

Meet Our Staff

HFK Canada



That precious moment, when Hosanna sees her children for the first time in 2 1/2 years!

Hosanna's Journey

A Story of Courage and God's Faithfulness

This is a story that we have wanted to share with you for a long time but could not because of safety concerns for HFK's Finance Project Manager, Hosanna Tesfazghi. We have been fervently praying for Hosanna and her family since the day we met her back in December 2017. Hosanna came to Canada as a religious refugee from Eritrea. Her journey began in 2016, when the Eritrean government targeted her home church and arrested her pastor. His fate is still unknown. Christians have been severely persecuted for years in this country, forcing believers to meet in secret. Hosanna and her husband had three young children ages 2 - 8 years old, but because Eritrea restricts their men and young boys from exiting the country, and due to her accounting position with the European Union, she was the only one with a passport. So, in a matter of days they made one of the most difficult decisions a family will ever have to make; that she must flee to Canada alone. It was a heartbreaking and terrifying decision, but they believed this was what God was asking them to do and they must trust that He would make a way to reunite them.

Walking alongside Hosanna this past year and witnessing her tremendous courage and faith has been inspiring. God has given her strength and He has worked miracles, too. The peace agreement between Ethiopia & Eritrea opened the borders for her family to cross into Ethiopia.



Together we prayed while her husband and children crossed the border to Ethiopia with only a suitcase in hand. They made it but had to leave everything behind so as not to raise any suspicion. And then in January Hosanna was on the HFK team that travelled to Addis Ababa.

After 2 1/2 very long years of separation, we were able to witness their joyous reunion!! It was a moment none of us will ever forget. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!! And so did our tears of joy!! To make this miracle even more amazing, while we were still together in Ethiopia, Hosanna's husband and children received their immigration papers and visas to Canada. They



are separated no more!! We just had their "Welcome to Canada" party last week!! God is good!

HFK Ethiopia

Congratulations Sentayehu!

Investing in Korah's Youth

One of the highlights from our recent trip to Korah was celebrating Sentayehu and Shewit's wedding. Sentayehu is truly a testament to the importance of sponsorship and investing in the lives of young people. After being orphaned at an early age, Sentayehu began living at the trash dump. We met him at 15 years old and he quickly captured our hearts with his kind and gentle spirit. We have since come alongside him and watched him grow up to become an amazing young man. Two years ago, after graduating from college, HFK hired him as an assistant social worker and store keeper; overseeing program and monthly grocery distributions to our families. In addition, Sentayehu now supervises our Berta Breakfast program. It is young leaders like Sentayehu who will bring long-term, sustainable change to Korah. What a joy and a thrill for us to attend his wedding and celebrate this new beginning with him! May God bless their marriage with much love and many years of happiness together!



Family & Child Sponsorship

Christmas Deliveries



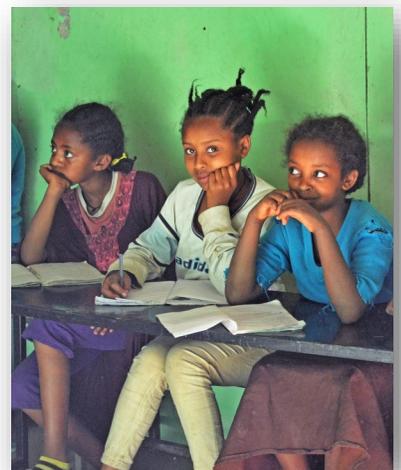
In January, all of our children and families were so happy to receive Christmas mail from their sponsors, along with gifts of socks, underwear, a sewing kit and new skirt for Mom! Thank you everyone!!

Youth & Education

Computer Lab in the Plans

We currently have 80 kids in our after-school tutoring program which includes art & drama classes twice per week and we are hoping to build a computer lab this year.

Recently we hired an additional tutor for the higher grades and a special tutor for those who are struggling academically, needing one-on-one support. ****FOR JUNE TRIP: we are collecting donations of new backpacks, socks & underwear.**



HFK'S BIGGEST AREAS OF NEED

THANK YOU to everyone who is Standing with Korah!

We are grateful for your prayers and support, as you are changing lives! Below is an update of several program areas and the amounts **still to raise** in order to meet the needs of our children, elders and families for this year.

Elders' Home for Leprosy - \$27,500

Medical Clinic - \$53,000

Youth & Education Programs - \$30,700

Day Care & Kindergarten - \$20,000

Income Generation Program - \$27,000

Any gift great or small with make a BIG difference!



Dr. Adrian Morris, serving with our Ethiopian medical staff in February 2019.

HFK'S Primary Health Clinic

Seven Years in the Making - it's up & running!

Seven years ago, God planted a young American nurse in the heart of a slum district in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In response to the overwhelming unmet health needs, Emily (Cornish) Mekonnen began a health service out of her backpack, tending to many living in Korah who could not afford even the most rudimentary healthcare.

From its small beginnings as a backpack service, the health services of Hope for Korah now employs 3 local, full-time health staff and numerous others in support. Along the way, many foreign and local health professionals, along with Ethiopian government officials, have contributed their perspective and expertise on what kind of health service would best serve this community in helping families to break the cycle of poverty. Collectively, it was determined that a Primary Health Clinic focused on the prevention of disease would be our unique focus (though not our only emphasis), allowing us to build the capacity of families to attain and maintain health.

It is hard to imagine, living in a "first world" context, the reality of so many being disabled or dying from completely preventative diseases and traumas we rarely see here, because we HAVE. But such IS the case in Korah. Too many children, mothers, siblings, fathers, friends losing their lives or their productivity far too early. Many we have held, played with, and prayed over. They are not statistics, but people with names, abilities and families who love them. With each loss, the dream to open a legalized clinic has grown.



Families visiting the NEW Clinic

You can imagine our exhilaration, when in December, we finally received word that our Primary Health Clinic had been approved by the government, and a new compound lease signed for three years. This sparked a serious amount of hard work for Jake Boner HFK's N.A. Liaison and the young men in Korah. Together, they worked for weeks renovating the property so that we could legally align with government requirements and move forward with our joint vision of equipping families to regain or attain health. Stable health keeps families together, giving them the chance to maximize HFK's educational & vocational programs and empowering them to break the cycle of poverty.

Our new clinic opened its doors in February and all families were welcomed and given a tour, along with a celebratory coffee ceremony. Together, we prayed and dedicated the clinic back to God - may this clinic be a true beacon of "Hope and Light" to those who are hurting and in need of healing. Thank you to so many who have made this possible and supported HFK along this journey! - *Written By Tammy Brandsma RN, MSN, HFK Medical Coordinator*



Lemi, HFK's Sr. Health Officer

HOPE for KORAH

We've Got Milk!

The Berta Breakfast Program

Statistically children in Korah are under-nourished and small for their age. To improve their physical growth and bone development we are now serving milk once a week at both Berta Breakfast programs! That's up to 400 cups of milk every serving!



Help Keep Yesewlik's Kids Together! Five Orphaned Siblings

JOIN WITH US, AS WE ENSURE A BETTER FUTURE FOR THESE CHILDREN. Tragedy struck their family 1 1/2 years ago, when their mother Yesewlik, who was in our HFK program, headed to the countryside to settle a land dispute. A few days after winning in court, she was brutally murdered by a relative.



Yesewlik was a hardworking and caring mother, and her children are still dealing with the grief of her loss, concerned for their future. The oldest brother, 23 years old, has bravely taken on the job of caring for his younger siblings. They've continued to live in their mother's mud home, sharing one bunkbed and a small dresser, with little room to stand. Recently, HFK moved them into a larger home that is clean, freshly-painted & with beds for everyone! We're committed to come alongside these orphaned children long-term. **It will take a village to care for these kids! An additional \$300 per month is needed to cover their basic needs & education. This can be shared between \$30, \$60 or \$120 per month sponsorships.** To sponsor please use enclosed card or email office@hopeforkorah.com.