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Report from the Chair

This report covers the fourth year of activity for Building Hope. It has been a very successful fundraising year with total receipts of 13,111.69. This is a significant achievement given that the level of corporate grants was much lower this year. Building Hope received a grant of £1,000 from UIA Charitable Foundation towards the stove workshop project and a donation of £1,536 raised by Learning Tools for Global Schools (USA) for the purchase of a new photocopier for Karagutu School.

In addition, a significant part of our funding has been raised through the activities of members and non-members which included sponsored events, 'Buy a Gift' scheme, Crosby & District Lions Club and churches donations. Thanks to all our members and supporters for their active participation and generous donations.

The main achievements this year were the construction of the MIRT stove workshop and the continuation of the housing development project for the community affected and disabled by leprosy.

Veronique Rizzuto travelled to Dessie in April 2009 to assess the housing building work and to meet some of the stove producers. The MIRT stoves can significantly enhance the quality of life (providing a safer, more fuel efficient way of cooking) as well as a more environmentally friendly method of providing energy. The new business enterprise helps provide income for ten women, and some of the profits will be reinvested in the business and will also benefit the entire community. Potential buyers are Habitat homeowners (200+ households). It costs about 40 Birr (£2) to make and the resale price is 70-80 Birr (£4).

Twenty four 'chika' homes and latrines are currently being built with funds raised by Building Hope and Opal Charitable Foundation (Manchester). Veronique met with Gebeyhu Gezahgne, the Project Coordinator and some of the Committee members of the Association for Persons Affected and Disabled by Leprosy to discuss the next phase of the building work. Some of the homeowners who have already moved to their unfinished homes organised a celebration party to thank Veronique and all the members and supporters from the UK.

The students' sponsorship scheme has been very successful this year. One student is graduating in September 2009 with a Diploma in Nursing.

Catherine Bott