many successes and many challenges, bringing our association to a close in the final months of 2024.

### BEKA AND DEGNET

Beka Association was our partner in the Gindo area of Ethiopia for 15 years. Real Humanitarian has worked hard in this community. With the help of local government and Beka managers, land was given for our student guardians to operate community gardens and construct a beautiful facility for the after-school program to operate. Several of the students attending this center have become the first in the Gindo community to be accepted to university or college.

Gindo has been at the center of much civil unrest activity for the past 6 years.

Travel in 2023 and 2024 to Gindo became very difficult. Main highways and rural side roads continue to be unsafe, meaning oversight of the program is increasingly difficult. Local schools experienced unexpected closures, which interrupts the learning process. Travel volunteer service has been halted due to unsafe conditions.

In discussion with our Ethiopia team, the decision was made to suspend our efforts in Gindo at this time. This means saying goodbye to the students and Beka team. We so appreciate all those who have worked hard for the past 15 years as volunteers, Beka

staff, and local government for the successes that have been achieved during those years.

Degnet Humanitarian was our partner in the Kirkos Kirkos Sub-city of Addis Ababa. Kirkos Sub City has been the focus of intense re-development efforts for the past decade. It is a large inner-city subdivision, with older homes and commercial districts dating back to the 1920's.

In July 2024, Degnet student homes were part of a mass eviction, and demolition campaign, meaning that they were all re-housed at various locations around the city of Addis Ababa. The center itself is scheduled for demolition this year and is currently being used as a construction supply site.

The notice that these changes were coming was short, but firm.

Real Humanitarian's team closed our working relationship with Degnet as a result. This program began as Path Literacy partner, eventually becoming Degnet Humanitarian. Real Humanitarian has been working in Kirkos Sub City since 2009. We appreciate all those staff, managers, local government ministries, volunteers, who have been part of this wonderful program.

Change can be difficult, and saying goodbye is always a sad process. However, change can also open new opportunities. It is our hope that students and their families will find new friends, or opportunities for growth in the future. Real Humanitarian wishes to express our appreciation for over a decade of partnership with both Beka and Degnet.





# GET INVOLVED

We invite you to consider how you can join thousands of Real Humanitarian supporters in this effort to overcome poverty. All contributions are meaningful.

## SUPPORT CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITIES

1

### STUDENT PROGRAMS

Bring the full impact of the Child Centered Network into a student's life by donating to a center or sponsoring a student.

2

### NEW CENTER IN ADDIS

With the changing landscape in Addis, we are looking to open a center in a new area of the city - which requires books, furniture, computer lab, and other set-up materials.

3

### SUSTAINABILITY 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

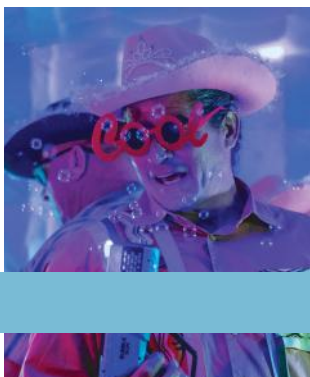
March 27th - first fundraising Dinner in Fort McMurray

April 10th - Hope for Tomorrow Gala in Calgary

May 24th - Medicine Hat Hues for Humanity - back again as part of the Rise Up Festival!  
(see more about the festival <https://www.ourcollectivejourney.ca/rise-up/welcome>)

May 31st - Calgary Hues for Humanity

June 7th - Fort McMurray Hues for Humanity



LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE FUN WITH YOU THIS YEAR!

# ENRICHMENT Team

## CHILD CENTERED SUPPORT - CENTRAL TEAM

Over the last 21 years, Real Humanitarian has focused on more than just the academic growth of each child. We have also provided programs critical to their academic success and entry to adulthood, prepared with life skills.

Since student access to special interest clubs, library, computer lab, and sports is so important for a child to grow personally, gain social skills with their peers, and self confidence to handle life's challenges, we asked our Ethiopia team to look at how we can reinforce this important aspect of the

### SPORT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The sports and physical education program is overseen by a professional athlete alumnus of the Gulele Program.

Martial arts, gymnastics, soccer, traditional dance training, and modern dance, are being enjoyed by students in the Addis centers.

Trainers for these activities are being accessed to help at all centers on a rotating basis, with some opportunities to attend local gyms as well.

### GROUP & INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

Each center has social workers who lead out in visiting student homes and having individual interviews to assess how a student is doing.

Our alumna from Kirkos with a Psychology MA, have spearheaded group education sessions on identifying abuse, anger management, and other issues that the children are facing. Individual therapeutic counselling for students needing additional support is also organized by this part of the team.



Child Centered Network as we begin our next decade.

Assessing each center's needs, and engaging professional alumni, a new team of helpers has been created to help with supporting each center's programs.

During the November trip, the team gave their first executive report with our attendance. It was very impressive!

Here is what they are doing:

### PEER LEADERSHIP/SOCIAL

Giving youth and children the opportunity to work together and learn to collaborate as a group has had a good impact on so many.

Girls comment on moving from being afraid to ask questions, to being able to speak up about how they feel about important issues and being treated equally.

### TUTORING/INTELLECTUAL PROGRAMS

Grade specific curriculum is being developed by alumni from Kirkos, and our ESL trainer. This is to help enhance student learning while studying core subjects. By having standardized study plans, each center can ensure that children are getting the support needed to understand nationally established required material for their grade.

Examples of the study materials were shared at this meeting. We were especially pleased to see they were working to include instruction for each child to create their own study program using concept mapping.



## SCHOLARSHIP STORY

Dawit started as a student at the center at age seven and recently passed his entrance exam for Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He studied and participated actively in the tutorial program at the center. His hard work paid off when he got good enough grades to enter university.

Dawit enjoys the keyboard club and has participated in the music and dance club from a young age. He also enjoys playing soccer with his friends.

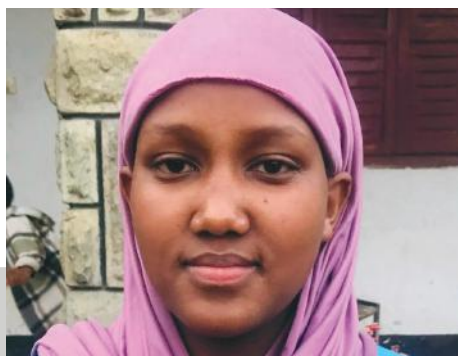
From a young age Dawit has wished to help people in need and would participate in cleaning up around his community.

He says, “Helping someone in need is what I call the corner of greatness on this earth.” In the future Dawit hopes to become an engineer.

Dawit would like to tell his sponsor, “Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May your goodness increase.”



DAWIT ANNUAL PHOTOS IN 2016,  
AND 2024 (INSET)



### MEKDELAWIT

Mekdelawit is in Grade 10 and enjoys mathematics and taekwondo club.

She lives with her parents and younger brother. She says that the study program is special to her as it helps her pave the way to a better future.



### MAKBEL

Makbel's mother is raising him alone. They don't have a permanent home.

He likes playing football and participates in the school mini media club. Makbel would like to be a civil engineer in the future.



### EFRATA

Efrata lives with her grandmother, aunt, uncle and cousin.

She says that her birthday has never been celebrated at home so it makes her very happy when the center celebrates her.

She loves the gymnastic club.



During the expedition in November, Dr. Northcott was assisted by a newly graduated Ethiopian doctor, Dr. Rahel.

Dr. Northcott shared knowledge of body systems from his 40+ years of experience and Dr. Rahel shared knowledge of current medicine available in Ethiopia. Working together they were able to provide much appreciated family medicine services.



# EXPEDITION Report

"Travelling to Ethiopia and Malawi with Real Humanitarian to provide service was challenging, but exceptionally rewarding. Nowhere else have I felt like I was able to make such a contribution with such simple means."

Benjamin, Expedition Volunteer

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

Real Humanitarian has recognized that partnerships with local clinics, sub city health ministries and other like minded NGO's can allow our efforts to be multiplied, not only helping our families, but many others in their communities.

November provided a special opportunity to partner with Calgary based charity "Hope Ethiopia", along with the Nefa Silk Sub City Health Ministry. Our joint efforts provided a free community health service, with a 3-day campaign at the Jemu Clinic.

The teams provided medical, dental and eye care services. Dr Northcott was part of the RH contribution to health care services, providing training to Jemu Clinic emergency and public health staff. During the 4-day campaign, hundreds of community members, and many of Real Humanitarian's students and their families, received dental, medical, or eye care.

Volunteers from the local community, health ministry, staff of the clinic, and from North America

helped with organizing patient registration, preparing the waiting rooms, and ensuring each person found the correct space to wait and be seen.

Dr Northcott was assisted by a newly graduated Ethiopian doctor, to help with translation during medical exams. Dr Rahel and Dr Northcott worked together providing family medicine services, with an additional opportunity to exchange knowledge between peers. Real Humanitarian's local staff were part of the organizational team working with the local clinic administrators, city officials, and community volunteers.

Dr Ralph Dubiensi from Hope Ethiopia and his dental team of North American volunteers and local Ethiopian dental professionals worked hard to provide services for dental cleanings and extractions.

It was a great week and opened doors for future opportunities of service.



### SANITARY KIT DISTRIBUTION

Deb Northcott distributed sanitary kits made of reusable materials by volunteers in Medicine Hat.

The Civil Societies Association reached out to Real Humanitarian to donate kits to 50 women at their office in November 2024. Dr Northcott was asked to provide a review of reproductive health before the distribution to the group.



### JEMU CLINIC IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

During the 4-day campaign, hundreds of community members, and many of Real Humanitarian's students and their families, received dental, medical, or eye care. Volunteers from the local community, health ministry, staff of the clinic, and from North America helped with organizing patient registration, preparing the waiting rooms.



### ULTRASOUND MACHINE FOR JEMU CLINIC

Dr Northcott gave a much needed ultrasound machine to the maternity clinic where 70-100 babies are born each week.

**Total Service Hours from Expedition Groups: 160**

**LOOKING FORWARD! JOIN US NEXT YEAR AS WE TRAVEL IN THE SUMMER OR THE FALL!**



## UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF EVERY CHILD IS OUR CORE FOCUS.

Since 2005, we've embraced the Ethic of Care and the Ethic of Hope, shaping our Child-Centered Network (CCN) model around Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

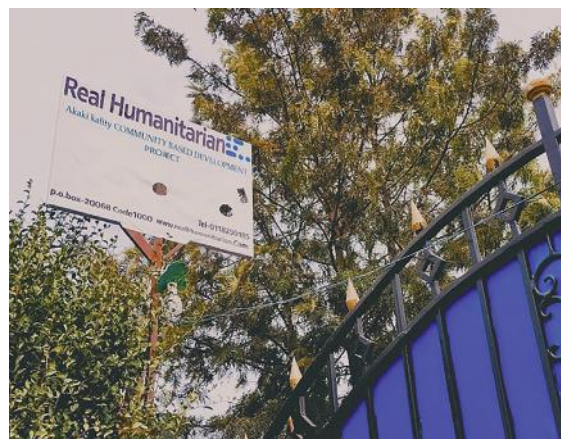
Our model goes beyond meeting physiological needs; it creates a nurturing environment of safety, love, and belonging. At our centers, children develop self-esteem and strive for greatness.

## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Brian Beegan  
Children Inc  
Chomyn Family  
Circle of Sisterhood Foundation  
D. Lawrence Penner  
David L. Penner  
Direct Aid Program Australian Embassy in Ethiopia  
Dr. Justin Steed  
Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario  
Fig Tree Foundation  
Klippenstine Family  
Latter Day Saints Charities – Nairobi Office  
Manitoba Council for International Cooperation  
Midtown Property Group

Rizwan Manji & Jackie Burghardt  
Rotary Club of Canmore  
RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation  
Samuel & Laureen Bouey  
Sofia Lopez  
Stewart Family  
Unifor Social Justice Fund  
Vulnerable Children Society

New signage for Real Humanitarian at  
Kality in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



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