

# h2Empower Annual Report

December 31

# 2012

This year H<sup>2</sup> Empower has accomplished its long term goal. The community library in Hosanna has been completed. Now children can come to the library and read the thousand of books that are there. This achievement happened because of the generosity of our many long term donors, the cooperation of parents of the school where the library resides, the town of Hosanna, from the US Ambassador's Self Help Grant in 2010 and the other partners. We have organized the 10,000 books donated by children, schools, and individuals in the US. There is furniture, a start of a database and a promise of professional librarian. We are on our way to providing the community with real meaningful access to knowledge. We held teacher trainings, We supported an American Librarian who lived in Hosanna for the year helping make this a reality We made many new connections with other partners and actors in the education sector of Ethiopia, since our executive Director spent 4 months working in Ethiopia with the Ministry of Education. In Burundi we sent 11 students to a university and provided literacy education to vulnerable women in a microloan project. h<sup>2</sup> Empower has formed coalitions in the US with other small not for profits working in Africa and in Ethiopia with IFESH (International Foundation for Education and Self Help), and other NGO's. We have started negotiations on developing permaculture as a sustainable gardening system useful for local farmers in Ethiopia and bringing water to a school of 2,500 children. We are accomplishing our goals, meeting people's needs and making an impact in the lives of so many.

## Executive Summary



# h2 Empower Annual Report- 2012



## Hosanna Community Library Is Completed

Children are now reading daily at the library. That has been our dream. They come after school, even during school and study or explore new books. I wish you could see their eyes when they open a book and see the pictures, photos of new places, award winning illustrations that move them even when the context is different and confusing. There is so much for them to learn but they are ready and able and the learning will open minds, hearts and possibilities. .

The construction process has not been simple but now there are 7 new rooms, the only concrete building on the compound that serves almost 3,000 youngsters. There is the large reading room with books in every area for adults and teens, a children's room where there are reading clubs and thousands of picture books, and books in English, Amharic and Hadyssa, the local language. There is a computer room, ready for 30 computers. A storage room provides space for textbooks and supplies. There are also 3 small meeting rooms. The potential is great.

The building still has a few issues. The lights don't work consistently at night. The bookcases are not strong enough to hold the heavy books. The tables are rough and need to be repaired or sanded. The total cost has not been paid. We are waiting for more paperwork from the construction engineer but the town engineers have gone through the building requesting various improvements which have been completed. We will be holding back 5% of the total due for at least a year to make sure that all the work is done properly. The town and parents have agreed to continue to contribute to the final cost of construction. There is roughly 100,000 birr owed. With parent and community contributions, h<sup>2</sup> Empower is able to cover this expense.

The community is very excited to have this resource. There is room for meetings, opportunity to do research, a place to learn for personal and professional purposes. Parents say that there is no such place in the whole town and this is a source of motivation and pride..

## Developing a Database

10,000 volumes of books have been sent to the Alemu Woldehanna Community Library. Books include children's picture books, fantasy, science history, religion, psychology, parenting, science books, culture arts, games, music and sports, National Geographic Magazines, fiction, biographies, essays, encyclopedias, almanacs and more. This library contains the biggest collection of education books on the teaching of reading and writing in the country. Having these books is revolutionary for a neighborhood that has never had any books.

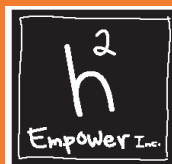
These books need to be catalogued in a computer to provide information to interested readers and for the purpose of lending books and recording. Each book must be entered into the computer most be done by hand and is very time consuming. This year numerous eager volunteers have come to lend a hand. The fine job they did is helping to empower the people of Hosanna.



Storage with textbooks in many classrooms

## 11 Burundi Students gain a Future

A committed group of Americans have agreed to commit to 4 years of support for 11 students, orphans or displaced combatants, who are very bright and motivated and ready to build a productive life to support themselves, their extended family and their community. These young people are studying for various careers at a local university. They are extremely grateful and could never have this chance without our donors.



**H<sup>2</sup> EMPOWER**  
P.O. BOX 493  
HUNTINGTON STATION, NY 11746  
631-549-9346

• 631-748-9379

**INFO@H2EMPOWER.ORG**  
**WWW.H2EMPOWER.ORG**

# h<sup>2</sup> Empower Annual Report- 2012

## Accomplishments

- Helen Boxwill, Executive Director, was given the position of Early Grade Reading Expert at the Ethiopian Ministry of Education for the year 2012-2013 through the organization, IFESH, International Foundation for Education and Self Help
- Opened a community library.
- Supported 15 school libraries
- 4,000 books were entered into the database for the library
- The town agreed to provide a professional librarian for the library
- An agreement was made to provide water for a government school in Hosanna for the first time.
- 11 very poor students were rewarded scholarships to attend a university in Burundi



## Fundraising Activities

- 2nd Annual Comedy Club Event
- Annual Appeal
- L.I. Ducks Baseball Game
- Burundi Scholarship Appeal
- Special Donor Appeal

Thanks to all our generous Donors!!!!



Children's Room in the Library

## The POWER of BOOKS!

Studies of reading in Ethiopia have found that in some areas 60% of the children were not able to read a single word in their mother tongue, the language they use at home and used for instructed. Reading is essential in order for children to achieve academic success and to lead a full and productive life. Our dream is to help children and adults have both access to relevant reading material and a love of learning. The library is one step to achieve this dream. We also hope that the library can become a model for others throughout the country, which has very few libraries and very few books available for anyone to read..

## Future Plans

h<sup>2</sup> Empower is working to expand the functioning of the library, bringing programs to the community, teaching teachers how to use the resources to the maximum, developing a computer laboratory and communicating with the community to provide increased use.

h<sup>2</sup> Empower will bring water to another area of the town and develop 2 permaculture gardens to demonstrate the labor and water saving techniques for the town and the whole county.

