



The Official Newsletter of Projects-Abroad

Inside this issue:

Ethiopia
Rising

✦ Editor's Note.....	2
✦ Volunteer story.....	3
✦ In the projects	4
✦ Visiting Hamlin	5
✦ I.W.D in Ethiopia.....	6
✦ photo Album.....	7
✦ Staffs contact list	9

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Selam! From Projects-Abroad Ethiopia

፩ - is a GE'EZ numerical representation for number 1 and 'Habesha' is the name given to all Ethiopians despite their difference in religion, tribe, economy or social status. So, ፩-HABESHA is to imply the unity of Ethiopian People despite their difference.

Welcome to March's newsletter.

This newsletter aims to give you a heads up about the latest happenings in Ethiopia and in our projects throughout the month of March.

Addis Ababa has been brightened by events and celebrations in this month. One of the most celebrated days was March 8. I will give you a recap of how Projects Abroad Volunteers celebrated this day.

In this edition we will also see one volunteer story from our Teaching placement. Project overviews and a photo album is also included.

Bereket Tesema
Information manager

I would like to thank all volunteers from the past and present for sacrificing your valuable time, money and knowledge to make a difference in our projects. I hope that you will all find something that would grab your attention as you read through this edition.

Big thanks to 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 more about Ethiopia. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact:-

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Former Alton College student volunteers in Ethiopia during her gap year

Hannah Matthews wanted to use some of her time between school and university to volunteer in a developing country and share the knowledge she possesses. So she decided to sign up with Projects Abroad to work at our Teaching Project in Addis Ababa.

"I have visited many different countries in the world but in Africa I had only visited some of the southern African countries, so when I got the chance to travel, I decided to volunteer in

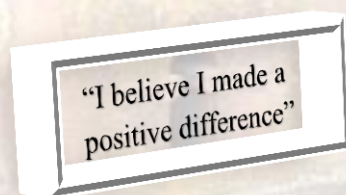
Ethiopia." Hannah (19) taught English and French at Hillside school for three Months from December 2013.

"Arriving at 10 am and teaching four to six lessons a day, reading stories, and playing games in free periods and lunch time, I believe I got enough responsibilities," says Hannah explaining a typical day.

"By coming to Ethiopia and teaching children, I believe I



important since most of the subjects including science and math are given in English." She says she started to see changes in the children's English skills



after as little as a month

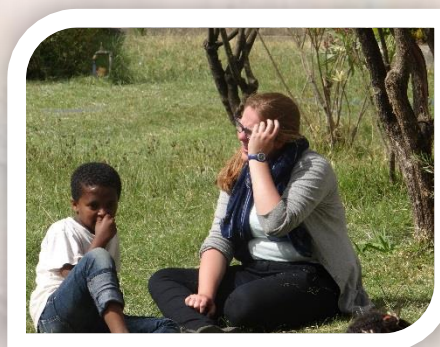
"Almost every student that I taught started to use more polite English words, when speaking with me, other students and local teachers. Hearing them using improved English that I had taught them really inspired and motivated me. Hannah visited the southern and western parts of Ethiopia during one of the school's holiday periods. She experienced the different cultures and living styles of the Ethiopian people which made her stay more interesting and unforgettable. She and other teaching volunteers also worked at a Care

Project for a week. "I don't think I will forget anything about my stay in Ethiopia, but the week I spent with the children in the orphanage has a special place in my heart." "The Ethiopian culture is indeed different from England and from other countries I have lived in; the atmosphere in Ethiopia is very friendly and much more welcoming."

Although she admitted she experienced some culture shock, Hannah said it wasn't that difficult to get used to it since everyone was always very nice. Hannah's advice to future volunteers is to come with an open mind, enjoy their time and try to make a difference at their projects. "Ethiopians are very friendly and easy to get along with. Everyone greets you whether they know you or not



made a positive difference. Language lessons are very



and this makes you feel at home where ever you go. I also made amazing friends with volunteers who come from all over the world. We had a great time together."

IN THE PROJECTS

There are about 13 Projects Abroad volunteers currently working on Care, Journalism, Sports, Teaching and Medical projects and we are still expecting more. Most of our volunteers enjoy their stay in Ethiopia. All the placements are also very happy with the efforts of the volunteers.

In this edition we will have a bird's eye view through one of our best placement for Teaching Project; Lemlem School.

Lemlem School has been a placement for our Teaching Projects for more than four years. The school has classes for kindergarten, primary and secondary education and give the service to the community for a fair monthly fee.



Volunteers placed in this school has a wide variety of lessons such as English, Math, Physics, Health and physical education, Science and other different subjects to teach as a main



teacher or as an assistant. Apart from the teachings, they can also be involved in different activities like organizing a sport competition, workshop for the staff and any other activities that go with the goal of the school.

Philip and Veronica, our couple volunteers, came to Ethiopia through Projects Abroad two years ago and were placed at Lemlem. At that time, apart from the regular classes they teach, they organized a mini-Olympics to students and teachers in the kindergarten and awarded winners with Madelia and phone apparatus for the students and teachers respectively.

The story didn't end there. After two years the couple is back again; not just to Ethiopia but to the same placement they volunteered in before. They also have already started another Olympics at the beginning of this month for a

wider range of students and teachers by including the elementary school to the competition. The closing ceremony will be held in the beginning of April with guests, parents, school administrators and government officials which I will cover in April's

newsletter.

Volunteers placed in this or any other placements usually face difficulties leaving the students and children they spend a few weeks with. That is why most of them leave with a full heart of coming back again.

Philip and Veronica are a living proof of the unforgettable memory that you can bring through volunteering.

The number of volunteers coming to Ethiopia to make a positive influence and play a role in the improvement of this community is increasing from year to year. **It is your turn to come and play your part in reaching those who are in need of your help.**



HAMLIN FISTULA INTERNATIONAL



Pregnant women in rural Ethiopia have little or no access to emergency obstetric services. They are among the five percent of women worldwide who will face obstructed labor and will be in agonizing labor for days and days. They almost always lose their baby and suffer horrific

gynecologist Dr. Catherine Hamlin AC is the co-founder of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and the Hamlin College of Midwives. In the 1950's Catherine and her late husband, Reg, went to Ethiopia to train midwives, but their attention soon turned to the plight of the fistula sufferers.

the 13 female volunteers with Fireweini, the volunteer coordinator, and Bereket, the information manager, took a minibus and started traveling to the hospital. When we reach there, the manager welcomed us in to the compound and took us to a room where we were given a brief orientation. After explaining the overall structure and the works they do, he took us through the hospital and shows us the different rooms

"My dream is to eradicate obstetric fistula from Ethiopia. I won't achieve this in my lifetime, but you might in yours."

Dr. Catherine Hamlin

Together the Hamlins perfected the modern technique for obstetric fistula surgery and

internal damage – sometimes the bladder is completely destroyed and sometimes the rectum is also damaged. They leak constantly and are pushed to the edge of their society, too filthy to be part of the village life and considered a curse.

have treated more than 40,000 women, more than 90% of them cured. Reg died in 1993 but Catherine continues their life's work. (Hamlin.org.au)

The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and its five regional hospitals treat obstetric fistula patients free of charge. Australian obstetrician-

On the 28th of March, at 1:30 in the afternoon volunteers gathered in Arat killo, Romina Café to go and visit the legendary Fistula hospital and the female patients suffering from this problem. Around 1:45



where patients are being treated. Since all the volunteers who

"This is the best experience I had through my one month stay in Ethiopia"

Charlotte (volunteer)

visited the hospital were females, it was a heart touching experience for all.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

: INSPIRING CHANGE

Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March the 8th. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911. Thousands of events occur to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day. (internationalwomensday.com)

The International Women's Day (IWD), on March the 8th was marked with the view highlighting issues related to women empowerment, successes and promoting gender equality in Ethiopia. The Day



was observed for 37th and 102nd times nationally and internationally respectively.

Projects-Abroad Ethiopia collaborating with Brothers of good works counseling and community development, which is also a placement for our physiotherapy project,

celebrated this day with the lower class community which the organization helps. At the day, a panel discussion was held regarding women empowerment and women equality. Other programs included drama, traditional music and dance, as well as exhibition prepared by women in the community.

At the opening of the program, three women; one from the staff of Brothers of good works, one from the community representative and Gina Ruef, a volunteer from Projects Abroad cut traditionally made bread which implies the opening of a new path and new season.



March's photo Album





δ-HARESHA ProjectsAbroad Ethiopia

Projects Abroad is the leading global organizer of overseas voluntary work placements. Our wide range of projects, including Teaching, Care, Conservation & Environment, Medicine & Healthcare, Sports, Culture & Community projects Journalism and physiotherapy are designed specifically for the needs of the communities in which we work, whilst giving our volunteers the very best experience of volunteering abroad.

In Ethiopia you can join one of our care, medical, teaching, physiotherapy, Sport, journalism projects or a combination of them. If any of you have been a volunteer or are interested in volunteering in Ethiopia with Projects Abroad then please join our group to find out more about Projects Abroad Ethiopia.

stay Updated!!

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