

ETHIOPIAN EDUCATION FUND NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ETHIOPIAN EDUCATION FUND,

Time. It takes time. Time to learn. Time to navigate youth. Time to recover from loss, heartache, and depression. Time to stand on your own two feet and make your way in the world. I am proud to say that the Ethiopian Education Fund has been helping to make this possible for over 20 years for students in the Kafa Region of Ethiopia.

As you might imagine, the journey is not easy. The EEF students come from poor families, marginalized in one way or another, and struggling to find a way out of poverty for themselves and their family. The EEF is there to give their dreams a chance.

Since our newsletter six months ago, I (Jeff) have been to Ethiopia twice for work. I have not been able to visit the students due to security reasons, but I have been able to speak with them when I was in Addis Ababa and deliver much needed supplies.

In December 2023, I brought books on large animal veterinary medicine for Mihret, an EEF student who is in her 3rd year of veterinary school. Stephanie, as a former large animal vet herself, sent many of her own textbooks. I also brought a computer for Tamirat. Tamirat is studying to be a health officer, which is like a Physician's Assistant in the US. Tamirat was able to make the long trip to Addis from Kafa Region, get the computer and books from our good friend Baraket, and take them back without incident.



One of our goals for the EEF has always been to create a network of EEF students and graduates who can help one another to do more than they ever thought possible. This is an example of that network in action because Mihret, as a woman from the countryside, would have had a difficult time traveling by herself to Addis Ababa.



We also heard about a former EEF student named Desta. She is from the marginalized ethnic group called Manja and was an EEF student for 7 years. And as so often happens, former students move on and do not let us know what happens after they graduate. So we were wonderfully surprised to hear that Desta is working at a small hospital in Kafa. We heard this news from Tsegaye, the very first EEF student back in 2005, who has a job in the social works department in the Kafa Region capital city of Bonga. We are proud of Desta and all that she has achieved. She is helping her people navigate the complex Ethiopian health system and inspiring young women to dream big and work hard. In the picture at the left, Desta is greeting a patient; and you can see a picture of Desta from 8 years ago on the EEF home page (she is on the far left).

"The most amazing part of the work of the EEF is that you never know where kids will end up if they are given a chance to succeed." - Jeffery Ried



And one final note about another EEF graduate. The EEF supported Tekalign in high school where he did very well and scored so high on his leaving exam that he was admitted to an engineering program at a distant university. He recently graduated and sent us an update. He qualified for the pilot training school for Ethiopian Airlines and is on his way to becoming a pilot!

ONE MORE YEAR OF EDUCATION MAKES A HUGE IMPACT.

- Please consider that a yearly donation of \$360 supports a student in grades 7-12.
- Just \$30 supports a student for a month.
- \$460 a year supports a student in college, university, or vocational school.
- This year we are requesting additional support for computers and smartphones for our University and College students.

DONATE AT:

WWW.ETHIOPIANEDUCATIONFUND.ORG/DONATE



All our best,

Jeff, Stephanie, Annie, Rochelle and Azeb

Events this summer

As spring comes to the Northern Hemisphere, we ask you to remember the EEF in your giving. I hope you can see how the EEF makes a difference in the lives of every student who receives a scholarship.

This summer we will have three in-person fundraising events! We'll have light snacks, roast (and drink) coffee, and share stories.

- **Seattle** - Saturday, June 22 from 2 to 5 pm.
- **Whidbey Island** - Sunday, July 28 from 2 to 5 pm.
- **Olympia** - Sunday, August 11 from 2 to 4 pm at New Traditions Fair Trade Gallery. Join us for coffee, snacks and program news.

Look for invitations in your inbox or contact us at ethiopianeducationfund@gmail.com for more information.



Board of Directors: Stephanie Garlichs, Jeffrey Ried, Annie Clay, Rochelle Stowe, Azeb Ayele

PO Box 771, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 | ethiopianeducationfund@gmail.com | www.ethiopianeducationfund.org