

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Ethiopia



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VOLUNTEER STORY

Australian Ethiopian girl returned to Ethiopia to regain her mother tongue

The language project in is one of various projects we run in Ethiopia, anyone who is interested in learning a new language, specifically Amharic, would find value in this project. The location for the Amharic lessons is the Practical International Language and Leadership School. Volunteers who have taken of the opportunity to learn the language here usually gain a few useful words and phrases in the vocabulary.

Etalemahu Heiz, a recent volunteer, is originally from Ethiopia. She was adopted when she was 8 years old and went to live in Australia. She has family in Ethiopia and came to visit them several times during the past twelve years since, she departed for Australia. This time she decided to come and regain some of the language she lost when she was young. Etalemahu signed up with Projects Abroad and came back to Addis Ababa to learn Amharic at the Practical International Language and Leadership School for four weeks.

"The language lessons really helped me to start communicating in Amharic again. It has always been a challenge for me to communicate well with my family members here in Addis Ababa, because of the language barrier, but now I can at least understand them very well and they are very happy about that."

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Etalemahu also spent one week volunteering in a care placement at Kidane Miheret (St. Mary) Orphanage, and had a great time with the little children. During her stay she explained she was very happy with her host family, the staff of Projects Abroad Ethiopia, her teachers and the language school.

If you are someone who enjoys learning languages, I recommend you take on the challenge and learn a little bit of Amharic. You will surely enjoy it.



Donations to Addis Ababa Elementary School

All you need is a heart to do so!



There are about 116 government led public schools in Addis Ababa. There is no or little payment to attend class at these schools, which have provided a lot of children and young adults the opportunity for access to education over the past decade. The problem is that there are lots of students who don't have homes, food to eat, cloths to wear and some schools don't even have materials like books and other teaching aids. Understanding the situation, based on the assessment Projects Abroad Ethiopia staff conducted, volunteers and the Ethiopia office took the first step and contributed critical materials such as supplementary books, puzzles, soccer kits and footballs to one public elementary school in Addis Ababa. The Director of the school, Madam Tsehay said, "This is something we would never be able to supply for the students", she gave her thanks to Projects Abroad and the volunteers.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who made this contribution reality. Special thanks go to Kathleen Levy from Australia, who made a particularly large contribution of materials for the school. Kathleen also donated books to a second elementary school which had been using old supplementary books for a long time.



NOVEMBER WORKSHOP

Training for care givers



Chatleen (volunteer) and Abera (Projects Abroad Staff) giving training for care givers at SOS toukoul Orphanage.

Child development and care are areas which do not get enough attention in Ethiopia. Care givers in orphanages often lack quality training to assist them in the processes of taking care of children. Understanding the need for this training and utilizing the skills of skills and experience of having a qualified, trained and experienced nurse in the form of volunteer Kathleen Levy from Australia, Projects Abroad organized a two day training session for care givers in two orphanages; Kidane Miheret and SOS Toukoul in Addis Ababa. The care givers and the managers of the orphanages said that they benefited a lot from the training and requested similar workshops in the future. Training was given on child development, attachment issues, prevention of infections and raising & discipline toddlers.



Chatleen (volunteer) and Abera (Projects Abroad Staff) giving training for care givers in Kidane Miheret Orphanage.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Greetings!

As usual, I hope you found something touching and inspiring within this newsletter. I would like to thank all volunteers from the past and present for sacrificing your valuable time, money and knowledge to make a difference at our projects. And we always have a place for anyone who wants to come and be part of the great work being done by the big family of Projects Abroad. Big thanks to the volunteers who have shared their stories and photos with us. We encourage everyone to join us in making the newsletter more interesting and exciting. You are welcome to send your own written articles and pictures. This will help others to understand and learn about more about Ethiopia and Projects Abroad. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact: - berekettesema@projects-abroad.org

Bereket Tesema

Communications Officer



