



VULNERABLE CHILDREN SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title	:	Annual General Meeting
Date	:	Dec 13, 2011
Time	:	10am Pacific 1pm Eastern
Place	:	On-line Okanagan College Classroom
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: All VCS members</p>
In Attendance	:	<p>Internal: Arnica Rowan, Chris Ardern, Dacia Douhaibi, Nicole Bellefleur, Tawnya Pattie</p> <p>External: Rita Churchill (member), Tam Mickel (member)</p>
Absent	:	<p>Internal: Menbere Muluneh, Pam Carlson,</p> <p>External:</p>
Agenda	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting called to order – Arnica MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented. 2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes – Arnica MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes from the June 18, 2011 and February 13, 2011 director meeting as posted on the Vulnerable Children Society website. 3. Presentation of financial statements - Tawnya MOTION: To accept the financial statements as presented. 4. Old business: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Charitable Status Application - Arnica SPECIAL RESOLUTION MOTION: To delete the current purposes of Vulnerable Children Society, and to replace them with the charitable purposes suggested by the charities directorate, in Vulnerable Children Society’s constitution. (See below.) MOTION: To send the new purposes to in Form 10, Copy of Resolution, to the BC Registrar of Companies. b. Sponsor Updates – Arnica c. Canadian Humanitarian Building in Gindo, Ethiopia - Arnica 5. New business: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Non-profit management class offered for

- credit, for free! - Arnica
- b. Okanagan College student projects – Arnica
Any priorities?
- 6. Information:
 - a. Budget for 2011 – Arnica & Tawnya
 - b. Volunteer holding caregiver workshops - Menbere
 - c. Visit with Faya Orphanage director Meseret Demissie by board director Chris Ardern - Chris
- 7. ELECTION: Board of directors elected for next year – any reorganizing of duties as well.
- 8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Purposes suggested by the Charities Directorate:

1. *To relieve poverty by providing food, water, shelter, education, sanitation and healthcare to orphaned children and the poor, in African nations;*
2. *To educate caregivers of orphaned children in African nations by providing mentorship and training through the provision of workshops on topics related to child development; and*
3. *To do all such things ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the above charitable purposes.*

Minutes Submitted By	:	Arnica Rowan								
Minutes Submitted On	:	January 8, 2012								
Next Meeting	:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Date:</td> <td>February/March 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Place:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chair:</td> <td>Arnica Rowan</td> </tr> </table>	Date:	February/March 2012	Time:		Place:		Chair:	Arnica Rowan
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#	Discussion Items
1.	<p>Tawnya Pattie (treasurer) reviewed the financial statements for our first fiscal year. We are all grateful to our donors for their support. Some highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We raised over \$40,000 in our first year! • We sent over \$26,000 to our partner organization Faya Orphanage for the orphanage, the House 2 House program, and drought relief. • Our administrative fund has been supplemented by our general fund, as costs exceeded our budget. • Our contingency fund has close to \$3000 set aside for covering sponsorships if sponsors drop out. <p>Tawnya proposed that we readjust our administrative and contingency allocations from each sponsorship.</p>
2.	<p>Arnica Rowan (president) reported that our application for charitable status had been conditionally accepted, depending on changing the purposes of our society. A special resolution was passed to change the purposes as suggested by the Charities Directorate. Next, Arnica had to send in the changes to the BC Registrar of companies, and then send the resulting stamped change of purposes to the directorate. Hopefully this process would be completed in a month or two.</p> <p>Tawnya and Arnica discussed that once we are made a charity (and can issue tax receipts) we would probably be changing our financial service from PayPal to an organization that produces tax receipts, such as Canada Helps. This decision will be made at a later meeting. Canada Helps costs 3.5% per transaction, but also handles all client data management and tax receipts, so is an appropriate cost. PayPal costs an average of 2%.</p>
3.	<p>Sponsor updates were sent out in August and September by volunteer Rita Churchill. The updates included more information in the past about the Faya Orphanage children, but the level of information is still not satisfactory. We discussed what a challenge the updates are for the directors to send out, as well as for Faya Orphanage. Chris Ardern (director) explained how the internet services in Adama are terrible and files simply are often lost. Sending pictures and even text can take multiple tries and doesn't work sometimes for days. The intake forms are adequately filled out, but the update forms for the community children are not completed.</p> <p>We discussed trying to help our Ethiopian partner with technology, but there was no solution presented. We also discussed sending two or three particular questions to be answered for a set of updates, so that there would be new information to share on the orphanage children each time.</p> <p>Updates will be sent twice a year, as discussed previously, in August/September</p>

	<p>and February/March. Newsletters are being sent in May and November.</p> <p>VCS's requirements have also been strengthened in our 2011-2012 contract with Faya Orphanage.</p>
4.	<p>We have committed to contributing \$10,000 to Canadian Humanitarian to furnish their educational support centre in Gindo, Ethiopia. \$5000 was committed out of our existing project fund, and we will endeavor to fundraise an additional \$5000.</p> <p>An Okanagan College business student will hopefully be working on a corporate sponsorship package to go to interested schools and non-profits who are keen on donating. The work is part of the student's Social Entrepreneurship class.</p>
5.	<p>Okanagan College had 3 free places in the on-line "Introduction to Non-Profit Management" class. Several directors expressed an interested in taking the course.</p>
6.	<p>Our first long-term volunteer was scheduled to go to Ethiopia and start offering "professional development" caregiver workshops. The trip has been postponed to next summer, but the volunteer (a nurse and professional cook) is planning workshops on the following: first aid and basic healthcare; basic nutrition and healthy cooking; micro- and container gardening for food. Membere Shiferaw (director) and Arnica Rowan spend time in November helping plan the workshops to be culturally and adult learning-appropriate.</p>
7.	<p>Chris Ardern (director) shared pictures and news from her multi-day visit to Adama and Wonji in December. Some of the important highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House 2 House participants are chosen by the local Ministry of Women's Affairs office in the communities of Ambo and Guder. The monies are distributed by the offices and all three parties (the ministry, Faya Orphanage and the House 2 House participants) sign a form when sponsorships are picked up. In Adama, the ministry chooses the families but the sponsorship funds are picked up directly at the orphanage and signed for by the orphanage staff and the participants. • In Wonji, the HIV prevalence rate is very high (approximately 30-40%.) The Wonji HIV clinic selects the House 2 House participants based on the health of the family members, income, and the body mass index of the child. There is a huge waiting list in Wonji and the need is astounding. The monies are distributed through the clinic and are signed by three parties. The primary importance of the funds is so that children can eat and bring up their body mass index, for the ARVs to be affective and enabling them to fight the HIV virus. • Faya Orphanage is facing challenges, and there is a lot of change around government regulations for orphanages. The government is trying to move to more foster and community care (such as House 2 House) but there is limited oversight and structure for foster care. Highlights of these changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The orphanage is being required to move again, in order to have more room for the children to play outside. (The current house is very spacious by Ethiopian standards.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some official did not want HIV+ and HIV- children to live together. However, the Faya Orphanage disputed this and there are no rules to that effect. <p>The board of directors and meeting participants had many questions to forward to Meseret. We decided to get more information and meet within two months to discuss strategy. We were please to hear that the government is supportive of community care.</p>
8.	All directors let their names stand and no new directors were elected.

#	Decisions
1.	Our contingency fund will be used for the needs of our House 2 House participants, including covering any missing sponsorship income, as well as drought relief or other emergency needs.
2.	We will cap our contingency fund at \$3000. After that amount, we will redirect contingency income to the general fund.
3.	From each sponsorship, now \$2 will be allocated to the administrative fund (as opposed to \$1.)
4.	<p>SPECIAL RESOLUTION: To delete our previous purposes and change our purposes to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>To relieve poverty by providing food, water, shelter, education, sanitation and healthcare to orphaned children and the poor, in African nations;</i> 2. <i>To educate caregivers of orphaned children in African nations by providing mentorship and training through the provision of workshops on topics related to child development; and</i> 3. <i>To do all such things ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the above charitable purposes.</i>
5.	To send the new purposes to in Form 10, Copy of Resolution, to the BC Registrar of Companies.
6.	To discuss our contingency plan and strategy to deal with Faya Orphanage's changes at the next director's meeting.
7.	<p>2011-2012 directors: Arnica Rowan (president), Chris Ardern, Dacia Douhaibi (vice-president), Menbere Muluneh, Nicole Bellefleur, Pam Carlson, Tawnya Pattie(secretary/treasurer.)</p>

Action Items					
#	Action Item	Owner	Status	Due Date	Comments
1.	Directors to send emails expressing interest in non-profit course to Arnica.	Directors	Done	December 2011	Places were filled before director applied.

2.	Send specific questions to Meseret and Sintayehu about the whereabouts of the orphanage children, as well as their plan for the future.	Arnica Menbere	In progress	January 2012	
3.	Write short stories for our blog explaining details of House2House selection process, and news on restructuring in Ethiopia.	Chris		January / February 2012	

#	Carry-Over Items for Next Meeting
1.	Strategy to address potential changes with orphanage, as well as the House 2 House program.