

Kuriftu Success Story 1 - Habtamuwa Chaka



My name is Habtamuwa Chaka. I am eleven (11) years old, a sixth grade student at Wonji Community School.

I live in Oromia Eastern Shewa Region, in the Adama District Kuriftu PA. Most of the residents in this area were Wonji Sugar Factory retired workers. Now the factory has been transferred to another place. The disappearance of the factory hardened the lives of the Kuriftu communities who were daily laborers at the factory. My mom was one of those laborers with the lowest wages.

During that time, life was very hard for me as a student and for my mom. It was impossible for my mother to afford food for our daily consumption and my school materials. We couldn't even eat twice on most days. The days I went to school without breakfast were unlimited. In addition to this, what I never forgot were the challenges I faced because of the lack of school materials, exercise books, bags and school uniforms. My clothes were old and did not fit, which made me ashamed and not happy to go to school. Most of the time, even though I preferred to play with my fellow students, I used to stay by myself because of my clothes. Some of my fellow students insulted me about them.

As time went on, our needs at home and school increased and my mom became weak trying to earn by laboring as before. Our life situation became very bad. I noticed my mom weeping because she was so tired of our condition.

Fortunately, our problems enabled us to be selected as beneficiaries of Save Generation Development Association, handled by Vision for Ethiopia Children's Sponsorship Project. This organization supported us and provided me with school materials like a school bag, exercise books, pen, pencil, uniform, shoes, casual clothes as well as supplementary foods like, pasta, rice, macaroni, edible oil, and flour. In addition to this, I received hair oil, soap and Vaseline.

After all these necessary needs were fulfilled for me, I began to realize how our situation had formerly affected my capacity to learn. Now I am seeing progress in my grades in class. For example, while I was in 5th grade, I scored the lowest out of all 53 students of my class. There was no student with such a low rank in my class. But this year I am a 6th grade student with sixty (60) students in my class and I have scored higher than 35 of my classmates! And in the future I will work hard and aim hopefully to be among those who are in the top 10. This is because I am now free from the worry of tomorrow. We have food to eat and school materials for my studies.

Success Story 2 - Saron Zanabe



Saron Zanabe is an 8-year-old student. She lives in the Oromia Region of East Shewa Province, Adama District with her family. There are eight members in her family, three males and five females. Saron's family's livelihood is limited to daily labor. All of the family members are dependent on the limited income that both her mom and father earn through hard labor.

As Saron's mother stated, "The reason for the limitation of their livelihood is lack of education and our lack of money to start a business, which affected my family's life and limited the opportunities for our children. Saron is one of my children who was exposed to such conditions."

When Saron was asked how she benefited from the Project that is being applied by Save Generation Development Association, she said, "Before I joined the Save Generation Development Association I had no important school materials. Most of the time I didn't have any books except those I got by begging. But now I am provided with school materials - a bag, a uniform, casual clothes, supplementary food and other important things." In addition to the benefits, she was asked if she had plans for the future and she responded that she planned to be one of the top students in her class and also said that her teacher noticed her progress in class.