



START WITH A CHILD, INVEST IN A FAMILY

year in review

I AM AMAZED HOW QUICKLY TIME HAS PASSED SINCE WE BEGAN OPERATIONS IN JANUARY 2008. We had no idea if we would ever raise money or frankly grow beyond the ten children that the board sponsored as individuals. I had invited a group of friends to travel with me to Ethiopia after I had fallen in love with a young girl named Honey on a previous trip. That trip had changed my life and my friends were kind enough to travel with me.

While we were there we decided to start an organization that focused on serving the vulnerable girls and women of Ethiopia. We believed that we had an obligation to do what we could to help these children and their mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters. The tragedy of Ethiopia is that it is one of the largest and poorest nations in Africa and quite possibly one of the least well known.

We knew that the task was large and we were not sure of our potential impact, but we were committed and felt that if we only helped 10 girls and families then we were successful because it is not just about numbers. Much to our surprise and joy we were honored with generous support from our family, friends, old classmates, church members, patients, partners and colleagues. One year later the Mesesso Foundation sponsors 75 children for a private education.

Our primary focus in 2008 was to interview and recruit children in targeted geographies. The next phase in 2009 will be to expand to their families with microloans to create a more sustainable future for the entire family. This aligns with our original vision of “start with a child, invest in a family.”

I hope you will join me in our mission to help educate these vulnerable young girls and make a difference in their current and future lives. Thank you for your interest in these wonderful children and their courageous families.


FOUNDER



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FAQ

DO YOU BUILD YOUR OWN SCHOOLS?

We partner with highly qualified private schools that serve the target geographies where our students live. We will be building pre-schools and after-school facilities in the future to include tutoring programs, computer labs, libraries, basic healthcare, HIV counseling and microloan skills training for the families.

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE CHILDREN?

We have created a criteria based on experience that targets young girls between the ages of six and eight, who have the capacity to benefit from an education and most importantly have the support of their guardian or family to study after school instead of working. This is a serious investment of time for the family as many of the heads of households are widows, grandmothers or aunts.

HOW LONG DOES A SPONSORSHIP LAST?

A student is typically sponsored from kindergarten until 12th grade.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THEY GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

We hope they are accepted into the public university system where we will assist them with tuition. If they are not accepted into the university system we will assist them with vocational school scholarships or provide microloans should they wish to start a small business.

I NOTICE THERE ARE SOME PICTURES OF BOYS. I THOUGHT YOU ONLY SUPPORTED GIRLS?

Most of the boys are siblings of the young girls or their mothers are HIV positive and the schools introduced us to these tragic circumstances.

DO THE BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVE COMPENSATION?

No. The board is an all volunteer board and members have made significant contributions to Mesesso.



Mesesso Foundation “Mesesso Village”

AS A RESULT OF RECRUITING OVER 30 STUDENTS IN THE RURAL AREA OF AV... WITH THE HELP OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY “WOREDA” AND HAVE DETERM... COULD BENEFIT FROM A MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY FOCUSING ON “BEFORE... GROUPS. IN TALKING WITH THE WOMEN IN THE LOCAL VILLAGES THEY HA... APPROACH.

Phase I

- Fenced in compound for child safety
- One or two simple structures for:
 - Preschool
 - After school tutoring
 - Additional meals-many children only eat once per day
 - HIV Classes
 - Hygiene classes
 - Rotating clinic
- Playground
- Garden
- Microloan Credit Committee Meetings
- Skills training
- Women’s Groups

Phase II

- Library
- Computer Lab
- Music/Art Room
- Comprehensive Clinic
- Drill well to expand garden into farm

Phase III

- Orphanage



ion Begins Project

WASSA WE HAVE CONDUCTED AN ASSESSMENT
MINED THAT OVER 11 VILLAGES “KABELLAS”
AND AFTER” SCHOOL SUPPORT AND WOMEN’S
HAVE PROPOSED WE TAKE THE FOLLOWING

Christmas in January

ON OUR RECENT TRIP IN JANUARY MY WIFE GWEN AND I DECIDED TO BRING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR ALL 75 CHILDREN THAT ARE IN THE PROGRAM. Christmas is actually celebrated in January and the usual tradition is a family dinner. So when we brought out bags of toys, school supplies and hygiene items they were confused at first. But as you can tell by little Meskrem’s face it didn’t take long for the children to get into the swing of things. By the way Meskrem is sponsored by my dear friend Pat and his wife Janice. One of the things you will discover if you travel with us to Ethiopia, and I hope you will, is you can only take two 50 pound bags of luggage with you. So I found myself in the garage weighing each bag of toys and taking out a shirt or pair of socks until I balanced. At one point I was afraid I was going to wear the same clothes for 10 days but it all worked out. We had a wonderful time with these joyous children who truly don’t need gifts to be happy. I think I get more out of the gifts than they really do.



The Impact Your Sponsorship Will Have on an Ethiopian Girl Today and Tomorrow

THE BENEFITS OF YOUR SPONSORSHIP HAVE A CRITICAL IMPACT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Only 38% of girls are enrolled in school until 6th grade.
- Female literacy rate is 22%.
- Primary school enrollment for girls is 62% for girls and 68% for boys.
- Secondary school enrollment for girls is 19% and 29% for boys.
- Vocational or University enrollment for females is 1%.
- Students who attend school through grade 12 are more likely to attend University.
- Girls enrolled in High School are 5 times less likely to have HIV.
- Delayed marriage-55% of girls in rural areas are in child marriages.
- The private schools the girls attend have security fences and security guards to reduce the risk of abduction.
- Females who receive an education have fewer children, reducing risk of maternal mortality.
- Children of educated women are more likely to attend and finish school.
- Male children of educated women are more likely to treat women with respect.

Two New Members Join Mesesso Board

WE ARE PLEASE TO ANNOUNCE THAT CINDY LIVINGSTON, CEO OF SEQUEL AG, HAS JOINED THE BOARD OF MESESSO. Cindy's day to day business is designing, marketing and selling Guess and GC timepieces and jewelry around the world. She recently formed a philanthropic arm of her company called "Time to Give" helping charities around the world promote the health, education, and welfare of children in need.

WE ARE ALSO EXCITED THAT LYNN PETERSON, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF PROFILES IN CARING, HAS JOINED MESESSO. Lynn is an Emmy award winning Executive Producer of humanitarian documentaries and has traveled to Ethiopia many times and has met many of the children and families that are supported by Mesesso.

Each of our board members has joined Mesesso because of their special passion for Ethiopia and children's and women's welfare and rights. They also bring expertise in the areas of education, health, HIV, microloans, Ethiopian culture and program development. Each board member is a volunteer and receives no compensation from Mesesso. A requirement for board participation is traveling to Ethiopia first and falling in love with the people of Ethiopia.

BOARD MEMBERS

ROD BOONE
DW Healthcare Partners

SERKADDIS SEIFU, ETHIOPIA
Country Director

SHEILA COOP
Coop Consulting

DR. SUSAN BAKER
Internal Medicine & Rheumatology

EDWARD LOPATIN
CEO Marlo Group

CINDY LIVINGSTON
CEO Sequel AG

LYNN PETERSON
Executive Producer Profiles In Caring

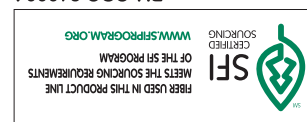


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