

# Dagoo Q & A

- How do you know the money is being used as intended?**
  - In the U.S.** The program has a separate account with Village of Hope. DeAnna Kennard makes all transfers from the account after they are authorized by Daniel Alger. Both receive monthly bank statements for reconciliation.
  - In Ethiopia.** Funds are transferred only after quotes received and copied to the program director, VOH manager, and Lon and DeAnna Kennard. Fayisa, the program director, keeps a detailed weekly log of fund expenses that is e-mailed to the U.S. weekly for review. Photos are taken of all work completed, and items purchased, then sent to Dan on a weekly basis.
- Is alcohol a problem?** It has not been a big problem in the program. There is a strict policy that any workers or students abusing alcohol will be removed from the program. This has resulted in a couple of participants being removed.

- I understand that success is most often achieved when you help a women. Is that true and if yes, how does this program support women?**
  - Yes this is our understanding.
  - 60% of the students in the program are female
  - The father's workgroup are often providing service to widows (plowing and harvesting fields, repairing homes, etc.)
  - We are developing a separate women's group in 2008 (see more information inside this edition)
- How do you know if the money earned is being well spent?**
  - Fathers earn about \$1.25 per week. We have no control how this small amount of money is being spent, however
  - 40% of fathers total benefit are paid in bonuses. Bonuses include: chickens, goats, fertilizer, smokeless stoves and other items that benefit the entire family.

### Other questions?

Send and e-mail to: [Dan@GuidingYouth.com](mailto:Dan@GuidingYouth.com)

## A Great Christmas Gift Idea

**This year give the gift that will change lives. Village of Turge's first opportunity for educational support.**

In October 2008, we traveled to the village of Turge, about a 20 minute drive from Kersa Illala. While there we delivered school kits the Village of Hope had received as donations and completed Educational Assistance (EA) applications. The EA applications will provide for the first time the possibility of children from this village to receive a higher education. Turge's location does not allow us to start the Dagoo Harawaa program at this time, however it is close enough to the private school for the youth to attend.

As we approached the school, we were greeted with 1,000 children lining the road clapping and singing "Welcome, welcome". After about two hours of celebration, speeches by the village elders, cultural dance, food and drink, we were able to complete a total of 68 EA applications that are now available to be sponsored.

Each child sponsored in the EA program will be enrolled in the local private school, have their books and uniform paid for. Each family that has applied has also agreed to donate a total of 40 hours of labor to help improve the public school. This workforce, along with about \$4,000 in funds designated to improve public schools from the Dagoo Harawaa program, will be a great help to this village's small school. We met with the Principal and other school leaders to inform them of the \$4,000 in Dagoo Harawaa funds that are available to help their school this year. They are finalizing plans on how to best use the funds and the priorities seem to include new school desks, school supplies and bringing fresh water to the school for students to drink. The workforce (from the 40 hours of donated labor for each sponsor), will likely be used to complete a fencing project already started in the school.

**Sponsoring a child's education can be a great Christmas gift to give to a family member, friend or neighbor.**



Michael Alger (rt), with interpreter, interviews students while completing an EA application.

**TO SPONSOR A CHILD GO TO:** [villageofhope-ethiopia.org/easponsor.php](http://villageofhope-ethiopia.org/easponsor.php)

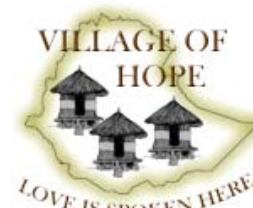
## Join a Life Changing Expedition



The Alger family is planning on returning as part of the Village of Hope's April 2009 expedition. We would love to have you join us. We promise you a life changing, wonderful experience.

Plans are for the expedition to leave before the middle of April.

**For more information on joining this or another expedition, call or E-mail Dan or Lita (h) 801-423-1550, E-mail: [Dan@Guidingyouth.com](mailto:Dan@Guidingyouth.com)**



Truckloads of wheat and corn arrive in the village.

## Poor Donate to Poorest

This fall, the area of Kersa Illala, Ethiopia suffered through a "Green" famine, which means there would be adequate amounts of food when the crops are ready to harvest, but people were starving to death in the meantime. With no irrigation, Ethiopian farmers rely on the predictability of the rains. Rains came late this year and the harvest was delayed as a result.

In September Village of Hope put out a call for donations to help the people of the Village. The response was swift and positive. Village of Hope used the funds to establish a program that provides wheat and corn to the malnourished children.

The Dagoo Harawaa program, that is based upon the old Ethiopian concept of Dagoo (serving others), took a slightly different approach. We offered the 181 families sponsored the opportunity to take the bonus they work for early this year and in the form of 110 lbs of wheat or corn. Additionally, because of donations made by our corporate sponsor; **St. John's Volunteers**, we were able to extend an additional opportunity to these needy families. We told the families that if they took their 110lbs of wheat/corn and donated to the Village of Hope's efforts, we would match it with another 110lbs, providing 220 lbs to the most needy.

These families earn about \$1 per week and donating 110lbs of food (about \$36 in value), is a significant commitment when your family is suffering near starvation. We had no idea how many would or could take advantage of this opportunity. The results astonished us. 94% of the families elected to take their bonus early and donate their food to help benefit their village.

**94% of the families elected to...donate their food to help benefit their village.**

As a result of this commitment from the families in the village and the corporate match, 18-1/2 tons of wheat and corn were purchased and sent to help the most needy. **Abu Milkaso**, who oversees the Village of Hope operations in Ethiopia has asked us to express to those donors in the United

States; "I would like to thank the supporters on behalf of our community. You are doing your best and God is helping you to save the lives of many."

"It really gave me chills when I read Fayisa's report. I just kept looking down the list and couldn't believe what I was seeing! What a beautiful change in the attitude of these loving and unselfish men! This is mind bogglingly wonderful!"

- Lon and DeAnna Kennard

### Sponsorship Exceeds Expectation

We ended the last school year with 100 sponsors and 100 children enrolled in the private school. Our goal was to get to 150 for the beginning of school in September 2009. We have been overwhelmed with the response from new and existing donors. As a result, we have started this school year with 181 (81% increase) students. We were also able to secure donors for 100% of last year's students, who began their second year of private education last month.

### Inside this Addition, Read More About:

- ◆ Women's Program starts (see insert)
- ◆ Youth take future into own hands (inside)
- ◆ New Corporate Partner (inside)
- ◆ Great Christmas Ideas (back page)

◆ Q&A (back)

*Dan, Lita and Morgan Alger,* (801) 423-1550 or [Dan@GuidingYouth.com](mailto:Dan@GuidingYouth.com)





# Providing individuals & families with an opportunity to not only survive, but to thrive!

## Youth Take Future in Own Hands

Youth Program rents farm land, earn funds to pay for program and establishing college scholarship fund.

In April the youth group rented some farmland and planted red onion and potatoes. Their goal is to learn and practice improved farming techniques and to use the cash earned from their crop to help their program become financially self-sufficient.

The young women in the group are also working on learning crochet and other small craft skills with the hope of being able to sell the products they make. Some of the money earned from the farming and selling of products made by the group will be set aside into a scholarship program fund that will be used to help offset some of the cost of college education for those eligible and most needy. Also, the youth girls are learning to crochet. IT is teaching them a skill and they will sell the products they make.

Plans are for the youth to attend farming classes from the **Morrell Family Charities** farming project where they will learn and implement improved farming techniques.

The Tajajilla Dargagoottaa (meaning "Youth Service") program meets once or twice a week and focuses on four value areas; Physical, Mental, Social and Spiritual. They are very active in providing service and support to the elderly and needy in the village.



Youth help bring in their first harvest on land they rented in April. The funds from the sale of the crops will help pay the costs of the youth program and will be used to establish a college scholarship fund.

## Education: Learning to Become Independent

One of the Village of Hope's Guiding Principles is:

**"We work to help the village become independent, not dependent on us."**

Education is a key component of realizing that goal. When a family is sponsored in the Dagoo Harawaa program, one of their commitments is for the father and mother of the family to attend monthly educational classes designed to improve health and promote independence. Recent classes have includes topics such as:

- Compost preparation
- Cooperative dairy farming
- Building a smokeless stove
- Poultry farming
- Small business and micro-financing

Educational classes for the next year will take advantage of some of the farming expertise working in the area from the Morrell Family Charities farming project. These will include presentations on topics such as:

- Diversifying crops
- Dry farming
- Silage (animal feed) preparation

Educational classes have been very popular and are well attended.



Fathers and Mothers attend class learning about compost preparation.

## New Corporate Sponsor

Design West helps families without floors when they install floors.

Design West Flooring and Interiors of Orem Utah gave a big boost to the Village of Hope and the Dagoo Harawaa program when they announced their offer to donate \$1 for every square yard of flooring they installed for a limited time.

The program results are not yet tallied, but we wanted to express a special thanks to **Brent Belliston** and the rest of the Design West group.



130 S. STATE STREET, OREM, UT. 84058  
(801) 224-0265 E-MAIL: DESIGNWEST\_1@YAHOO.COM

## Fathers: Learning to Serve

The father in each family sponsored in the Dagoo Harawaa program is required to work four hours each week doing community service work. For this, they are paid 3 birr (31 cents) per hour.

Here are just some of the projects they have recently completed;

- **Farming project.** They have been very active in supporting the **Morrell Family Charities** farming project. The goal of this project is to seek changes in farming methods that will significantly increase crop yields in the village. For more information on this important project go to; [www.villageofhope-ethiopia.org/agriculture.php](http://www.villageofhope-ethiopia.org/agriculture.php)
- **Public School Improvements.** Leveling of school fields, building a latrine (needed to help the school become accredited as a High School), creating flower beds and planting flowers.
- **Community Projects.** Splitting wood to build a fence around the land that will become the Kersa Illala Education and Cultural Center, and repairing public roads in the village.
- **Helping Widows and Elderly.** Building animal corrals (making it safe to keep animals outside their home at night), repairing roofs and providing help in planting and harvesting fields.
- **Improvements to Village of Hope compound.** Fresh coat of paint on the medical clinic, helping dig and create the areas first silage pit (to teach how to increase animal fattening), painting domes and gardening.

*"The Farm Project is a great hope for the village. The dry farming seems unbelievable to them, they are very excited about it."*

Fayisa Miesa,  
Dagoo Harawaa  
Program Director



Often when the fathers are working they sing a traditional song of Dagoo (proving service to others). Here are the words and the English translation:

### Arriyoo Boona Kiyya

Kani ciciisa harragessa.  
Lafa oolee Awarresssa  
Mecciree baasee sangaan  
Miciraa nyataa abban  
Gadabi Margi jigee  
Abba kee malii dhibee  
Dorrobe bargafate adaamii tarkafatee  
Anna haa nyatuu ciiriin

### My Oxen That Are Proud

Our cows look like birds that are together (this show the number). The oxen have the power to plough the land that is very strong and the owner of the oxen eat mi-chira. (is a traditional food that is made up of butter and barley.)

In the gadabi (is a place where there is a lot of grass and cows found) the grass is waving, the owner is confused what to do so that his oxen, that make him rich, will be happy. Let all the bad thing that might happen to my oxen happen to me (this is to show how much they love their cows). Let the bird eat me (there is bird that sucks the blood of the cows, this is to show that they feel as if the cows are their child.)

### Page Photos:

Starting at the top right and going clockwise; Working on the farm project, Splitting wood for the educational center fencing, The fence now completed, Building an animal pen for a widow, Repairing roof for an elderly man, Painting domes for VOH, Trimming hedges in the compound, and creating the areas first silage pit.



### A UNIQUE GIFT

Give a gift of sponsoring a family in Ethiopia to someone you love. It is a gift of kindness, it is a gift of hope.

