

Dear Friends of the Ethiopian Education Fund,

We want to share with you some of the exciting news from the last six months about the Ethiopian Education Fund. At EEF, we believe that education is the key to a better life, for individuals, for families, and for communities. We focus our efforts on enabling marginalized students to continue their education with emphasis on girls, orphans, local tribes that suffer from discrimination, and poor households where the mother is the only provider. Allow us to share some recent activities and accomplishments of EEF and a few of the students receiving scholarships.

Tsegaye, a student supported by EEF since Grade 9, graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Jimma University. Stephanie Garlich, Elaine Tyrie, and Jeff Ried went to Ethiopia and were part of his graduation on 18 June 2011. These three board members used frequent flyer miles and personal savings to be part of this grand occasion. Tsegaye overcame the challenges of moving through the Ethiopian school system, especially if you are poor. He studied hard, passed his examinations, and now received his degree. He has also graduated from the EEF scholarship program. Your generous support has made this possible. EEF provided Tsegaye with a small graduation gift so that he can look for work. Remember him as he seeks employment and becomes self-sufficient.



We also traveled to the small village of Chiri where Stephanie and Jeff were directors of a health center from 2002 to 2004. We were able to meet with other students supported by EEF and take the first steps toward developing a partnership with the local school. We met Nigushe, a tall, thin teen who has been an orphan since age 11. He just passed his Grade 9 exam and next year will enroll in Grade 10. He will continue to receive scholarship support from EEF since our primary efforts are to support youth as long as they keep passing their grades and they want to continue their education.



We also met with Tigist and her darling 4-year old daughter Tsion. Tigist was orphaned about 7 years ago at age 12 and was provided yearly scholarships by the EEF to continue her education and later to support her daughter. Education of girls is incredibly important (see www.girleffect.org/video) because an uneducated girl is likely remain in poverty...perhaps as a servant, perhaps as a manual laborer, or perhaps as a bar girl in a dirt-floor tavern. Tigist will not know if she passed Grade 10 until later this summer. Let us hope she does so that she can

move with her daughter to a larger town and attend Grade 11. Like all transitions, it will not be easy. But Tigist, like EEF, realizes that education is the best way out of poverty for herself and her daughter.

We also met Tekalign, a young man now who EEF has supported over the years. Tekalign started school at a later age when he entered at Grade 3. He dropped out to work in the fields and then reentered school to continue his education. He is in his early 20s now and only in Grade 7, which he did not pass last year.

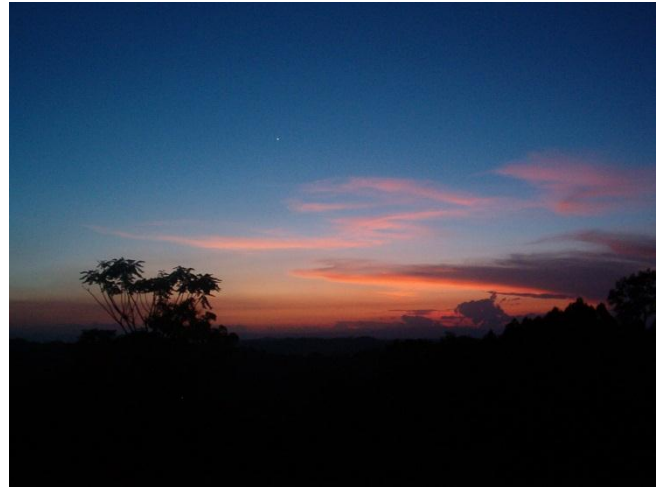
Before the three board members met with Tekalign, we discussed his situation. We realized he had reached a plateau and saw that it was essential for him to move into the next phase of his life. As we explained this to Tekalign through an interpreter, we saw that there was both a sense of loss and a sense of opportunity. He said that he wished to be a merchant, traveling between villages where he could sell things like coffee, cardamom, and corn in the larger towns and selling shoes, pans, and clothes in more remote villages. EEF will provide him with a small gift so he can begin this next phase and purchase goods directly, without taking out a loan.

Finally, we are working to establish a partnership with the school system in the town of Chiri for selection of new students for EEF scholarships. While in Ethiopia we were able to speak with our old friend Mr. Dereje, principal of the new high school in Chiri (Grades 9 and 10). We explained the purpose of EEF and the priority criteria for selecting students. Mr. Dereje was excited about helping those in need. In the weeks ahead, we'll work with Mr. Dereje to develop a joint understanding of EEF's focus populations and to ensure that a transparent and equitable process for student selection is established.

We also want to let you know that the EEF applied for and received it's 501(c)3 designation. This means EEF is incorporated in the state of Washington as a nonprofit corporation and recognized by the IRS as a nonprofit organization. What does this mean? The mission of EEF has always been the same: support marginalized students in Ethiopia so they can reach their potential. Since 2005 we have done that through the EEF as an unincorporated organization. Your donations were always tax deductible and will continue to be tax deductible. The IRS ruling allows us to apply for grants, obtain matching funds if your employer provides this option, and shows others that the EEF is evolving to a more established organization. As we continue to add more students, we will need to expand our donor base. The 501(c)3 designation allows EEF to do this more easily.

We hope you have seen how your contributions can make a life-changing difference to those who receive scholarships. We ask you to consider a donation at this time so that EEF can increase the number of youth in the program. While any amount is important, consider that \$50 allows one student living on their own to attend school for one month. Please send your contribution to the address at the bottom of the page.

It is important to note that EEF prides itself on keeping its administrative costs low while achieving impact. We are a small organization that directly benefit youth in Ethiopia. We see that strong partnerships with the communities we are serving will enable EEF to be most effective and for your donations to have the greatest impact.



On behalf of EEF-supported students, the board thanks you for your interest. As always, send us any questions or comments you may have.

Stephanie Garlichs (President)
Elaine Tyrie (Treasurer)

Anne Clay (Vice President)
Jeffrey Ried (Secretary)

PS. If you know how to design a website and would like to help the EEF, please contact us at Ethiopianeducationfund@gmail.com

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