

## Vision for Ethiopia's School Awards

One of the programs Vision for Ethiopia has carried out is presenting school awards. This is an influential program in the communities of Dire Dawa, Kuriftu-Wonji, Debre Birhan, Sirinka-Wolo, and Shire-Shemelba. The staff invites motivational speakers to encourage the teachers and students to work hard and to strive to win awards.



## School Awards in Kuriftu

School awards were presented this year to motivate talented children who earned a 1 - 3 rank. 18 were girls and 38 were boys. Prizes were different items like backpacks, exercise books, pens, pencils and others. These were presented at the end their academic year on July 23, 2017. Parents of the children attended the events. It was such a pleasure to see that children were helped so much since such an initiative has never been done before by the town's school. These school awards help build a good image of our school and attracts the attention of parents as well as other schools' students and teachers.



School Director speaking at the school's closing ceremony.



Family participants during school closing.



Every rank of children is awarded



Director receives award.



Teacher awarded for her performance in the school.

The leading student who scored the highest mark was a Vision for Ethiopia-sponsored child, Meron Diriba. She received the top rank overall.



Meron Diriba, the top ranking school student

## Tirset Bezuaalem in Debre Birham



This girl's name is Tirset Bizuaalem. She has been sponsored by Vision for Ethiopia's Deber Birhan project ever since she was in kindergarten. Now in 2017 she is a grade 5 student at the elementary school and one of the best students in this school. She scored the top grade in all grade five classes, so she won the school award which Vision for Ethiopia offers.

She said, "I am happy to be one of the best students of the year. Thanks to God and my family. They helped me score this rank. I thank Vision for Ethiopia who has helped me in every aspect of their holistic services. I receive school material like exercise books, pens, a uniform and I also took a tutorial class which is offered at the Debre Birhan Branch Office compound for all sponsored children. That is why I could get this high score. Vision for Ethiopia offered the school award and I, one of their sponsored children was the winner. I am proud of Vision for Ethiopia and Vision for Ethiopia is also proud of me."

## Yonas Asamehagne in Debre Birhan



This is Yonas Asmahegn, one of Vision for Ethiopia's sponsored children since kindergarten. Like Tirset Desalegn, he has always scored high grades in his class these past years.

This year he is a grade 6 student at Tebase Medehanialem Elementary School, where he is one of the best students in the school. He scored the second highest in all grade six classes so he won Vision for Ethiopia's school award.

Yonas said, "I am happy to be one of the best students of the year and to be one the winners of the awards which are offered by Vision for Ethiopia. Vision for Ethiopia helped me in every aspect of life, specially academically. They provide all my school materials and tutorial classes, which I took with other sponsored children at its office compound.

"Vision for Ethiopia helped make me one of the winners of the award. Thanks to Vision, next to God and also thanks to my family who all helped me. Because of them, I achieved this high score. Vision for Ethiopian's own sponsored child won the award and I am proud of this."

## Nardos Dubale



This young lady's name is Nardos Dubale. She has been sponsored by Vision for Ethiopia in Debre Birhan from kindergarten until college graduation in 2017.

This year she graduated in Computer Science from Victory College Level 4 Program and received an Advanced Diploma.

Nardos said, "I am very happy because now my dream has come true. When I was child I wished to graduate and have a job just like other employees. Today I have graduated and I am

sure tomorrow I will be employed. I thank God for everything. He helped me through Vision for Ethiopia - academically, socially and spiritually. Thanks to my family who encouraged me in every detail and especially thanks to my sponsor who provided for me all these years through Vision for Ethiopia. Now I can confidentially announce that I am the fruit of Vision for Ethiopia. I am proud of Vision for Ethiopia and Vision for Ethiopia is also proud of me."

## Summer Campaign at Kuriftu Resort

Vision for Ethiopia's Debre Birhan project is associated with Young Life Ethiopia, which works with sponsored youth above 15 years of age every Saturday from 4:00 - 5:30. The program puts on different games - group games, individual games, question and answer quizzes, which is fun. They also provide a vital spiritual program of singing, preaching and reading the Bible.

50 youth attend this program with Young Life worker's Brother Messay and Vision for Ethiopia.



Project youth playing group games with Young Life Bro. Messay preaching the gospel for sponsored children

All Vision for Ethiopia's sponsored children attend the Saturday morning programs, which involve different games, spiritual lessons and peer-to-peer discussions at our Debre Birhan Child Center compound in association with Young Life Ethiopia.



The sponsored children who attend the Saturday program at the compound were also able to attend a Refreshment Program at Kuriftu Resort for 3 days, with 100 other youth groups, offered by Young Life Ethiopia. They played games, had group discussions and spiritual lessons. One child said, "This kind of program is so good for all of us and helps us become ethical and confident. We had a different life experience especially since we got a better knowledge of how much God loves us."



Above are Vision for Ethiopia sponsored children attending the refreshment program with other youth groups at the Kuriftu Resort. (Young Life Ethiopia also offered this type of special program for Vision for Ethiopia Debre Birhan this year, every Saturday morning.)

## Plantation Visit

In Dire Dawa, Vision for Ethiopia Association's staff and 50 sponsored children went for a reforestation project, in collaboration with the Dire Dawa City Administration, to help keep the city clean and beautiful. In this activity about 200 plants were planted.



## Self-Help

This lady's name is Hiwot Awel; she is the mother of Kedest Zerihun, a beneficiary of Vision for Ethiopia for a long period of time at our Dire Dawa project. She lives with 11 family members and works hard in her day-to-day life as well as supporting her family. She was born in 1982 and is a model mother for other people by being such a hard worker.

Starting from her youth, she didn't like playing around in her work, which is why today she administers and assists almost 11 parents. In the beginning she had nothing in her hand and sometimes made coffee and ties on her door. She lived a long time from hand-to-mouth. Still, she was active and kept working for change.

The project selected her name to receive a revolving fund this year. They had seen her hard work, her movement and follow-up. She joined a group of other project beneficiaries who are using this revolving fund.

The project gave two thousand (2,000.00) birr of revolving funds to each of them. This mother is doing well and using the revolving fund properly. She immediately joined with her friends. So today her life has changed and she was able to maximize her capital by opening small shop near her home.

Before



After

