



VULNERABLE CHILDREN SOCIETY

**Director Meeting Minutes**

<b>Meeting Title</b>	:	Board Meeting
<b>Date</b>	:	November 3, 2014
<b>Time</b>	:	10am Pacific time, 1pm Toronto time, 2pm Atlantic
<b>Place</b>	:	Skype
<b>Chair Person</b>	:	Arnica Rowan
<b>Invitee List</b>	:	<b>Internal:</b> Arnica Rowan, Dacia Douhaibi, Menbere Shiferaw, Nicole Bellefleur, Pam Carlson, Tawnya Pattie, Flora Meier
		<b>External:</b> Stefan
<b>In Attendance</b>	:	<b>Internal:</b> Arnica Rowan, Flora Meier, Nicole Bellefleur, Pam Carlson, Tawnya Pattie,
		<b>External:</b>
<b>Absent</b>	:	<b>Internal:</b> Dacia
		<b>External:</b>
<b>Agenda</b>	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sponsorship update – monthly donations</li> <li>▪ Communications report</li> <li>▪ General visit updates from Ethiopia</li> <li>▪ Love and Hope Centre kitchen and water tower project update</li> <li>▪ Gardening project</li> <li>▪ Ebola literacy home visits project</li> <li>▪ Directors that want or do not want to continue at the AGM meeting in December</li> </ul>
<b>Minutes Submitted By</b>	:	Dacia Douhaibi
<b>Minutes Submitted On</b>	:	December 11, 2014
<b>Next Meeting</b>	:	<b>Date:</b> Friday December 12
		<b>Time:</b> 8:45 am (Pacific)
		<b>Place:</b> TBA
		<b>Chair:</b> Arnica Rowan

#	Discussion Items
1.	<p><b>Sponsorship Update</b></p> <p>There are currently 47 sponsors. This amounts to \$1935 every month, which leaves the organization \$200 short. Four more sponsors have joined recently, but we need to increase the number of sponsors. Arnica will ask Lyndon about the possibility of double sponsors.</p> <p>Vulnerable Children’s Society does not want to fall below \$25,000 in reserve funds, and accordingly must boost monthly revenue. In order to reach and maintain this</p>

	<p>amount of reserve cash, we need \$3,000 in monthly revenue.</p> <p>Arnica sent out a newsletter to the sponsors to update, Andrea has offered to fill out a newsletter and send it to sponsors every few months. Flora will put together a list of questions that can be asked of the sponsored children and their guardians, which can be included in the newsletter. Tawnya will also put together some pictures and a blurb on her visit.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><b>Project Updates</b></p> <p>(A) Garden Project</p> <p>Stefan, the volunteer who will be over-seeing the urban garden project at the Love and Hope Centre joined the call to discuss project details. Stefan wants to organize caregivers to build and run demonstration gardens (urban agriculture) at the Love and Hope Centre, as well as at the 10 girls' house. The Urban Garden Project will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. provide nutritional support for the kids, since I know they are getting calories but could use a few greens.</li> <li>2. build skill development with the guardians, and the children, in small scale urban gardening. This could have a lasting impact on their ability to lower their food costs and increase family nutrition.</li> <li>3. spread urban gardening skills through the local community, enhancing daily way of life and community health.</li> </ol> <p>Stefan is covering the cost of his travel to Ethiopia as well as his day-to-day costs, but Arnica proposed that we help him by covering his accommodation costs. Canadian Humanitarian has an apartment for rent for \$25 USD per month near the Kality project above their office, or, if this is unavailable, they/we could likely help him find something else. Stefan will be in Ethiopia for three months.</p> <p>The board agreed on a project cost of \$4,000, which will cover the cost of the two gardens. This cost includes accommodation and transportation costs as well as supplies. Stefan was tasked with going to Gindo to talk about the benefits and challenges of the garden project there.</p> <p>It may be a good idea for Stefan to have basic language skills in Amharic; Arnica will inquire about how this could happen.</p> <p>The question of whether someone will need to be hired to maintain and sustain the garden was raised. This will be given further discussion and consideration.</p> <p>(B) Ebola Literacy Outreach Project</p> <p>As a result of the reach and impact of Ebola in West Africa, a large number of schools have been closed across Sierra Leone and Liberia. The Ebola Literacy Outreach Project is targeted at supporting the health and education of children in areas impacted by Ebola through a literacy and hygiene program for children who</p>

	<p>are unable to go to schools since they have been closed. The program will be administered through house-to-house tutoring. The particular geographic focus for the project will be Liberia. Arnica has two cousins living in Sierra Leone that have been running a literacy focused charity in Liberia for a number of years called the Solon Project. Arnica proposed that Vulnerable Children’s Society begin a fundraising campaign to support their outreach project in Liberia. A goal will be set and the surplus, if any, will be directed towards other projects run by Vulnerable Children’s Society.</p> <p>\$3,000 was budgeted for this project. Arnica will find out how many children will benefit from this funding envelope.</p>
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#	Decisions
1.	<p>Arnica made a motion to approve the budget of \$4,000 for the urban garden project with Stefan as the project manager – this budget is inclusive of accommodation and transportation for Stefan – contingent on approval from Canadian Humanitarian.</p> <p>Second: Tawnya.</p> <p>The motion was passed unanimously.</p>

Action Items					
#	Action Item	Owner	Status	Due Date	Comments
1.	Inquire about Amharic tutoring for Stefan	Arnica		December	
2.	Find sources of biodegradable soap in Addis	Nicole		December	
3.	Find out how many kids can be supported in Liberia with a budget of \$3,000 in our Liberia project	Arnica		December	
4.	Email local media sources to inform them about the Ebola project in Liberia	Flora		December	
5.	Continue working on a targeted market campaign for monthly sponsors	Arnica, Flora and Nicole		Ongoing	