

SPRING UPDATE FROM YOUTH IMPACT

Hope Center Graduates

The 13th batch of Hope Center graduates moved out into the world at the end of 2020. They are now living and working independently. They have received indispensable training and grown immeasurably during their time in the program. We wish them the best!



New Class at Hope Center

The 14th batch of street boys joined the Hope Center on January 6, 2021. These ten young men are eager and committed to the program and the lasting change it offers. They are adjusting well and preparing themselves for the self-discovery to come!



Pictured to the right is Tesfaye Diriba Kena, 19 years old. After 18 months at the Hope Center, Tesfaye has grown personally and spiritually. He received training in wood finishing and is currently employed by a gardening company. Tesfaye loves God, has a fine character, and a good personality.



We are proud of you, Tesfaye!

New Truck for Youth Impact

Thanks to special donations, a new vehicle was purchased and delivered in January. The truck will provide multi-purpose utility, hauling people as well as goods and supplies. The team is excited about their new "wheels!"



Youth Impact Volunteers Club

A Christmas Celebration program was organized for street children at Shalom Center. During the program, 23 street children came to the center, took baths, received new clothes, and ate delicious food with the members of the club. A good time was had by all!

Report on mentoring program:

- Flour and oil were provided for 10 commercial sex workers during Christmas. Sanitation materials (soap and tissue paper) were provided for another 25 commercial sex workers.
- 10 of these commercial sex workers are being mentored by the Volunteers Club project worker. While attending a weekly training session in life skills and character, they also enjoy a coffee ceremony and a counseling session. The mentor assists the women in setting up savings for future skills training, moving them out of their current vocation. Funds are being mobilized to be used as matching funds to add to their savings.

All these activities of the Volunteers Club are off-budget and are financed by members of the club and their sources. Seeing God use these volunteers is a blessing.

SHALOM CENTER AND YOUTH IMPACT LIBRARY

Children are going to school every other day. Children who are not going to school spend their time in the centers studying, doing their homework, and playing.

In addition to the registered participants, an additional 20+ kids at each center come daily to spend time, enjoying the compound and the services they receive. Staff are brainstorming ways to accommodate these children and serve them better.

The Youth Impact leaders have discovered that most of the children are making limited progress in their studies. Some of the third and fourth grade children still cannot identify Amharic and English letters. So, it's back to the basics! At the centers, the leaders and teachers are working to improve this situation, teaching the students basic reading skills. Volunteers are helping out in this regard as well.

SPRING UPDATE FROM MEKLIT CENTRE

As we have shared before, Ethiopian Impact also supports the Meklit Development Association for Women and Children, which serves young children of single mothers while they go to work, allowing them to earn a living and support themselves and their children. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Meklit Centre has been shut down to in-person operations. However, they have continued to provide monthly groceries and sanitation products to their families, as well as to cover rent for some of the households out of work due to Covid. Meklit also has been able to pay school fees for the children, which the government requires for the children to retain their spots at school during the Covid closures.

Plans for 2021 at the Meklit Centre include:

- Partnering with a local school to run an after-school program
- Starting a daycare program
- Starting an income-generating program for the mothers

The biggest goal for this year at Meklit Centre is to become self-sustaining through income-generating programming! They are grateful for the support they have received that has allowed them to continue their work during the pandemic.

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ETHIOPIA

The military conflict that broke out last fall in Ethiopia between the federal government and the northern region of Tigray has now displaced over two million Tigrayans, based on recent reports. Thousands have now lost their lives during the violent attacks on various towns in the region due to the conflict. Pray for a peaceful solution to this deepening humanitarian crisis.



We are very thankful that our Youth Impact founder, Abraham Fiseha, has arrived in the US and is currently visiting in Kentucky.



When considering your giving during this unusual time of worldwide upheaval, please remember Ethiopian Impact. Your support, no matter the amount, makes a difference in the lives of young people in Ethiopia, and is needed now more than ever.

ethiopianimpact.org

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P.O. Box 679
Stanford, KY 40484