



CHRISTMAS IN ETHIOPIA

Our children had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas this year. They enjoyed time together at school singing and talking about the birth of Jesus. There were snacks and festivities. Many of our sponsored children were surprised with a Christmas meal, groceries, clothing and shoes, rent support, and other blessings. There was much joy and gratitude and this time together was special for the children and their peers and families. Praise God for these blessings.



Christmas Meal



BCI Academy Students Celebrating Christmas



Grocery Haul

Post Newsletter

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WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

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RAISING THE STANDARD

Social workers with Blessing the Children wear many hats. One of these hats is facilitating the academic development of the children in their care. This includes monitoring their progress in school, which they accomplish by checking report cards and speaking with the principals and teachers.



Goldy Speaking with Students, Parents and Guardians

One of the challenges faced by the children is that many parents and guardians do not see a value in education and are resistant to change. They are focused on day-to-day survival and are busy working to provide for their families, which means the children's education gets left behind.

Goldy, our head social worker, takes the lead in promoting education among sponsored children and families. She will meet with the children who are struggling in school and speak with them to gain a better understanding about their situation and to determine what can be done to help. She will also meet with parents and guardians to learn about their home life and discuss steps that can be taken to help their children improve their grades.

Goldy has been working hard to raise the standard of education among the children and families. Recently, she held a workshop where she discussed academic strategies. The children wrote individual plans for how they are going to improve their grades. At the end of the workshop, each child read their plan in front of the group and made a commitment to improve their schoolwork. We look forward to seeing improvement in their schoolwork during the next semester.



Mother and Child Working Together



Students with their Guardians



Children Writing Academic Goals

BCI PRESIDENT'S CLUB

In an effort to promote excellence in academics, we are introducing the BCI President's Club for 2023. Sponsored students in grades 4-12 who receive an A for the first semester of the 2022-23 school year will be invited on a special academic field trip during the second semester. We anticipate grades to be available in early March, and will learn which students will join at that time. We are targeting the new science museum in the capital city of Addis Ababa as the reward for these students.



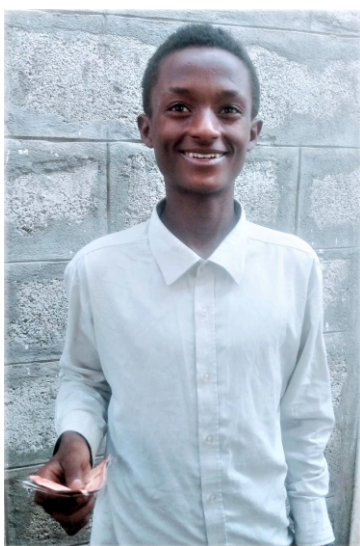
The BCI Academy, a School of Excellence

The Ethiopian Science Museum was opened in October of 2022 and it is impressive in scale and quality. This is sure to be an eye-opening experience for these students and a chance to be exposed to new learning opportunities. We plan to make a day of it and take the students for a meal in Addis Ababa as well. The cost for the transportation, meal and museum admission is \$30 USD per student, and we need to include several chaperones. Our funding goal is \$600 USD. We're looking for partners to sponsor an A-student at \$30 USD to make this academic experience possible.



Students in the Self-Stephens Science Lab at the BCI Academy

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS



Wasihun Tesfaye is 17 years old. He lives with his mother, sister and three brothers. He was bore out of violence, but is well loved by his mother and family.

Wasihun is a sharp student with exceptional English skills. He enjoys studying and challenging himself academically and has a very bright future.

Wasihun was previously receiving rent support of \$30 USD per month. He has lost this funding and needs a replacement in order to meet his housing needs.

Hewan Yeshigeta is 9 years old. She lives with her older sister and mother. It takes her one hour each way to walk to and from school. We previously raised funds to cover transportation costs; however, these funds have run out. She will now be making this unsafe and exhausting journey to and from school again if more funds can't be raised. Her transportation cost is \$38 USD per month; \$342 USD for the school year.



Hewan Yeshigeta

Please reach out if you're able to meet either of these needs.

HOME ASSESSMENT UPDATE

During our 2022 Home Assessments, we identified specific needs of the children, including clothing, bed frames and mattresses. Thanks to donor support we were able to meet many of these needs. We have now ensured that every child in our program owns at least two outfits. A number of children who were sharing beds were provided with beds of their own, and others who were sleeping on mattresses on the floor now have bed frames. Overall, we worked to fill any gaps that were identified in the home assessments. Thank you to all who helped us meet these needs and improve the quality of life for the children.



Meheret Teka



Mussie Dereje



Yakob Dereje

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

BCI President's Club

Reward excellence by sponsoring an A-student to participate in an academic field trip.

Need: \$600
Raised: \$0
Remaining Need: \$600



Housing for Wasihun

Help Wasihun Tesfaye and his family meet their need for housing by providing rent support.

Need: \$30/mo.
Raised: \$0/mo.
Remaining Need: \$30/mo.



Taxi for Hewan

Provide transportation for Hewan Yeshigeta to keep her safe on the way to and from school each day.

Need: \$342
Raised: \$0
Remaining Need: \$342



You can make a donation by phone at (888) 269-2719, by web at www.BlessingtheChildren.org or by mail to: Blessing the Children, 2265 Fraser Road, Kawkawlin, MI 48631