

ORGANIZATION NAME: Wegene Ethiopian Foundation (WEF)
PROGRAM NAME: Rebuilding Families One Child at a Time

1.0 ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

1.1 Organization's History

The Wegene Ethiopian Foundation (WEF) was founded in 2001 as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit and non-governmental organization by a group of friends residing in the United States. These board members have played a significant role in mobilizing Ethiopians in the Diaspora to give back to the homeland. WEF's mission is to improve the everyday lives of less fortunate and disadvantaged children and their families in Ethiopia. This mission is based on the philosophy that if hardworking destitute families are given the opportunity, tools and resources to improve their lives, then they will have a stepping stone to be able to pull themselves out of the poverty cycle and give their children better education opportunities to lead happy and healthy lives.

All WEF board members are volunteers and highly dedicated to the foundation's mission. A significant portion of the foundation's success can be attributed to their commitment and hard work of these individuals. With different educational and professional backgrounds, each member has been using his/her expertise, whether in marketing, fundraising or management, to contribute to the development and growth of the foundation. The children of the board members have established a sub-group which is called Wegene Kids, where they fundraise through bake sales and raise awareness among the Ethiopian and Ethiopian American youth living in the U.S.

What makes the WEF a unique organization is that it aims to address the underlying issues of poverty, such as HIV/AIDS, prostitution, begging, and the growing number of orphanages by implementing preventative interventions that focus on rebuilding the family structure of hardworking destitute families with children. The foundation's efforts are targeted towards the parents as the catalysts to propel their children out of poverty. The overall success of the foundation is primarily reflected in the long-term successes of the families and children that it supports. Having worked very closely with numerous types of disadvantaged families, WEF has developed the experience to work with poor families with different backgrounds. It has managed to understand and address each family's needs whenever and wherever possible.

Since its creation, WEF has had many accomplishments, both in terms of program implementation and growth as a foundation. To date, 28 families have been supported by the foundation, of which eight have become completely self sufficient within three to five years after being accepted in the program.

WEF's primary funding sources are its members, predominantly the Ethiopian Diaspora living and working in the United States, who contribute \$10 monthly. WEF has about 120 members. In addition to membership dues, innovative fundraising efforts such as selling t-shirts and crafts, bake sales and participation in the 2007 Marine Corps Marathon have helped raise money for the foundation's meaningful work.

1.2 Organizational Goal and Objectives (Short-term and/or Long-term)

The overall goal of WEF is to enhance the economic and social development capacity of impoverished hard working households in Ethiopia, one household at a time, by enabling them to improve their living situation in a sustainable manner. In order to achieve this overarching goal, the foundation's main objectives are to

help them meet their basic daily needs, educate their children, help them maintain the family structure, and give them tools and resources for income generating schemes.

WEF's immediate goal is to open a regional office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which will coordinate the program implementation by working closely with the head office in the United States as well as establish relationships with potential partners (such as corporations, schools) within Ethiopia. In order to achieve this, WEF will rent an office space, hire permanent staff, raise public awareness about the foundation's work locally, and recruit more volunteer caretakers. These actions will enable WEF to support a greater number of families, and alleviate each one out of poverty, one household at a time.

1.3 Organizational Programs and Services

In addition to supporting families, WEF is engaged in several other programs, including, a scholarship program that provides an honor student (either part of the families being supported or other) with a scholarship to pursue higher education; organizing vaccination programs for children in various communities; assisting local organizations, such as orphanages and schools in Ethiopia through various contributions, including funds and materials, such as books, shoes and clothing; involvement in a large scale community program where WEF is helping to rebuild an abandoned school in Abilty, Jimma, (a different region within Ethiopia), and distributing blankets to the poor.

1.4 Organizational Structure (Board, Staff, Volunteers)

WEF is a 100% volunteer based staff. WEF has a ten-member board based out of the United States. The main officers are the President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary. Other officers are the Marketing and Fundraising Team Leader, Arts and Crafts Coordinator, Grants Administrator, Communications Officer, Events Coordinator, and Public Relations Officer. Their tasks include overseeing foundation's activities, including collecting member dues and implementing fundraising initiatives and allocating funds for program implementation, introducing the foundation and recruiting new members. The WEF board in the U.S works very closely with the Country Representative, General Assistant, and Accountant based in Ethiopia, who are responsible for overseeing the foundation's program implementations and allocating funds for each family being supported by WEF. The three staff work closely with the Caretakers, who are the volunteers responsible for providing care and support, monetary, resource and other social needs to the families being supported by the foundation.

2.0 PROPOSAL INFORMATION

2.1 Description of Program/Project

This program is designed to improve the lives of hardworking destitute families and their children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The program's primary focus is to fulfill the education needs of the children by enabling their parents to create a conducive environment in the home, where all basic needs including food, shelter, clothing and healthcare are met. In order to achieve this, the WEF board collects funds from its members and/or other fundraising initiatives in the United States and sends it to the staff in Ethiopia, where it is allocated as per each family's budgetary need and given to each family's caretakers on a monthly bases. The caretakers are the local people who not only understand the cultural and social context, but who also live in the same communities as the families they provide care and support for. It is via the caretakers that WEF implements its program. The program plans to support one family between three to five years, depending on the number of children. Average number of children per family is three. To assure sustainability of the impact of the program on the families, WEF provides them with the opportunity to engage in vocational or skills trainings as a jump start for a career towards self sufficiency.

The families that WEF supports come from different backgrounds; hence, each family faces different challenges and has different needs. For example, Mrs. Yesewlik, whose husband is currently in prison, has two children enrolled in school. The Mohamed family has all six children enrolled in school. Some families, like the Nebiro family, were initially living on the streets in a house made from plastic. Others were living in small houses with no sanitation facilities and without proper electricity. Furthermore, while some families have a grandparent residing with them, others enter the program with a new baby on the way.

2.2 Description of Need

In Ethiopia, there are 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS, including 92,000 children under the age of 14; and the total number of orphans has reached 5 million, with HIV/AIDS alone contributing to 650,000 of these orphans (UNICEF, 2007 data). Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, has about 4 million people, which makes up 6% of the country's total population. Poverty is rampant and widespread throughout the country, as well as in the capital city. Life-threatening diseases such as HIV/AIDS exacerbate poverty levels by worsening the social and economic conditions of poor and disadvantaged families, jeopardizing the future lives of children. These conditions reinforce the urgent need to help impoverished families and their children meet their basic life needs in order to prevent them from becoming victims of irreversible consequences, and to provide them with stepping stones so they can become productive and be able to lead happy and healthy lives.

Destitute families live under terrible circumstances, and their children are deprived of the basic conditions, such as love, care, nurturing, health, nutrition and protection that every child needs to survive and thrive at a young age (UNICEF 2009). Among the opportunities that children are deprived of is education. Education is a critical component for children's development as it enables them to become creative and productive members of society. WEF's previous experience working with impoverished families attests the fact that children need to have these conditions in order to grow and develop to their full potential. The conditions under which children grow up are critical to their immediate well-being as well as to their future lives, and this is largely in the hands of the family or community or country into which she or he is born (UNICEF 2009). WEF has witnessed broken-up family structures, with children, in some cases, attempting to be their own guardians and dwelling independently from one street to another in search of money, food and clothing, while all along exposing themselves to the dangers of street life. Lots of young girls engage in prostitution as a way of earning income, while exposing themselves to violence, rape and HIV/AIDS. Because of these reasons, escaping the cycle of poverty becomes unimaginable for many of these families and they lose hope, and this is where WEF intervention becomes essential.

WEF's strategy is different from others in the field. In Ethiopia today, there are numerous national and international organizations working on issues related to HIV/AIDS and orphanages, and their efforts have brought significant changes in addressing these particular issues; however, WEF's focus is to tackle the underlying issues of poverty, such as homelessness, broken-up family ties, hunger and lack of education and skills, that predisposes vulnerable families to the risks of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, malnutrition, prostitution, begging and children to become orphans due to loss of parents. The fact that WEF uses local people to play a role in this effort is critical since they understand the cultural and social environments from the perspectives of the families being supported. In essence, WEF is using a preventative approach as a long term sustainable solution to not only improving the lives of children and their families, but also to addressing poverty. If a family has its basic needs met, parents can be in a better position to provide a loving and caring home for their children, creating the avenue for them to be healthy and happy, and to go to school and explore their potential. From WEF's previous experience, when children grow up in a

household where their parents/guardians are hardworking and determined, they are more likely to work hard at school and follow in their parents' footsteps.

One good example is the case of the Nebiro family, who has eight and 14 year old daughters, and a 16 year old son. Like many of the families being supported by WEF, the Nebiro family lived on the streets of Addis Ababa in houses made out of cardboard and plastic material. WEF provided the family with a small home, their food and clothing needs, health care, and education for their children. Further, WEF supported efforts of Nebiro's weaving skills by providing him with materials to make baskets, which the family sells at profitable prices at local stores. Today, after about three years of being supported by WEF, the Nebiro family has become self sufficient, and all children have their basic needs and are working hard at school.

Addressing issues of poverty can be done at both macro and micro levels. WEF's micro-level approach has proven to be effective as illustrated in the case of the Nebiro family. From WEF's firsthand experience with the Nebiro and other families, lack of opportunity is one of the underlying causes of poverty. Therefore, by giving hardworking and destitute families the opportunity to improve their lives, WEF is helping impoverished families help themselves to escape the cycle of poverty.

2.4 Goal and Objectives

Goal: In 2 years, 40 hardworking destitute families are able to improve their and their children's everyday lives and become self sufficient.

Objective 1: 40 hardworking destitute families with children are identified within 6 months of program startup and matched with caretakers.

Objective 2: Each Wegene family will have its own home setting with a permanent address in a secure neighborhood and have all needs met by its caretaker immediately after acceptance in the program.

Objective 3: All children of Wegene families are enrolled in public schools with all needs provided by their families' caretakers.

Objective 4: All Wegene family heads will engage in 1-2 years vocational or skill training activity of their interest within 1 year and 6 months after acceptance in the program.

Objective 5: Family head/s from 20 households will receive grants of \$250 - \$450 each to start-up small businesses, or to enhance existing small businesses after completion of skill training.

Objective 6: Family heads from the remaining 20 households will be employed in fulltime jobs after completion of vocational training.

2.3 Specific Activities

To accomplish the program's objectives and to reach the goal stated in the previous section, WEF will use various methods and activities as illustrated in the table below. It was decided to follow this course because of the successful results that the foundation has achieved implementing the same program in previous years. Each table shows the tasks/activities, person responsible, resource needed, and the start and finish dates for each objective.

Objective 1: 40 hardworking destitute families with children are identified within 6 months of program startup and matched with caretakers.

Tasks and Subtasks	Person(s) Responsible	Resources Needed	Start & Finish Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call for nominations of hardworking families with children from individuals, friends, and neighbors of WEF affiliates and caretakers - Receive nominations - Visit nominated families to assess overall living condition of families, as well as attitude towards making changes in their lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caretakers and Accountant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WEF family nomination questionnaire (refer to section 2.5 of this proposal) - Transportation funds 	Month 1-2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings to review and discuss family nominations 	Caretakers, country representative and general assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WEF family selection criteria - Families' background data (developed using questionnaire) 	Month 2-3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visits and interviews with selected nominees - Meeting to identify and select 40 Wegene families - Match selected families with caretakers - Organize and prepare profile for each family and submit to WEF board in the U.S. 	Caretakers, country representative, general assistant and accountant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation funds - Interview questionnaire (refer to initial data in section 2.5 of this proposal) 	Month 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting to review family profile - Approve selection of families or request for more information if necessary - Finalize selection of Wegene families 	WEF board members and country representative		Month 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact selected families and let them 	Country representative and general assistant		Month 5-6

know of acceptance - Meet with families and sign a "memo of understanding" (guidelines to follow while in the program)			
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Objective 2: Each Wegene family will have its own home setting with a permanent address in a secure neighborhood and have all needs met by its caretaker immediately after acceptance in the program.

Tasks and Subtasks	Person(s) Responsible	Resources Needed	Start & Finish Dates
- Search for housing in secure neighborhoods - Rent small houses for families with no housing	Caretakers, accountant, and family heads	- Transportation funds - Funds for deposit, rent, and ID cards	Month 6-7
- Purchase low-cost household goods as necessary, including kitchen goods, beds/mattresses/blankets for all Wegene families	Caretakers, accountant and family heads	- Funds for goods	Month 7-8
- Work with each Wegene family on creating a monthly budget for rent, food, clean water sanitation facilities, toiletries, utilities, health - Buy monthly needs based on budget	Caretakers, accountant & family heads	- Funds for month needs	Beginning at month 7, and on a monthly basis
- Have a general health check up for families and children	Caretakers and accountant	- Funds for clinic visits	Month 8-9

Objective 3: All children of Wegene families are enrolled in public schools with all needs provided by their families' caretakers.

Tasks and Subtasks	Person(s) Responsible	Resources Needed	Start & Finish Dates
- Enroll all children at public schools nearest to their housing	- Caretakers & family heads	- School enrollment information	Month 7 (also depending on school enrollment period)
- Purchase all necessary school supplies,	- Caretakers, accountant &	- Funds for school materials	Month 7-8

including uniforms and shoes, books, schoolbags, stationary items	family heads		
- Consultations with children to ensure they are happy, and are attending and doing their best in schools	- Caretakers and family heads		Throughout the program during caretaker family visits (1-2 times per week)

Objective 4: All Wegene family heads will engage in a 1-2 years vocational or skill training activity of their interest within 1 year and 6 months after acceptance in the program.

Tasks and Subtasks	Person(s) Responsible	Resources Needed	Start & Finish Dates
- Meet with family heads to discuss their career interests	- Caretakers		Month 9-10
- Research and identify vocational schools as necessary - Enroll 10 family heads in vocational training	- Caretakers and family heads	Names of vocational schools	Month 10-16 (depending on enrollment period and pre-requisites of schools)
- Engage 10 family heads in skill training activity of their interest to start up new small business or enhance existing business	- Caretakers and family heads		Month 10-16
- Consultations with family heads to ensure they are attending trainings and gaining knowledge and expertise	- Caretakers		After start of vocational or skill training and throughout program during family caretaker visits (1-2 times per week)
- Review certificate of completion or records of performance from vocational or training schools.	- Caretakers		At the end of training

Objective 5: Family head/s from 20 households will receive grants of \$250 each to start-up small businesses, or to enhance existing small businesses after completion of skill training.

Tasks and Subtasks	Person(s) Responsible	Resources Needed	Start & Finish
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			Dates
- Assist family heads in developing business plans	- Caretakers, country representative, general assistant and accountant		Year 3-4
- Award grants	- Country representative, general assistant and accountant	- Grant fund	Year 4
- Assist family heads in opening bank accounts	- Caretakers and accountant	- Transportation fund	Year 4

Objective 6: Family heads from the remaining 20 households will be employed in fulltime jobs after completion of vocational training.

Tasks and Subtasks	Person(s) Responsible	Resources Needed	Start & Finish Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist family heads in job searching and job applications - Use WEF's networks to connect family heads with appropriate employees based on interest 	- Caretakers, country representative and general assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WEF's networks - Job directory (local news papers) 	Year 3-4
- Secure fulltime jobs for family heads	- Caretakers, country representative, family heads		Year 3-4

2.5 Evaluation

WEF's monitoring and evaluation plan is an ongoing process that begins at the start of the program, and continues even after the end of the program. Continuous monitoring has proven to not only be helpful for WEF to track the status of the families and observe anticipated program outcomes, but has also enabled the families and their children to openly communicate their needs and appreciation with the caretakers.

WEF seeks to find hardworking destitute families who have children less than 14 years of age. To ensure this, WEF evaluates the families' status in the community by interviewing them and the elders in the community, based on the following questions:

- Family Nomination Questionnaire

- Are the parents hardworking and eager to be independent? If so, what are some of the self initiated attempts they have made?
- Are the parents eager to provide a safe, loving, drug free, violence free, and a nurturing environment for their children?
- What are the ages of the children?

- Do the children want to go to schools?
- Do the parents have strong willingness to educate their children?
- Is the well being of the children a priority for the parents?

Once families have been accepted in the program, WEF expects the families to be proactive about enrolling their children in school; maintaining a home with warm food; keeping a healthy and clean living environment, and working towards enhancing their pre-existing means of livelihood or taking steps to engaging in vocational or other skills training. The children of these families are also expected to be supportive of their parents, and work hard in school. Each family's caretaker will visit the families at least once or twice a month, which is when they will monitor the living conditions of the families as well as observe the well being of the children.

Initial data will be collected by the caretakers based on the following points to set up a baseline of the pre-existing conditions of the families:

- **Initial data**
 - Do the families have homes?
 - What is their living condition (hygiene, sanitation, meal planning)?
 - What is their health condition?
 - Do the parent/s have an income source?
 - Are the parents skilled in any area?
 - What are the ages of the children?
 - Are the children in school?
 - What is the education level of the children?

This information will be used as baseline data to determine progress or change in the lives of the families and their children after start of the program. The following questions will be used for ongoing monitoring purposes throughout the program:

- **Monthly data**
 - Living condition (health, hygiene, sanitation, meal planning)
 - Overall family health status
 - Are families' needs (clothing, school supplies, food, etc) being met?
 - Physical and social well being of family
 - Families' relationships with neighbors
 - Attendance and performance of children at school
 - Attendance and performance of family heads at vocational or other trainings as well as income generating initiatives (as applicable)
 - The families' own evaluation on how they think they are doing

Initial evaluations will be conducted by the caretakers at the beginning, before families are recruited in the program. Monitoring of the families' conditions will take place every 1-2 times per month and a monthly report will be prepared. During monthly visits, the caretakers will conduct interviews to engage the families in discussion, as well as talk with the children to get their perspective on their life and to learn how they are doing at school. Information collected during monitoring will be reviewed and discussed with the country

representative and the assistant, who will conduct quarterly visits to each of the families, and prepare quarterly and yearly progress reports.

In order to determine whether program outcome has been met, WEF will use various procedures. Since the caretakers will be working closely with the families, in addition to using monthly and quarterly progress reports, the caretakers own judgment of the families' overall performance and condition will highly be considered. In order to determine the children's performance in schools, documentations, such as school report or progress cards, and attendance and conduct information will be collected from the schools. Wherever necessary, parents will be encouraged to visit their child's school and obtain information from the teachers. The parents' performance at vocational and other skills training courses will be observed using attendance and other feedback from training schools.

The program's success is heavily dependent on the wellbeing of the families, the happiness, health status and performance of their children in schools, and the families drive and success at becoming self sufficient.

Each family will have a folder containing any documentation, including caretaker progress notes collected during family visits; any interviews; school reports cards, etc, and these will be examined quarterly, half yearly, and yearly. The country representative or the assistant will be responsible for sending quarterly and yearly progress reports to the WEF board members, who will then forward them to all donors, including foundations, interested funding members and individuals.

2.6 Sustainability/future funding

WEF aims to promote sustainability of the organization's program as well as the impact of the program on the families it supports.

As indicated in the budget, the foundation relies on a variety of funding sources including, membership fees, fundraising initiatives, individual donors and grants. To sustain the program, the foundation will continue to recruit members in the United States, and plans to recruit new members in Ethiopia. The foundation also plans to establish corporate partners in Ethiopia for in-kind contributions such as educational materials, clothing and other resources for the families it supports.

The sustainability aspect of the program's impact on the families is built into the methodology and activities of the program. First, using local people to provide care and support to the families creates space for emotional and social support for children and their parents within the cultural context, and ensures on-going monitoring of the families' wellbeing. Second, giving children the opportunity to get education contributes to their development broadening their future education and career prospects. And third, providing vocational/skills training and small business start-up grants, as well as assistance in obtaining fulltime job employment of the family heads will ensure that the family heads can sustain and secure their livelihood even after program completion.

3.0 BUDGET INFORMATION

3.1 Budget Narrative

WEF obtains funds from various sources with yearly estimated revenue of \$44,180, including in-kind contributions. This amount does not include funds from foundations. This is the first time WEF is seeking funds from foundations. Since WEF has implemented the same program before and has seen that it not

only works, but that it is also sustainable, WEF wants to expand and reach out to a greater number of people, but one of its limitations is availability of sufficient funding. WEF has families that it is currently supporting, as well as students under its scholarship program. WEF's yearly estimated revenue is being used to support these and other initiatives as listed in section 1.3 of this proposal. Therefore, this grant proposal is for the entire program amount of \$81,260 to be spent over a period of five years.

According to the expenses, WEF operation costs accounts to only 8.7% of the total expense. Transportation costs cover expenses for the caretakers, the country representative, general assistant and accountant in Ethiopia. Administrative supplies are primarily for the staff in Ethiopia. WEF sends money to Ethiopia every quarter, which will be covered by the money transfer fee. All other fees, including telephone and internet are for communication purposes between the WEF board in the U.S and the staff in Ethiopia.

Program costs are divided into three categories: initial costs, on-going costs and one time costs. Initial costs are costs that will cover housing goods, medical check-up costs and clothing for all families and will take place at the start of the program. On-going costs include all family expenses such as monthly needs, including food and rent and all school related expenses for the children. During year five, WEF expects the family heads to have secure jobs or their own small business and be able to pay for half of the monthly costs, primarily rent, food and utilities. Finally, one time costs include vocational training costs and small business start-up grants for the family heads.

Please refer to section 3.2 below for a complete list of the Revenue and Expense Budget Summary

3.2 Revenue and Expense Budget Summary

Expected Revenue in USD				
	Revenue per unit	Program Request	In-kind Contributions	Total
Foundations		81,260/5 years (USD)		
Membership Fees****	14,400/year (USD)			14,400
Fundraising by Wegene Kids	1,500/year (USD)			1,500
Fundraising at Yearly Members/Supporters' Appreciation Event	2,000/year(USD)			2,000
Individual Donors	3,000/year(USD)			3,000
Jewish Center (Free Space for appreciation event)			2,000 (USD)	2,000
Volunteers (Ethiopia Staff including Caretakers' time in monetary value)			2,430 (USD)	2,430
Volunteers [WEF Board members' time in monetary value]			18,850 (USD)	18,850
Total Revenue				44,180

Anticipated Expenses in USD				
	Cost per unit	Year One	Year Two	Total Cash Required
Transportation	20/month (USD)	240	240	480
Money transfer fees	100/quarter (USD)	400	400	800
Telephone expense	20/month (USD)	240	240	480
Internet expense	20/month (USD)	240	240	480
Administrative Supplies	25/month (USD)	300	300	600
Program costs				
Initial Costs per family*				
Equipment				
House goods	32 (USD)	640		640

Medical Check-up	100 (USD)	4000		4000
Family clothing	16 (USD)	320		320
On-going Costs				
Monthly rent per family*	20/month (USD)	9,600	9600	19,200
Monthly grocery per family*	40/month (USD)	19,200	19200	38,400
Utilities per family*	5/month (USD)	2400	2400	4800
Children (per 3 children)**				
Private School Fees	500/year (USD)	20000	20000	40000
Child school uniform	24/year (USD)	960	960	1920
Shoes	12/year (USD)	480	480	960
Educational materials				
Text Books	18/year (USD)	720	720	1440
Notebooks & Stationary	10/year (USD)	400	400	800
One time costs				
Family heads				
Vocational training for 10 family heads	100/family head (USD)			1000
Skill training for 10 family heads	100/family head (USD)			1000
Small business start-up grant for 20 family heads	250/family head (USD)			5,000
Total Expenses				126,320

NOTES

*per family denotes family of 5 including 3 children
**per 3 children denotes the average number of child estimated per family
*** all amounts were calculated in Ethiopian Birr and translated to USD as per the exchange rate of \$1=12.63Birr (www.exchange-rates.org)
**** WEF has 120 members and each member pays a monthly fee of \$10



Some of WEF's Accomplishments

- Supporting multiple destitute families, of which many have become self-sufficient
- Enrolling homeless children in schools
- Providing new school uniforms and school supplies for sponsored children each new school year
- Providing seed money for families to open small businesses to promote self sufficiency
- Rebuilding and renovating of crumbled homes
- Building a school to accommodate over 150 elementary students
- Providing extra educational support, such as tutors
- Providing private school and college scholarships for students based on academic merit
- Volunteering in multiple homeless shelters throughout the D.C. metropolitan area
- A few recognitions of WEF by the U.S. government:



WEF's Fundraising Efforts

WEF's primary funding sources are its members, predominantly the Ethiopian Diaspora living and working in the United States, who contribute \$10 monthly. In addition, innovative fundraising efforts such as Zumba exercise events, selling t-shirts and crafts, bake sales and participation in different Marine Corps Marathons have helped raise money for the foundation's meaningful work.

One of WEF's unique features is that it is 100% volunteer based, which is how the foundation has managed to keep overhead costs at less than 5%.

How can you help?

Individuals

- Become a monthly donor
- Volunteer your time in the U.S. or Ethiopia
- Work with us on fundraising efforts
- Help us to spread the word about WEF

Corporations and Organizations

- Donate school supplies or other resources
- Fund college/private education of a child
- Sponsor a family

Media

- Write a story about WEF
- Give free advertising space to publicize WEF's work

NGOs and Foundations

- Network with WEF through your members, donors and/or publicity
- Partner with WEF to maximize our resources

Wegene Ethiopian Foundation (WEF)

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WEGENE

ETHIOPIAN FOUNDATION

W.E.F.



Rebuilding Families,
One Child at a Time

www.wegene.org

Wegene Ethiopian Foundation

History

The Wegene Ethiopian Foundation (WEF) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit and non-governmental organization that was founded in 2000. WEF was founded by a group of friends who reside in the United States, and felt a strong calling to help the less fortunate children in Ethiopia. These board members have inspired others to join their cause and make a significant impact in people's lives.

WEF's Philosophy

WEF's philosophy is that if hardworking destitute families are given the opportunity, tools, and resources to improve their lives, they will have a stepping stone to be able to pull themselves out of poverty and give their children better education opportunities to lead happier and healthier lives.

Children who come from destitute families are deprived of the basic conditions, such as love, care, nurturing, health, nutrition and protection that every child needs to survive and thrive at a young age. Among the opportunities they are deprived of is education. The conditions under which children grow up are critical to their immediate well-being as well as to their future lives, and this is largely in the hands of the family or community into which she or he is born.

That is why WEF focuses on the entire family as a unit. WEF uses a preventative approach to address these deprivations or underlying issues of poverty. WEF's program is unique in that it is designed to sponsor and support destitute families in their own home settings. By using local people as the

caretakers of the families being supported by WEF, the foundation aims to restore hope in these families, prevent them from becoming victims of poverty, and enable them to become self sufficient.

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of WEF is to enable hardworking destitute families meet their daily needs and send their children to school; and to create opportunities for them to become self sufficient. WEF plans to achieve these goals through objectives, including:

- Matching up families with caretakers
- Preparing a home setting for homeless families
- Enrolling children in public or private schools
- Engaging family heads in vocational or skill training
- Providing selected families with grants to start-up small businesses, or helping them secure full-time jobs



Mission

WEF's mission is to improve the everyday lives of less fortunate and disadvantaged children and their families in Ethiopia in a sustainable manner. WEF also aims to foster goodwill and hope in these families, and create and strengthen their ties with the donors that reside outside of Ethiopia.





Wegene Thanks You!



OVER 150 CHILDREN WILL START ATTENDING THIS SCHOOL THAT WEGENE HAS BUILT STARTING SEPTEMBER 2011!

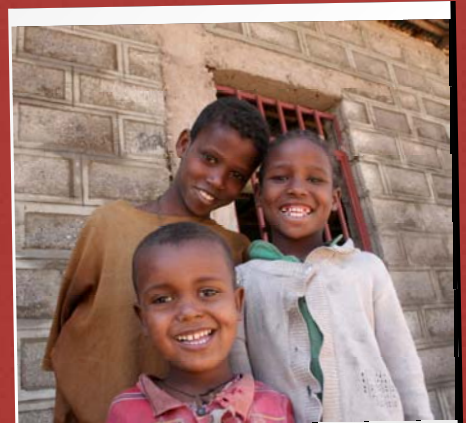
It has been a busy few years for Wegene...

Dear Wegene supporter,

We just want to thank you and update you on the school building project that Wegene has been involved since 2007 and inaugurated on February 26, 2011.

In 2006 when Wegene was invited to Abelti, Jimma (230 Kilo meters away from Addis Ababa), Wegene witnessed that the only school in this area was ruined and abandoned. Children had to walk over 2 hrs to the nearest school

each way if they wanted to attend school. Since Wegene strongly felt that education provides the highest return of any social investment, it took the challenge of building an Elementary school for this area in 2007.



Wegene has been working hard for the past four years, and the dream has become a reality.

So many young people in Ethiopia don't have the most basic things that we often take for granted: food, clean water, and education. The challenges that poverty and inequality create are so large that solutions can only come from our collective effort. We are very happy to inform you that our collective effort has resulted in providing a school to the disadvantaged children of the Abelti area. We strongly believe that this school will empower children. Without access to an education, these children would have remained voiceless and the cycle of poverty would have continued.

Thank you for all your pledges and contributions to Wegene's amateur runners of 2007 and 2010 who participated in the DC Marine Corps Marathons to raise fund for the school project. Thank you also for attending the multiple fundraising activities that were held in the last four years to raise money to build this elementary school. In addition, thank you for sponsoring desks to the school. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who have often gone above and beyond the call of duty to give generously of their time and talents to help Wegene succeed. Thank you all for being a remarkable blessing to Wegene.

Wegene's initial estimated amount to build and furnish this Elementary school back in 2007 was between US \$20,000-25,000. However, the total final amount Wegene spent to complete the construction and furnishing of this school due to the recent escalation in price of building materials in Ethiopia is US \$42,000.

Nevertheless, with your continued support, Wegene's dream of building the school for the Abelti children has become a reality. Wegene has built (7) rooms and a block of toilets for the children. Wegene has provided desks and blackboards for the classrooms. Teachers' desks and chairs were also provided. The school was inaugurated on February 26, 2011. The school will enroll over 150 children and will start its operation this coming September, 2011.

There is no way this could have been achieved without your help. Without your outstretched hand and with out your continued support, we would not make an impact in our community, we would not be changing lives and making any difference in the world. We owe it all to you. Thank you for trusting and believing in us.

The beneficiaries of your donations and contributions are very happy and they are very thankful to you for adding meaning to their lives. They have requested that we convey their heartfelt thanks to you. As you can see in the pictures attached, the kids are not only adorable, but amazing with their sheer happiness and positive attitude towards life and their future. Thank you so much for putting a smile on these children's faces. Lifting up fellow human beings is humbling to say the least.

Thanks again for your kindness and support,

Nini F. Legesse

Co-Founder & President of the Wegene Ethiopian Foundation

THE SCHOOL

