

# DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2013

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NOVEMBER 26, 2013

## DEAR MEMBERS

*In the last quarter of 2013, we are happy to report on progress on a couple of education initiatives in Ethiopia. The first is around our program for sponsoring girls in Semain Shewa to attend school by paying for their expenses. This is a continuation from an initiative we started with ADHENO in 2012. The second initiative is a new project to purchase books for a school in Dehub Gonder. We look forward to the success of both initiatives and the bright young students involved.*



Some of the Sponsored Girls in Semain Shewa

### SEMMAIN SHEWA SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

The project goal is to provide support to girls who are eager to attend school but are unable to afford it. This includes orphaned girls and those whose parents can not afford to buy school supplies for their children. The project is implemented by our partners in Ethiopia, ADHENO. In October, Dir Biyabir wired funds to sponsor the education of 139 elementary school girls and 16 secondary school girls. This includes all elementary school girls from the 2012 sponsorship program who still want to continue with school. In 2012 Dir Biyabir had sponsored 89 elementary school students.

Sponsorship of elementary school girls consists of paying for their school supplies which costs about \$10 per student per **year**, a sum most of us would consider insignificant, but an insurmountable obstacle for these kids.

The secondary school kids have an additional challenge as they need to travel to another town for school and to rent a local room. The annual cost per student including rent, school supplies, uniform, and supplemental books is about \$100. The parents are responsible for providing food for their kids.

We wish these smart and tenacious girls much success in their studies!

### DEHUB GONDER SCHOOL BOOKS

In November, Dir Biyabir funded a new project to purchase books for the "Worku Jenber School", in Gela Matebia, Dehub Gonder, in Northwest Ethiopia. The school was built 3 years ago by some concerned citizens to give rural farm boys and girls a chance to go to school. There are 27 villages in that general area that benefit from this school. The school currently has grade 9, 10, and 11 and enrolls a total of 367 students, 47% of which are girls.

The Worku Jenber School suffers from a severe lack of books so we received a proposal requesting a long list of books. As a pilot project, Dir Biyabir wired funds in early November to purchase a subset of these books. We have already received an update that funds have been received and books are being purchased.

We look forward to receiving a report and pictures once the books have been handed over to the school. In the meantime we wish all the students of the Worku Jenber School much enlightenment!