



Ethiopian Education Fund

Newsletter | Spring/Summer 2021

Dear Friends of the Ethiopian Education Fund,

We cannot begin to express how grateful we are for your support through the EEF of the 42 students in Ethiopia who seek to make a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities. Studies show that even one more year of education improves the health of the student and her family, improves her income, and enables her to get married at a later age. Through the EEF, every student can continue their education for as long as they keep passing their grade even into college, university, professional school and even vocational school. Over the years, we have seen undisputable truths: every student counts; every year counts; and every donation makes a difference. Many thanks...betam ameseganahehu ...በጥም አመሰግናለሁ.



Ethiopia is particularly challenging for students attending school in the northern region of Tigray where a short-lived civil war recently ended (but sporadic fighting continues and a large-scale humanitarian crisis has taken over). Thankfully, most of the students supported by the EEF are in the relatively peaceful southwest of the country and “only” suffer the normal hardships that come with living and studying in a developing country. The primary and secondary students are back in the schools of their communities and the students attending college, university, and vocational schools have returned to those distant places. Asegadech, pictured at the left, recently graduated from business school in a distant town and is looking for work. Good luck Asegadech. And two other new graduates, Meselech and Berhanu, just found a job as a teacher and in agriculture, respectively. Hurrah!!!

We want to highlight three vital members of the EEF team. Zelalem (Zed to his friends) has been with us every step of this journey going all the way back to 2003 before we even had the idea to start the EEF. His experience, common sense, and connection to the students and the school systems helps the EEF students navigate a fraught system. He is often on the phone with both students and school administrators solving problems. We have been on many adventures with Zed and look forward to many more.



Chuck Kennedy understands coffee and the need for education in Ethiopia. As owner of Olympic Crest Coffee Roasters, he knows the importance of coffee to the economy of the area served by the EEF. He specifically roasts Ethiopian coffee for the EEF to sell to all of you as a fundraiser, which enables us to make a profit and support education of girls and boys. He has been on this journey with us for a long time. Thanks Chuck and team!

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

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The most recent person to join the EEF is Azeb (Azi to her friends). Azi was born in Ethiopia and received two diplomas before coming to the US with her husband Serawit. Azi understands the challenges of the Ethiopian educational system especially for girls. She is reaching out to the EEF students at all education levels to speak with them directly so The EEF can provide support in all the right areas. We are fortunate that Azi is part of the team because of her unique background and ease of engaging others. Welcome Azi! We look forward to the journey ahead.

You can learn more about Zed and Azi on the EEF website [here](#). You can learn more about Chuck and Olympic Crest Coffee Roasters [here](#).

Major Events in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is gearing up for the much-anticipated national elections on 5 June 2021. This will be the first ever multi-party election in the country's history. Various parties are jockeying for position and there are high expectations for a peaceful expression of democracy.

Ethiopia is also home to the nearly-complete Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) in the northern highlands. Downstream neighbors Sudan and Egypt have been negotiating with Ethiopia for the last decade about water rights with a few important technical points still to be resolved. The issues are coming to a head as Ethiopia begins to fill the dam for the 2nd year during the July rainy season.

Spring/summer events

We are developing plans for an outdoor celebration of EEF students and donors in Lacey this August! Also in the works is an online event that will highlight coffee roasting and the all-important Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Stay tuned for these and other fundraising events.



Wild forest coffee in Kaffa, Ethiopia

Your donation matters...

As we begin to think about returning to "normal times," please continue to think about the challenges faced by the students in Ethiopia. It is easy to make a donation at www.ethiopianeducationfund.org; \$30 per month supports a student in grade school; \$40 per month supports a college or university student.

Because we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we have also set up an account (spurred by a donor) to allow us to directly receive stock, which helps you avoid all sorts of taxes and ensure more goes to the EEF; you may also donate through your employer, Washington Combined Fund, Amazon Smile, etc. Email us for more info about donating stock or contributing through social media platforms.

We wish you a great Spring and hope to see or hear from you this Summer.

Jeff, Stephanie, Annie and Rochelle (EEF Board)