

DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

4TH QUARTER 2016

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DECEMBER 15, 2016

DEAR MEMBERS

In the 4th Quarter of 2016 we focus on updates on our education initiatives. Our focus on education has 2 major components: one is a school-girl sponsorship program where we fund under-privileged rural school girls to go to school by covering their basic expenses. The second component focuses on funding the purchase of school books for rural schools that have a severe shortage of books. Our education projects are entirely funded by membership fees and individual donations so we hope this motivates our members and donors to continue their support. Thank you all!



High School Girls with stationary for 2016/2017 school year



Dir Biyabir Chair at book handover at Goshebedo High

SCHOOL GIRL SPONSORSHIP

In Q3 of 2016, Dir Biyabir had provided funding to sponsor 139 elementary school and 28 high-school girls in Northern Shewa. Our local partner ADHENO completed the purchase & distribution of stationary for all sponsored students. In addition, for the high-school girls, uniforms and reference books were also purchased and distributed and each student received funds to cover rental expense in the town of Debre Birhan. As of now, of the 28 high-school girls who entered our sponsorship program at grade 9, ten have passed the national exam (given at grade 10) with high enough grades to enter the college track, 12 have entered vocational training as their grade was not high enough for the college track, 5 dropped out of high school and were replaced by other students, and one girl decided to support herself to go to school for fear of developing a feeling of dependence. All 10 passing students will be receiving a cash award at a lunch hosted by ADHENO and the Dir Biyabir Chairperson for all sponsored high-school students on December 17. One of our students earned a high grade of 3.85 out of 4.0 on the national exam and we are planning an additional award for this very bright young lady!

SCHOOL BOOKS PROJECT

In the 3rd quarter of 2016, Dir Biyabir had provided funding for the purchase of much-needed books at 3 schools in Northern Shewa: Goshebedo and Debre Eba High Schools, and Weyniye Elementary School. In addition we funded a new initiative to purchase story books, puzzles, color pencils and paper for 3 rural pre-schools in Workegur, Weyniye, and Moy. In Q4 the focus was on implementing these projects. Despite some obstacles, ADHENO managed to get necessary approvals for this project. On December 8 the Dir Biyabir Chairperson accompanied the ADHENO team in delivering the books directly to the schools. The team first went to Debre Eba High-school where 208 books were delivered to the school director. In addition the Director of the Weyniye school (which is a bit inaccessible) came to Debre Eba to receive 142 books for Weyniye Elementary as well as pre-school material for Weyniye pre-school. Next the team headed over to the new Goshebedo High School to handover 627 books. It was then on to Workegur to handover story books, jigsaw puzzles (depicting Ethiopian historical spots or cultural traditions), color pencils, alphabet and picture charts etc for Workegur Pre-school. Similar pre-school material for Moy pre-school was delivered to the ADHENO office in Debre Birhan for later pickup by the Moy director.