



Illubabor Children Agape REsponse, Sponsored by the Ethiopian Partnership, Shenandoah Presbytery

Goals – provide education, health, life skills, faith skills to children who are without an adequate support system.

August 6, 2021

Dear friends of iCARE and Shenandoah Presbytery,

Jeremiah 29:11 says, For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future!” The iCARE program, which celebrates its twenty second anniversary later this month, has and continues to honor that promise God made to the Jewish Diaspora, with the same commitment and promise to the children and teens in the Illubabor region of Western Ethiopia.

But as we begin our twenty second year with our brothers and sisters of the Illubabor Bethel Synod. we need to be aware of how critical our partnership and support will be this coming academic year for the Synod, the Gore Hostel staff and each and every child preparing for this new year! Besides the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, several regions in Ethiopia are also experiencing levels of conflict and civil unrest. Fortunately, much of the western part of Ethiopia, including the Illubabor region has been spared! But because of the conflict elsewhere, inflation, especially with basic commodities like food and fuel has soared. So our commitment and support to these children and the iCARE Program is more of an imperative than ever!

Rev. Ayana Hedu, the Gore Hostel Director shared the letter from Tolesa Zewude. Tolesa is a former student at the Gore Hostel and a graduate from the Gore Public School system. He was sponsored by Warrenton Presbyterian Church. We think his letter expresses better than anything we could say about why our ongoing support is so vital to the young people in this little corner of our world!

Success history from Tolesa Zewude

My name is Tolesa Zewude. I was born from my father Zewude Deresa and my mother Tewabech Regasa at Hurumu woreda , Ilubabor Zone, Oromia region in Ethiopia. I have three sisters. Totally, our family members are five. I loosed my father since 2008 by hypertension chronic disease. Because of this my mother took alone all responsibilities to raise all of us. This was a big challenge and load to her because she has not any income. Even though we started our academic education; there were so many problems that hinders us to deal with. But my mother was encouraging us “believe me that one day we will pass this Dark Age.” At the end all things were getting above my mother’s mind. Later she got a chance to give me to Gore Hostel since 2011 and my mother dream became true.

After I joined Gore Hostel I was not happy so much for a moment; even if all things were fulfilled for me; because always I was thinking about my mother. This put me in to dilemma. Then after some time, I reached on one decision. That was giving attention on my education only. This changed my ideas immediately and I started

thinking about my future life. That mean Gore Hostel shaped my future life. Gore Hostel is a place where I got a lot of things academically, spiritually and socially.

I attended my academic class carefully then I was passed from primary school to high school holding excellent pass mark. Then I joined pre university school or preparatory class. Then I was not success to join University due to my less result. For me "Failure is not final." But it is the opening way to the other good opportunity. Then I got so many options to join collage; one of the options I selected was to join pharmacy department which I was always eager to study before. Then I joined NEKEMTE SCIENCE COLLAGE and graduated with a great distinct result from Pharmacy Department

Now I am government employed person helping myself and also supporting my mother and others.

I would like to thanks first Almighty God, then my foster family for their unlimited kind support and Gore hostel for taking exhaustive time to guide me in to this successes.

God bless all



Thank you on behalf of the Illubabor Bethel people, their church organization, and our committee to the many sponsors of this orphanage. Please contact one of us with your questions, need for more information, or to have us come and talk about this mission.

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or contact iCARE committee members:

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PS: Please note on the check that your contribution is for *iCARE sponsorship*. If you are sending through your church, *please have the church treasurer make this notation*. Make checks to Shenandoah Presbytery. The coupon below may be used if you choose.

School Year 2021–2022 Amount_____

Please mark your sponsorship contribution for *iCARE*. The **annual support amount is now \$1050**. If you have budgeted to send less and can not increase at this time, please continue to sponsor as able. An additional **\$50** may be added to be used in a Christmas pool for all the children. You may also contribute additional amounts for general use. As reported food costs have more than doubled, so the need is greatly increased.

Checks are sent directly to Presbytery **marked for *iCARE* sponsorship**. Including your coupon helps us keep everything straight. A letter from presbytery will be sent for your tax records.

If you have already sent your support, thank you.

You are offering care and hope where it is desperately needed. Thank you!

Address for mailing checks:

Shenandoah Presbytery

1111 North Main St

Harrisonburg, VA 22802
