Changing Ethiopia, One Child at a Time

NAGAAN LAFFA IRRAITI HAATAA'UU!

Blessings at Christmas

May you keep this night holy and find peace in your hearts throughout the year. We pray for health & safety for you and families around the world.

PRAYERS FOR A COUNTRY IN TURMOIL

Not only has COVID taken a toll on daily life, but you have probably heard news stories about fighting and killing in Ethiopia during the last year and a half. Our HMCHA staff and families are safe and far from the fighting, but some of our staff’s families are not.

The news we hear is difficult to imagine, and it’s hard to tell the real story. Checkpoints have been set up, many youth have left home to join the army (including two of our HMCHA students), and inflation is rampant at about 30%. The price increases for food have made it more difficult for families to feed their children, and our sponsorship money for school supplies is being stretched more and more. On Friday, November 12, a curfew from 8 PM - 5:30 AM was announced and is being strictly enforced.

A positive note for our sponsored children is that school finally started, and they are so happy to be back in school, to be with friends, and to have life feel more normal.

As you gather with loved ones during this holiday season, please pray for our HMCHA family and for peace in Ethiopia.
SEM CAMP (Science, English, Math)

High school students from grades 8 to 10 were excited to return to camp in August. After missing last year because of COVID, all of them looked forward to seeing friends, learning and actually doing experiments instead of just reading about them in a book.

Volunteers Gloriann and Mike Kramer were great at encouraging students to speak English and at sharing American culture. A few tasty treats were passed out, delighting all.

One of the basic foundations of success in learning is teaching our HMCHA children to read. Oromiffa is a complicated language to learn to spell correctly, so many children in village schools don’t learn how to make those letters into words and to read fluently. Teachers have little training and no idea how to do that.

One of our challenges has been to teach some research-based methods to our school staff and social work staff to enable children to be fluent readers and engaged learners.

HMCHA volunteer and former elementary teacher Carol Pfleiderer spent time in September continuing work begun last May to help our teachers learn how to get from alphabet to words, to have more student participation, and to foster a student-teacher bond.

Teachers are now using some new research-based ways to teach children to read in their mother tongue, in addition to having story time with our new books.

We’re anxious to see the results of these changes to the curriculum, and to perhaps help other village schools improve their teaching.

Our computer lab is a popular place for all ages. We are in desperate need of more used laptops.

Do you have one you’d like to donate?
Why are some waiting children older teenagers?

HMCHA sponsors the neediest children, chosen by community members. A parent may have died so the family was forced to send them to work on a farm, perhaps a parent becomes ill & can no longer work. Maybe they started school but quit to help with the harvest. Their stories are compelling, as is their desire for education. HMCHA accompanies & supports their education as long as they stay in school.

2022 Goal: to increase the number of sponsored children to 150, from 120

CHANGE A CHILD’S WORLD

Sign up and join us! Visit www.hmcha.com
Email us at hmchasponsor.com
Fifty-four menstrual kits, tightly packed in a huge suitcase, were donated to HMCHA by a committed group of wonderful sewers. The girls in Ethiopia LOVED them! They were given training, and will no longer have to miss school a couple of days a month. The kits are beautifully made, colorful and will last for years. We are grateful to Days for Girls Twin Cities, MN Team for their generosity.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

- Pray for peace
- Sponsor a child. ($360 per year)
- Donate a used laptop
- Volunteer with HMCHA

**SPONSORSHIP: A WAY TO MAKE A LIFELONG DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD**

Sometimes people tell us, "I can’t sponsor a child because it’s a commitment to write to the child. I’d rather give a monetary gift."

The difference you make in a child’s life doesn’t depend on letters, but rather on hope in their eyes and the knowledge that someone cares and helps them achieve their dreams.

**CAN YOU SPARE $1 A DAY?**

**Other Ways to Give:** Employer Match, Thrivent Choice Dollars, AmazonSmile, Your Donor Advised Fund, if you have one, your RMD from your IRA account.

NAME__________________________
EMAIL________________________
ADDRESS______________________
CITY________STATE____ZIP____
PHONE: ______________________Preferred
contact: mail _____ email_______

CHECK: ENCLOSED $___________TO BE USED FOR: ________________________________

If you are sponsoring a child, do you prefer

________boy_________girl_________either?

MAIL TO HMCHA, P.O. Box 591, HOPKINS, MN 55343 OR PAY ONLINE AT www.hmcha.org

DONATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE JAN. 3, 2022 WILL BE DOUBLED UP TO $10,000