



Ethiopian Education Fund

Newsletter | Summer 2022

Dear Friends of the Ethiopian Education Fund,

June is graduation season in the US and it is the same in Ethiopia. Graduates walk arm in arm in long gowns, hats and sashes. Life is uncertain so celebrate the wins!

This year we were thrilled to see Tekalign graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (photo with Zelalem, the manager for the Ethiopian Education Fund). The EEF has been supporting him since 2015 so that he could place all his attention on his studies. In addition to graduating, his other goal was to make his mother proud. I am certain he has.



The Ethiopian Education Fund currently supports 40 students from grade school to college. One of the 14 students in college is Mehret, a young women studying Veterinary Medicine which makes my heart glad because it is challenging to qualify for this program and I (Stephanie) am a veterinarian myself. The EEF has supported students like Simegn and Sisay since they were in 4th and 7th grades. This year they are both attending college!

Students (photo showing 7 of the secondary students with letters written by our donors in Olympia) are chosen by a Scholar's Committee, members of the community who are involved in education in the small town we lived in 20 years ago. They choose students for EEF that are most likely to succeed if they had support and most likely to leave school without it. Teachers in the schools recommend good students that have limited resources, may be living alone or with a relative and have few prospects for continuing their studies without outside help. The Scholar's Committee discusses the students with our in-country manager Zelalem and we add students each year, at this point keeping the number around 40.



Current situation in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has been in the mainstream news of late for the civil war in the north, drought in the east, and significant and regular violence by one group of people against another in many parts of the country. Millions of people have fallen into the category that humanitarian agencies call IDPs, internally displaced persons: people who have been forced to leave their homes to seek security in another part of the country. There is much uncertainty about the future, about how Ethiopia will untangle this Gordian Knot.

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

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We are fortunate that the EEF is in the southwest part of the country in an area called Kaffa. In the past, its isolation kept it from developing as much as other parts of the country, but today, this isolation has kept it from getting caught up in the violence and devastation found in so many other areas. Kaffa and its neighboring counties went so far as to form a new region in Ethiopia called the Southwest Ethiopia Peoples Region ([new region](#)) and are seeking to have a greater voice in their own development. Students supported by EEF are already part of the new administration, are already attending the new university at the capital city of Bonga, and all are looking forward to creating a better future for themselves and their families.

Your donation matters...one student at a time

While Covid has kept us from traveling to the village of Chiri where it all started 20 years ago or having fund raisers locally, we appreciate each one of you who has believed in this work and have continued to support the education of girls and boys in a distant land. We created

this project to be simple and self-sufficient and the past few years have proven that this was the right approach. Even during Covid and civil war and disrupted school years, students still received support, continued their education, graduated, and got jobs. We continue to believe that education and the broader perspective it brings is critical for our students to realize their dreams and for the country to secure a peaceful future.

Please remember it is easy to make a difference. You can donate at www.ethiopianeducationfund.org or by sending a check to the address below. Only \$30 per month (\$360/year) supports a student in grade school and her family; \$40 per month (\$480/year) supports a college or university student and any amount counts! Every donation goes directly to students; we always donate our time and travel to the work. Your support enables the Ethiopian Education Fund to fulfill its motto of “One More Year” of education to students in Ethiopia.

All the best from the EEF Board,

Stephanie, Annie, Jeff, Rochelle and Azi