

# DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

4TH QUARTER 2014

WWW.DIRBIYABIR.ORG

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## DEAR MEMBERS

*In the last quarter of 2014, the Dir Biyabir team is happy to report great progress on several projects. A library project for a center for homeless kids was completed in Addis Abeba. In addition, this month Dir Biyabir signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and wired funding for two projects with ADHENO: Sponsorship of school kids in rural schools in Northern Shewa, as well as a fourth phase of a poultry project for school girls also in Northern Shewa. All three projects were funded by membership fees and individual donations, we thank our members/donors for making these projects possible!*



### LIBRARY FOR GRACE FOR ALL CENTER

GFA is a small non-profit founded in 1992 by an Ethiopian and is based in Atlanta. Through its center in Addis Abeba, it cares for homeless kids by providing them meals, paying for their education, supplying them school materials including uniforms, and giving them a secure and nurturing environment to study and thrive. The Dir Biyabir chairperson and a member visited the center in Addis Abeba in April 2014 and noted that it had no library so GFA was encouraged to submit a proposal to fund one. After careful review of the proposal, Dir Biyabir funded the project in July 2014 and by late September the project was completed by the founder of GFA, Yonas Kebede who was in Ethiopia at the time, and personally led the implementation of the project. Dir Biyabir funding covered the purchase of 304 books including English, Amharic, Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, children's story books etc. Additional books will be purchased with remaining funds. Funding also covered about 50% of the cost of material to construct 10 tables and 19 benches which were built with help from the students and staff. The library is now complete and the children of GFA are excited about their new library and books.

### SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP & POULTRY

In 2013 Dir Biyabir sponsored the education of 139 elementary school girls and 16 high school girls in Northern Shewa. In 2014 Dir Biyabir continued support for these girls, and through the generous donation of two individuals, we were able to add 12 new high school girls to the program. Dir Biyabir has committed to support the education of all 28 girls through the end of high school. During her April visit, the Dir Biyabir chairperson was able to meet with the sponsored high school girls and discuss their needs. Based on their feedback, 2014 sponsorship was increased to include additional books and a group tutor. Total **annual** cost per high school student is \$131.

Another project funded this month is a fourth phase of a poultry project for school girls. Thirty new kids will be selected from the pool of elementary school girls sponsored by Dir Biyabir in the villages of Moy and Amoragedel. Each girl will be given three 3-month old chicks, some initial feed and training on poultry rearing. The goal is to improve the nutrition of the kids with the eggs laid and to also earn revenue by selling some eggs. Based on the last three phases of this project, ADHENO has noted the increased supply of eggs in the area as well as the notable impact on the self confidence of the girls.