

M.O.R.E. - Newsletter



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Welcome to our first Newsletter

M.O.R.E. (Medhen Orphan Relief Effort) started in 2007 with a vision that a small, dedicated and all volunteer group could make a difference in the lives of orphaned children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Thanks to our many donors, we have & we are.



As this is our first newsletter, a little history is in order. Medhen Orphan Relief Effort (M.O.R.E.) is a New Jersey-based 501 (c)3 organization that was

formed in February 2007. M.O.R.E.'s sole mission is to provide financial support to the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) program, which is part of the Medhen Social Center, a non-government organization (NGO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The OVC program, which currently supports almost 600 children who have been orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, is almost 100% dependent on funding provided by M.O.R.E. We are a local, grassroots organization, run strictly by volunteers with no paid fundraising or administrative staff whatsoever. Nearly 20% of the children in the OVC program are themselves living with the HIV/AIDS virus. About 50% of the children are "single" orphans living with an HIV-infected natural mother or father. The remaining children live in a unique

foster care arrangement with a relative such as an aunt or a foster parent who lives in the community.

Children affected by HIV/AIDS often face immense obstacles as they attempt to live in what is already a difficult environment. Orphaned children, especially those who have lost both parents, are less likely to be enrolled in school. They are not exempt from harsh treatment and are stigmatized and often marginalized in the community. Orphaned children also face psychosocial impacts particularly if the loss of a parent or parents is due to HIV/AIDS. According to



recent studies, a child begins to experience loss, sorrow, and suffering long before the parent's death when that parent is suffering from HIV/AIDS. This

psychosocial distress faced by orphaned and other vulnerable children is most often significant and lasting. A child may face grief, fear, and hopelessness over their future and anxiety over how they will survive and who will care



their future and anxiety over how they will survive and who will care for them and protect them.

The OVC program steps into this situation and takes responsibility for the care, nurturing, education, healthcare, housing, and nutrition for these children today. M.O.R.E. is the organization that provides substantially all of the funding for the OVC program.

Since our beginning in 2007, we have raised close to \$500,000 from donors, including a few grants that we have received.

The orphan crisis in Ethiopia is growing and we will continue to work to raise funds so that “our children” can survive and have a chance at life.

Donor Spotlight



There are so many ways that individuals can help M.O.R.E. and the children in Ethiopia. One recent example is Ashley Vincent. Ashley is the daughter of Board member Nancy Holland. She is a avid runner and ran in the Indianapolis Marathon in early November. Ashley wanted to support M.O.R.E. and decided to run for the children. She named M.O.R.E. has her charity of choice and asked friends, co-workers and family to support her marathon run with a donation to M.O.R.E.

She has raised over \$1,500. Thank you Ashley!!

Sr. Senkenesh Visits



Sister Senkenesh, who runs the OVC program, came to Randolph last month. This was Sister’s first visit to NJ. Sister had a very full schedule for the one week visit meeting with various donors, the full M.O.R.E. Board for the first time, being the guest of honor at our major 2010 fundraiser and having a little time for a visit to St. Patrick’s in NYC. One of the highlights of her visit was the opportunity to spend time at the Chancellor Ave. Elementary School in Newark. The students have adopted the OVC children in a very special way. Sister was touched by the outpouring of love and generosity for children so far away.

First Graduation



Just like here, graduation day is a day full of hope, celebration and fun. A few months ago, there was a graduation ceremony at the Center for the younger children. It was their first ever graduation party, complete with caps and gowns, cake and games. Like here, the foster parents and caretakers looked on with pride and joy as the little ones celebrated the end of the school year. We at M.O.R.E. hope this is the first step toward the achievement of a dream that one caretaker told some of the Board members on their visit to Ethiopia - “I hope that one day you will be here to see my child graduate from the University”. Amazing!

Successful Fundraiser, September, 2010



On September 25, 2010 M.O.R.E. held a successful fundraiser at the home of Board members Barbara and Tony Zecca. Over 150 people attended this great night enjoying good food and wine and a chance to mingle with other supporters of M.O.R.E. The evening featured music by Colleen Reynolds and many great items in a silent auction and raffles. The highlights of the evening were talks by Cheryl Francisconi, MORE Board member visiting from Ethiopia, followed by Sister Senkenesh who talked about the children and how much their lives have changed thanks to all the “wonderful M.O.R.E. supporters”.

Financial Information

As a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit, we file a Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service each year which is available for review on our web site: www.morechildren.org

Paul Michael Creative Designs Upcoming Fund Raiser for M.O.R.E.

On November 11, 2010 Paul Michael Creative Designs, located on Rt 10 East in Randolph (located in the Party City Shopping Center) will for the 3rd year donate 20% of the profits to M.O.R.E. from all sales that day from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Paul Michael Creative Designs is a phenomenal gift boutique/florist that has so many unique and beautiful gift items.

West Side Dance Center - Randolph

The dancers from West Side Dance Center performed at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall and raised \$215 for M.O.R.E. in the Macy’s Shop For A Cause Event on October 16th. **Way to go!**

M.O.R.E. Board Approves Additional Funding

Initial funding for several new initiatives was just provided for the OVC Program



The Board has been working with Sister Senkenesh and Sirak, her business administrator in Addis Ababa, to develop a longer range strategic plan. One of the challenges is to determine which, from among the many needs, should the OVC program begin to address and what M.O.R.E. can commit to funding. After discussions and analysis, the Board has funded several initiatives dealing with the need for certain medical equipment and supplies, the development of a counseling program for our children who are older and providing physical examinations for all of the children. This funding was made possible by our many donors.

How Can You Help

It costs \$184 a year to provide educational, medical, nutritional, housing, counseling and home care for each child. The limitation for how many children we can serve is funding. Visit our web-site for more information.

Sister Senekenesh Receives the Prestigious Damien-Dutton Award for 2010



Sister Senekenesh has been awarded the prestigious Damien-Dutton Award for 2010

to honor her lifelong work with leprosy. This award places Sister Senekenesh among a very honored group of individuals who have made a difference. Sister is only the 54th person to be honored with this award. Prior recipients include President John F. Kennedy who received the award posthumously in 1965 and Mother Teresa who was the 1984 recipient. Sister's reaction to learning of this honor was a deep



sense of humility. All of us involved in M.O.R.E. congratulate Sister Senekenesh for this wonderful achievement and recognition of her life of giving, love, faith and hope.

We are proud to be part of her life.

OVC Program Spotlight

While the focus and funding for the needs of the children is paramount, Sister's vision also recognizes that it is important for the children's caretakers to become part of the economic system in Ethiopia. Sister started the "Income Generation Program" at the new center. This program provides vocational training and a certificate that each recipient proudly holds enabling each "graduate" to start to earn on their own.

