



VULNERABLE CHILDREN SOCIETY

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title	:	Summer Meeting
Date	:	June 18, 2011
Time	:	10am Pacific 1pm Eastern
Place	:	Arnica's House + Skype +Conference call
Chair Person	:	Arnica Rowan
Invitee List	:	<p>Internal: Arnica Rowan, Chris Ardern, Dacia Douhaibi, Menbere Muluneh, Nicole Bellefleur, Pam Carlson, Tawnya Pattie</p> <p>External:</p>
In Attendance	:	<p>Internal: Arnica Rowan, Dacia Douhaibi, Menbere Muluneh, Nicole Bellefleur, Pam Carlson, Tawnya Pattie</p> <p>External:</p>
Absent	:	<p>Internal: Chris Ardern</p> <p>External:</p>
Agenda	:	<p>Follow-ups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College projects (Arnica) • Faya Fund (Arnica) • Charitable Status (Arnica) • Updates (Dacia) • Travelers (Nicole) • Accounts (Tawnya) <p>New stuff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective adoptive parent contact (Arnica) • More community child sponsorships (Arnica) • Oversight of current projects / Injera Video Fundraiser for oversight travel (Tawnya / Menbere / Arnica) • Three opportunities: Playground with Swazikids (Pam), Canadian Humanitarian school furnishings and Lesotho orphanage (Arnica) • Other stuff as desired!
Minutes Submitted By	:	Arnica Rowan (notes by Pam Carlson)
Minutes Submitted On	:	July 21, 2011
Next Meeting	:	<p>Date: Sept / Oct 2011</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>Place:</p> <p>Chair: Arnica Rowan</p>

#	Discussion Items
1.	Okanagan College Projects (Arnica): Projects were completed by two students at Okanagan College from the Bachelor of Business Administration program. One was a " how to fundraise " video which was ok and a " soliciting for sponsorship " video which was very good. Both are posted on our website and in circulation.
2.	Faya Fund (Arnica & Menbere): There is now clarity between all parties about roles. Menbere called Meseret and Arnica emailed. Meseret contacted Megan and now Megan is focused on fundraising for a "new home" for Faya Orphanage. They have removed Faya sponsorship from their website.
3.	Charitable Status (Arnica): We have applied and are waiting to hear back from Revenue Canada.
4.	Sponsor Updates (Dacia): Dacia sent 2 updates to sponsors over the last year and a 3 rd set of updates are coming this summer. We discussed sending new and old photos after a year or two to show sponsors how far the kids have come. We decided that updates 2 times a year are enough, and will communicate this to Sintayehu; however, we do want full update forms for those two updates.
5.	Travelers (Nicole): Nicole has been watching the yahoo boards and connecting with Canadians traveling to Ethiopia to carry donations and visit the orphanage. This is going well and Arnica has posted many visitor's accounts on the website. This is meaningful because it connects people to the organization, supplements the orphanage income (one set of travelers bought a fridge) and provides oversight.
6.	Potential Adoptive Parent (Arnica): Arnica was contacted by a lady on multiple occasions who wanted to adopt a boy from Faya Orphanage. She told the lady all about the orphanage but did not disclose any information about the boy.
7.	House 2 House: The community sponsorship seems to be plateauing, with one or two new sponsor a month. We feel pressure from our partner to get more sponsors. We know the need is great. The board discussed if we should start a new campaign for sponsorship. We decided that growing at the pace we are is healthy, appropriate and supportable for VCS. There are currently 32 families in the House 2 House program. Faya Orphanage has stated that they can manage more than a hundred children before they need to add more staff. We need to have some official oversight and visit our partner in Ethiopia so we know the fine details of the programs.
8.	Partner Visit: Chris will be visiting Faya Orphanage in Adama this fall. Menbere, Tawnya, Arnica and Nicole are interested in traveling to Ethiopia for a longer visit to learn more about the details of the programs and conduct site visits in Ambo and Adama. Arnica and Menbere are working on a injera video to support this oversight trip, which might make \$3000. The board discussed using these funds for oversight travel and was strongly in favor. We would like to use social enterprise to subsidize these administrative costs. Nicole would like to travel but will pay her own way.
9.	Project Fund: We have roughly \$7000 in our project fund. The board agrees that we would like to partner with another existing organization so that we have oversight

	<p>and project management on the ground in country.</p> <p>We discussed three ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A playground through Swazikids. • Sponsorship of another orphanage in Lesotho. • Furnishing an education centre in Ethiopia with Canadian Humanitarian. <p>From the options, the board is very interested in working with Canadian Humanitarian to furnish their education centre in Gindo Town, Oromia, Ethiopia. They are working in partnership with the Ethiopian BEKA non-profit. Arnica has connected with their executive director and the VCS board reviewed the plans to date. The board directed Arnica to learn more about this project, and is very interested in it.</p>
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#	Decisions
1.	We will continue our current efforts to solicit more House 2 House sponsors. We are happy with the current rate of new sponsorships.
2.	Menbere and Arnica will be subsidized to travel to Ethiopia for an oversight visit through the proceeds of the injera video.
3.	We will purchase goods in Ethiopia to resell in Canada and fund a travel account.
4.	We would like to learn more about Canadian Humanitarian BEKA education centre and might consider it as a project. Final decision to be made with more information.

Action Items					
#	Action Item	Owner	Status	Due Date	Comments
1.	Learn more about Canadian Humanitarian project, including requesting a budget and project scoping document.	Arnica	In progress	Fall 2011	
2.	Share yearend financial statements at the next board meeting.	Tawnya			

#	Carry-Over Items for Next Meeting
1.	Canadian Humanitarian BEKA Gindo Town Project
2.	Yearend Financial Review

Canadian Humanitarian BEKA Gindo Town Project

