

S.E.E.D.S.

Sustainable East African Education and Development Society

*IMPROVING THE LIVES OF IMPOVERISHED AND VULNERABLE
CHILDREN, WOMEN & FAMILIES IN ETHIOPIA*

Winter 2013



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THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your generous financial contributions to SEEDS over the last year. On behalf of SEEDS, we would like to provide you with a few updates that show the difference you have made through your financial support.

- SEEDS Board of Directors

OUR MISSION

SEEDS exists in order to provide opportunities for at risk children and their families suffering from the effects of poverty, to meet their basic needs and access services that serve to break the cycle of adversity and develop greater independence. The society strives to empower families by supporting their communities to be better equipped to respond to their needs and capabilities.



HIGHLIGHTS from SENDAFA

In the three locations where SEEDS operates (Sendafa, Gojam and Addis Ababa), we are taking a two-pronged approach and support the families through microcredit and education. Here are some highlights from Sendafa:

Microcredit

In Sendafa, there are now 3 microcredit self-help groups that support each other in their business planning, borrowing and repayment of their loans. The training that SEEDS provides assists the groups to organize and explore business opportunities and market

education around financial management, food security is possible.

Education

Through the purchase of school supplies, uniforms, changes of clothes and medical supplies (when needed) SEEDS now provides 240 children and youth in Sendafa with the

opportunity to go to school. Two years ago, SEEDS also initiated a preschool program, as the only preschool available was private and too costly for most families. 70 preschoolers are now going to preschool. SEEDS covers all costs, including the teachers' salaries.

Farm made possible through microcredit loan

options. One of the most impactful businesses at the current time is a farm that supplements 25 families dietary needs. SEEDS was able to lease the land for this project. In this area the land is arable and with the right fertilizer and seeds, and



4 Stories that show the difference YOU have made



ZEYEDE – Tutoring

SEEDS also creates leadership opportunities for older children. Zeyede is a young teenager in grade 5 who has excelled in his classes and is now providing tutoring over the summer months to younger students. This is important because most of the children that we sponsor need extra support to be successful in their education. The parents are very appreciative of this support, as they did not have the same opportunities for education and are unable to assist their children.

ASNAKECH - Coffee and Tea on Wheels

In Addis, through SEEDS microcredit program training and support, Asnakech has opened her own coffee/tea on wheels business. Asnakech is a single mom with one daughter. Asnakech makes coffee and tea and takes it to construction areas. She also regularly caters for SEEDS microcredit business meetings. The difference this business has made in

her life is not huge in our eyes, but she is so thankful to now be able to provide three meals a day for herself and her child.

GENET - Injera (Ethiopian flat bread) Fire Pit Blocks

SEEDS support has made it possible for Genet to start her own business selling Ethiopian Injera fire pit blocks. For as little as 100 Canadian dollars, Genet was able to buy the supplies needed to make and sell the fire pit blocks. Genet received the training to pour cement into molds to make the blocks, but she lacked the capital to be able to put her skills into practice.

Gojam – A computer for a community

SEEDS believes that beyond sponsoring children, the schools also need to have the resources to be able to provide a quality education for the students. In



Gojam, SEEDS became aware of the benefit/impact that would be derived from sharing its own staff computer with the school. This would improve communication and reduce isolation. It would also provide cost saving measures for teachers as they would not have to go outside of the community to have computer work done. This initiative has actually brought the first ever computer to Gojam. This year, SEEDS was able to provide a printer for teachers in Sendafa.



It is only through YOUR GENEROSITY that these stories become REALITY

An Exciting New Partnership

SEEDS is reaching out to other organizations and networks to allow us to continue serving the most vulnerable in a sustainable and coordinated way. In line with changes to our bylaws this year, to increase public awareness around International Development issues, SEEDS is working on the development of a potential partnership with the Norquest College, University of Calgary, Addis Ababa University - School of Social Work, and other potential stakeholders. As a small international development organization, SEEDS seeks to create unique international learning/research opportunities for diploma and degree level social work students.

For SEEDS, this partnership will open opportunities through more intentional networking and collaboration in the international development and social work sectors. SEEDS aims to contribute to the strengthening of the international development sector both locally and in Ethiopia, particularly for similar small organizations working at the civil society grassroots level. Furthermore, this partnership could enable SEEDS to attract students to work with the organization, to support our various activities in Canada and Ethiopia. An ongoing challenge for SEEDS is maintaining sustainable funding. This partnership will also mean that SEEDS will be better positioned to access local funding, thus maximizing your financial contributions.

Volunteer with SEEDS

SEEDS would not be able to accomplish its goals without the ongoing support of the many volunteers and supporters of the organization. The running of an international development organization requires the talents, skills and hard work of a variety of people. The following are ways you can contribute towards the vision of SEEDS.

- Become a member of the society. Through the purchase of a membership you express and exercise ownership in the mission of the organization, through the role of being a society member.
 - Join the Board of Directors. Vacancies occur on a rotating term basis.
 - Volunteer at some of the fundraising events.
 - Sit on a working committee to assist in an important aspect of the organization's work.
 - Offer a special talent you think the organization could benefit from.
 - Tell others about the important work of SEEDS and help to build and strengthen our network of supporters.
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Please thoughtfully consider your donation to SEEDS this year.



Current Projects In Need of YOUR Support

EDUCATION - SEEDS is providing access to education for 410 Children in Addis Ababa, Gojam and Sendafa.

Cost to Support One Child - \$232/yr (\$20/month)

(Includes: School Supplies, Uniform, Change of Clothes, Medical Supplies)

MICROCREDIT - SEEDS is providing microcredit education/support to 250 women in Addis Ababa, Gojam and Sendafa.

Cost to Support One Micro-Credit Self-Help Group (25 women) - \$6252.00/yr (\$521/month)

(Includes: Capital Loan, Group Workshops/Training)

STUDENT HEALTH & SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (SENDABA) -

SEEDS believes that families are empowered when we support their communities to be better equipped to respond to their needs and their capacities. In Sendafa, SEEDS is embarking on a comprehensive school enhancement project, focusing on health and sanitation. (Total Cost = \$17,500)

Public Toilet Construction – \$7200 (\$600/month)

Road Construction – \$500 (\$42/month)

Teachers' Resources - \$2700 (\$225/month)

School Desks - \$4400 (\$367/month)

Books for Library – \$1500 (\$125/month)

School Computer - \$1200 (\$100/month)

Thank you for your consideration



Please don't forget to check the SEEDS website throughout the year for updates.

Please like us on our Facebook page.

TOGETHER we can do our part to break the cycle of adversity in Ethiopia!

TO DONATE

Visit www.seedseastafrica.com

You may also write a cheque payable to SEEDS and send to:

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Thank you so much for your ongoing support