

SUMMER 2026

ETHIOPIAN EDUCATION FUND NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ETHIOPIAN EDUCATION FUND,

June is graduation month all over the world and the Ethiopian Education Fund has graduates from middle school, high school and college. Let me tell you about two graduating young women who are both named Mihret. – *Stephanie*

Mihret lost both her parents when she was in the third grade. She did what many orphan girls do: she moved into a neighbor's house and was able to live there by cooking and cleaning. Fortunately, the family allowed her to continue her education. Mihret had high hopes for herself because she was the top student in her class at the end of Grade 11, but she knew she needed more time to study during Grade 12. That is when our community engagement manager Tigist heard of Mihret's case and brought her situation to the village selection committee. After review, Mihret was placed in the EEF program and now she can spend the time she needs to study and will continue to be supported by the EEF when she (hopefully) enters college.



MIHRET, GRADE 12

MIHRET, UNIVERSITY



The second Mihret has been with us much longer. She came from a small village a day's walk from Chiri, and went to high school another day's walk in the opposite direction. Her parents valued education so much that they insisted all their daughters attend high school, even if it meant leaving their village. Mihret has been working incredibly hard, always taking on extra projects and jobs. She is an incredible young woman, highly motivated and dedicated. She started her veterinary program during the civil war in northern Ethiopia and successfully transferred with help from the EEF to a closer veterinary program. We have been privileged to communicate regularly with her via text messages. She completed her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with with honors this summer and is looking for work. The EEF is using its Ethiopian network to help Mihret identify job opportunities. We are excited to see what she will do next!



ETHIOPIA TODAY

Ethiopia still struggles to find stability. We are watching as prices rise due to the current global situation. We are saddened at how much the students in rural Ethiopia suffer as the price of oil in the Mideast makes food and everything else more expensive because Ethiopia imports so many essentials. We continue to monitor the situation and the needs of the students. In many ways our students are fortunate because they know we will support them for as long as they stay in school.

STEPS TOWARD A NEW ETHIOPIAN NON-PROFIT

We are in the 2nd year of a 3-year plan to transition the EEF to be based in Ethiopia and run by Ethiopians with Stephanie and/or Jeff on its Board. The EEF will continue to support students and work with local communities. We'll update you as we navigate the Ethiopian regulations, hire staff, and create a fully functional organization that can meet the needs of Ethiopian students.



The EEF is able to support 50 students each year because of you. We could not do this without your support. We wish each of you could go to Ethiopia to see what a difference you make to these students! Please consider sending a check or monthly donation through your bank, mail, PayPal or Venmo or through the "Donate" page on our website:

www.ethiopianeducationfund.org. Write to us with questions or comments!



local partners

Chuck, at **Olympic Crest Coffee**, reports Ethiopian coffee prices are way up due to global issues. Accordingly, we are paying him a little bit more per bag, but you can still get his superbly roasted Ethiopian coffee for \$20 and support students in Ethiopia! Please contact us for local deliveries or stop in for a cup at 4211 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey.

Also, a shout out to **Whidbey African Store** at 830 SE Pioneer, Oak Harbor. Not only does Juliet sell EEF coffee but beautiful clothing, baskets, spices and more. Shop our local supportive businesses.



All our best,

Stephanie, Annie, Jeff, Azeb and Rochelle