

**Ethiopian Education Fund
Newsletter | July 2017**



Dear Friends of the Ethiopian Education Fund,

Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. Education leads to jobs. Good jobs for smart girls and boys from poor villages in a remote part of Ethiopia. In our last newsletter we heard about Asayech and her new job with the Ethiopian national electric authority that was made possible by six years of support from the EEF for grade school and vocational training. In this issue we showcase Tamirat, Tigist, and newly-returned student Birhane. All success thanks to you.

Tamirat is from a tribal area of Southwest Ethiopia. He has been supported by the EEF since 2009, first in high school and then in college. He graduated in November 2016 as a Laboratory Technician and was quickly hired by a government health center in his homeland to bring much needed care to his people. Tamirat is the eldest son of the tribal chief and serves as an example of the power of education.



Tigist (left) graduated in November from College as a nurse after receiving support from the EEF for 9 years. She was hired by a government hospital and now works in the town of Bonga. You may remember Tigist from other newsletters. She became pregnant with Tsion when she was 16, and with support from the EEF was able to continue her education instead of dropping out or giving Tsion up for adoption. As a single mother, she had to double her efforts so she could be a good mom and a good student. Thanks to your support, she was able to do both. We have seen Tigist grow into a mature and intelligent woman; and we have seen Tsion grow from an infant into an inquisitive and bright 8-year old (below).

Support does not stop after a student graduates. Graduates want to get jobs. Sometimes they need to travel to distant cities to obtain their official paperwork, get photos for applications, and even move their belongings from one village to the next. All of this costs money. The EEF provides support for this “last mile” activity to ensure that all our graduates get the best job possible.

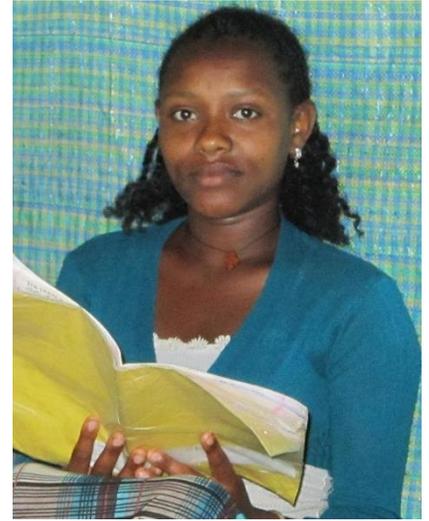


Your donation has made a difference in the lives of Asayech, Tamirat, Tigist, and Tsion. Your continued support has allowed us to bring the total number of students supported by EEF to 30! That is incredible. You can see from the photo Tigist’s pride in earning her diploma and her determination to make the most of her life. For \$480 a year, you can support a student like Tigist for one year of college, trade school, or university. For \$360 per year you can support a student in elementary through high school,

When a student enters our program, the EEF makes a commitment to be with her every step of the way. As long as she keeps passing her grade, the EEF is there whether that is through Grade 10, vocational school, college, the university, or even graduate school. We manage our funds carefully so no student ever has to stop going to school as long as they keep passing their grade (see our work in action by [watching this video](#)).

I was fortunate to be in Ethiopia for six weeks in November and December of 2016 doing work in agriculture. I was able to travel to Chiri, the village in the jungle where our work started in 2004. I visited Tamirat and Tigist right after they graduated. They wanted me to tell you how much they appreciate your support. Their success could not happen without you.

Let me share one more story. It is about Birhane (right). She entered our program seven years ago, and we supported her through grades 8-10. However, her score on the grade 10 leaving exam was not high enough for entry into a university or college, and she did not go to vocational school. Instead, she went back to her village, a four-hour walk through the jungles from the larger village of Chiri. Over the years we had heard that Birhane got married and had two children. We were glad she had been able to attend a few more years of school through EEF support because every additional year of schooling helps a woman earn more money and helps her kids live healthier lives. We wished her and her family well.



When I was in Ethiopia this past November, I received an update on Birhane from someone who grew up in her village. Birhane was going to attend summer school to become a teacher! It turns out that a few years after she returned to her village, she was asked to teach the primary school grades because no official teacher was available and she had passed grade 10. She did so well that the village governing counsel nominated her for one of the highly-prized openings at the college a half-day walk from her village. For the next four years, Birhane will attend school in the summer and move back to her village to teach during the school year. Her husband is a teacher and fully supports her. Since Birhane is continuing her education, the EEF is once again supporting her. Birhane's hard work, commitment to education, and willingness to give back to her village through teaching show how the EEF brings change to both families and communities through access to education.

We are holding several **fundraising events** around the area this summer and fall (visit www.ethiopianeducationfund.org for more info). In fact in early June, we held our first event at Olympic Crest Coffee in Olympia. The owner Chuck gave an awesome demonstration of how coffee is roasted. On **Sunday, August 6 from 1 to 3 pm**, we'll be in **Olympia** once again sharing our stories and teaching you how to roast your own coffee. Other coffee roasting events are on **Saturday, August 26 from 2 to 4 pm at Penn Cove on Whidbey Island**, the same beautiful beachside venue as last year and on **Saturday, October 7** we'll be in **Spokane from 2 to 4 pm** for more coffee roasting. In **September**, we'll be hosting an event in **Seattle (date to be announced)**.

You can support the EEF by attending one of these fundraisers or by donating [online](#), through a check (address below), or in person. Any amount will help: \$30 allows a student to attend primary or secondary school for one month and \$360 for the entire year; \$40 will support college students for one month and \$480 for the year.

We want to send out a special thanks to those making regular monthly and yearly donations; your ongoing generosity is greatly appreciated and ensures that we can support the students every step of the way.

Warm regards,
Jeffrey, EEF Co-founder