



WEGENE THANKS YOU!



OVER 150 CHILDREN WILL START ATTENDING THIS SCHOOL THAT WEGENE HAS BUILT STARTING SEPTEMBER 2011!

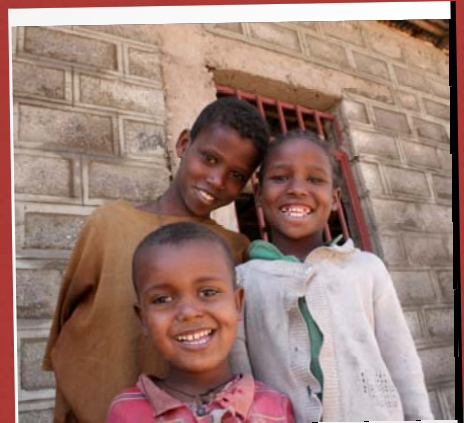
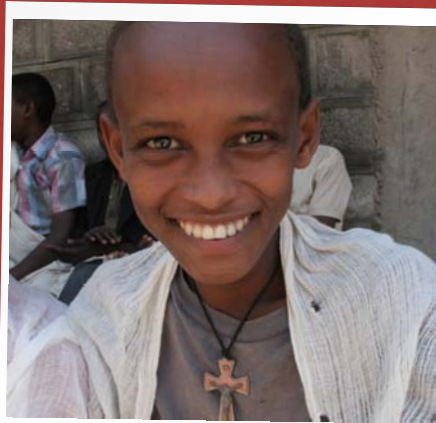
It has been a busy few years for Wegene...

Dear Wegene supporter,

We just want to thank you and update you on the school building project that Wegene has been involved since 2007 and inaugurated on February 26, 2011.

In 2006 when Wegene was invited to Abelti, Jimma (230 Kilo meters away from Addis Ababa), Wegene witnessed that the only school in this area was ruined and abandoned. Children had to walk over 2 hrs to the nearest school

each way if they wanted to attend school. Since Wegene strongly felt that education provides the highest return of any social investment, it took the challenge of building an Elementary school for this area in 2007.



Wegene has been working hard for the past four years, and the dream has become a reality.

So many young people in Ethiopia don't have the most basic things that we often take for granted: food, clean water, and education. The challenges that poverty and inequality create are so large that solutions can only come from our collective effort. We are very happy to inform you that our collective effort has resulted in providing a school to the disadvantaged children of the Abelti area. We strongly believe that this school will empower children. Without access to an education, these children would have remained voiceless and the cycle of poverty would have continued.

Thank you for all your pledges and contributions to Wegene's amateur runners of 2007 and 2010 who participated in the DC Marine Corps Marathons to raise fund for the school project. Thank you also for attending the multiple fundraising activities that were held in the last four years to raise money to build this elementary school. In addition, thank you for sponsoring desks to the school. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who have often gone above and beyond the call of duty to give generously of their time and talents to help Wegene succeed. Thank you all for being a remarkable blessing to Wegene.

Wegene's initial estimated amount to build and furnish this Elementary school back in 2007 was between US \$20,000-25,000. However, the total final amount Wegene spent to complete the construction and furnishing of this school due to the recent escalation in price of building materials in Ethiopia is US \$42,000.

Nevertheless, with your continued support, Wegene's dream of building the school for the Abelti children has become a reality. Wegene has built (7) rooms and a block of toilets for the children. Wegene has provided desks and blackboards for the classrooms. Teachers' desks and chairs were also provided. The school was inaugurated on February 26, 2011. The school will enroll over 150 children and will start its operation this coming September, 2011.

There is no way this could have been achieved without your help. Without your outstretched hand and with out your continued support, we would not make an impact in our community, we would not be changing lives and making any difference in the world. We owe it all to you. Thank you for trusting and believing in us.

The beneficiaries of your donations and contributions are very happy and they are very thankful to you for adding meaning to their lives. They have requested that we convey their heartfelt thanks to you. As you can see in the pictures attached, the kids are not only adorable, but amazing with their sheer happiness and positive attitude towards life and their future. Thank you so much for putting a smile on these children's faces. Lifting up fellow human beings is humbling to say the least.

Thanks again for your kindness and support,

Nini F. Legesse

Co-Founder & President of the Wegene Ethiopian Foundation

THE SCHOOL

