Dir Biyabir Quarterly Update

4th Quarter 2015

www.dirbiyabir.org

December 08, 2015

Dear Members

As we head towards the end of 2015, we want to thank you for your support this year. We also want to remind you as you do your shopping for the holidays to please remember that when you shop on Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Dir Biyabir so please go to http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-1176840 then do all your shopping on Amazon as normal and know that you will have supported a good cause! This quarter we have some updates for you on our education initiatives in Ethiopia, we hope you find it informative

Participants of the October 5k Run Fundraiser

At the School Library at Yedege Elementary

School Sponsorship

In the last quarter of 2015 we renewed our school sponsorship program via our partner ADHENO for 28 high school girls and 139 elementary school girls. As always our high school sponsorship covers payment of rent, stationary, uniforms, reference books, toiletries and an evening tutor. Sponsored girls are expected to also teach reading and writing as well social issues to women in their villagers when they return to their homes over the summer break, and they are given a small stipend for this community service. The cost of this program is $131 per student per year plus $26 as a 20% administrative fee, for a total $157 per student per year. The program for elementary school girls is much simpler and involves buying school supplies for kids whose families are not able to afford it, The cost is $10 per girl and $2 admin fee for a total of $12 per student per year. These bright girls would be unable to attend school without our support. The Dir Biyabir 5k run in Palo Alto in October was a fundraiser for this school sponsorship program and we were able to net $5,640. Many thanks to all who participated in this event!

The Dir Biyabir Chaiperson who is currently in Ethiopia is planning to meet with the high school girls later this month and assess how they are doing and whether they have additional needs.

Books for Schools

The Dir Biyabir initiative to purchase books for schools in rural areas covers several regions in Ethiopia.
In November, the Dir Biyabir Chairperson was fortunate to be able to visit 9 schools in the Gurage zone including 4 where Dir Biyabir has funded the purchase of books. The chairperson of our project partner "Journey to Light" was visiting Ethiopia and coordinated the whole trip which was quite an eye-opener. When the Dir Biyabir chair visited the class of grade 8 at Yedege School and asked them about the impact of the books funded by Dir Biyabir, they mentioned that these reference books helped them by providing additional clarification to concepts presented in the text books. At Bojebar School, teachers said that prior to reference books being purchased with Dir Biyabir funding, 20 to 30 students failed the National 8th grade Ministry Exams every year. After the books this unfortunate statistic has gone down to 2-3 failing students per year. This is about a 90% decrease in the number of failing students, a dramatic achievement with a small initiative! We are very pleased with the impact of these books and plan to continue the program. The Dir Biyabir chairperson received a proposal for books from a new school Bakawinte, written in the required Dir Biyabir format. We are evaluating this proposal for funding.