

Ethiopian Education Fund  
May 2014



Dear Friends of the Ethiopian Education Fund,

I recently got back from a sweet visit to Chiri. Our Ethiopian manager Zelalem and I spent several days visiting students and talking to key officials. We met with the high school principal, teachers, the head of Microfinance (the local village bank that we use), and staff at the Women, Youth, and Children's Affairs Office of the county government. We were also joined by my childhood friend Lise, who was very happy to be part of the trip, to see the work of EEF, and meet the students and hear their hopes and

*Student update - April 2014*

We now support a range of students, ages 7 to 27, from first grade to graduate school. In a country whose adult literacy rate is 40% and only 15% of youth reach secondary school, each one of our students is important and it is especially gratifying to have students in university and professional schools.

Let me tell you about some of our students. Assegedech is number one in her 10th grade class, her teachers are very proud of her English which is incredibly important since all classes after 7<sup>th</sup> grade are taught in English. Another student is Asayech. She finished 10<sup>th</sup> grade last year but was unable to pass the extremely difficult national leaving exam, which would have allowed her to continue her education to university or to nursing or teaching colleges. Not content to stop learning, she took it upon herself to find an opening at the Technical College in another town where she was able to enroll in a program that allows her to continue her education studying electrical engines for the rapidly growing Ethiopian manufacturing industry. Our youngest student Tsion is

Photos: Tsion, 1<sup>st</sup> grade; Assegedech, 10<sup>th</sup> grade; and Asayech, Technical College

enjoying first grade as her single mom



dreams.

At EEF, we celebrate each additional year a student attends school. Studies show that each

additional year a child goes to school will delay the age of marriage, increase resistance to domestic violence and female circumcision, and increase a woman's income. Truly every year counts toward improved health, economic benefit, and family well-being. While we want all students to attend university, we recognize that not all will. But success is measured by a smart child from a poor family going to school for just one more year. And as long as students keep passing their grades, EEF will keep supporting them.

With this in mind, consider that \$30 will support a young girl for a month as she reaches for a better life; \$150/month will support a student in college. Please consider an online monthly donation at <http://ethiopianeducationfund.org/donate/>. It's easy to help us keep bright students from poor families in school for one more year!

The Ethiopian Education Fund, a 501(c)3, has been supporting students in rural Ethiopia since 2005, and we are so grateful for your continued support!

All the best,  
Stephanie

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*You're invited!*

This year we will have our first **Fundraising Dinner Event!** Please join us Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> at Assimba Ethiopian Cuisine, 2722 East Cherry in Seattle. You can get on the list by making a new donation online at <http://ethiopianeducationfund.org/donate/> or directly to one of us. The cost is \$30, the cost of keeping a girl in school for one month, and there will be a buffet, silent auction, photos and fun! We are also planning a similar

*Lise Brenner on visiting EEF students and their community*

"It seemed to me that no one thinks of themselves as outside of a network of relationships. Helping one person will inevitably help several others. The Chiri school and civic leaders who clearly feel deeply responsible for the students and for the good use of the EEF funds is an example of this sense of community responsibility. It was a pleasure to meet these adults so invested in the future of their country and of their young people. The belief in the power of education, coupled with the lack of basic supplies, like books and paper, made me wish that more people could see what can be accomplished with desire, will power, and faith in the act of teaching."