

# NEWS



## WE'VE COME A LONG WAY



The new CBO training centre at Debre Zeit will help more communities improve their lot.

**SMCF Ethiopia has been involved in the welfare of children in Ethiopia since we funded orphanages during the famines of 1984/5. During that time thousands of lives have been transformed, and now more communities will be able to benefit from our approach.**

SMCF Ethiopia and its partner JeCCDO, have enabled vulnerable children and their communities to be more resilient, more self sufficient and better able to withstand the many challenges that face them. People

grow their own food, run small businesses, become educated and live in a hygienic environment. They have local community-based organisations (CBOs) to represent their concerns and organise development programmes. Their children are safe, live within loving families and can look forward to a more secure future than their parents. This is a success story – it is the other Ethiopia we do not see on the television, an Ethiopia of hope and promise.

*continued overleaf*



## From street boy to school boy

**For some, life on the streets is an attempt to escape poverty, but how much better to escape the poverty of the streets by getting an education. That's what's happening to Behailu Teshome, thanks to a pioneering educational initiative provided by JeCCDO, and supported by SMCF Ethiopia.**

Behailu, 11, lives in Hawassa city, 270km south of Addis Ababa. His family is from Hagereselam, a small village approximately 93km away, but his father died some years ago, leaving his mother, two sisters and older brother in dire poverty. Behailu came with his brother to Hawassa in 2010 to work as a street porter, but it did not take Behailu long to realize that street life is hazardous.

He would have liked to go to school, but he had no money to spare for school expenses, such as uniform, exercise books or materials, without which you cannot attend school.

After a while, he heard about JeCCDO's Alternative Basic Child Education (ABCE) School for street or working children. Here he is



*Behailu receiving an award for coming first in his class.*

provided with an education and educational materials for free. The school day is organized so that he can continue working to support himself and teachers understand the needs of street children. If he misses a lesson, they do not hesitate to help him make up.

Behailu loves to go to school and came first in his class in both the first and second terms. English is his favorite subject and he likes to play football in the school compound where he feels secure. After school, he cleans a café and the owners provide him with a place to put his school materials and to stay the nights in return. Behailu is keen to continue his education and would like to be a medical doctor.



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## PFC Exhibition tours the country



**A stunning exhibition of photographs from the Partners for Change project has been on show in various venues around the country.**

First stop was Michaelhouse in Cambridge, followed by Liverpool Cathedral and then Sheffield Cathedral.

Peter Jones, Director of SMCF Ethiopia says: 'the response to the exhibition has been extremely positive; with many people expressing interest in Partners for Change and its pioneering approach. We have been able to sign up a number of supporters and interest people in the work.'

Future displays are planned for Bath, Bristol, Malvern, Norwich, Newark, Doncaster, Halifax and Hexham.

## Thank you

A huge 'thank you' to all those willing people who ran on behalf of SMCF Ethiopia over the summer and raised money to support our work with vulnerable children and their families. If you are competing in an event and would like to raise money for SMCF Ethiopia, please let us know.

## PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

a new relationship between people in Ethiopia and the UK contact us for details.

Yes, our partnership has come a long way but we have further to go. The next stage is to make our pioneering approach more widely available to other communities. As part of the Partners for Change (PFC) initiative, JeCCDO is developing two CBO training centres, one in Debre Zeit (one hour south of Addis) and one in Bahir Dar in the north. These centres will give CBOs from round the country the opportunity to learn the approach which has been successfully used by others. JeCCDO will continue to work at the grassroots, ensuring it is able to learn from established community organisations and share that learning with new community organisations in the centres.

Our Partners for Change programme brings together a range of different tried and tested approaches, with resources from inside and outside the community, to provide a solution to the seemingly intractable problem of poverty. The twice yearly PFC newsletter

follows people from the Negede Woiitto community and tells how they are making new lives for themselves and their communities – the successes, challenges and the failures. For those of you who wonder how it is ever possible to end poverty – please give it a read! Contact us and we will happily send you a sample copy. (If we can send it by email it will save on printing and postage!) Above all it shows how communities such as the Negede Woiitto are an inspiration to us all and how we have a lot to learn from them.



Makeshift buildings were used before the new CBO training centre was completed.



## Money for old gold

**In these hard times, one SMCF supporter came up with an innovative way of helping the Ethiopian people build strong communities to withstand the devastating effects of failed rains and famine.**

Mrs Joan Holyfield, who lives in South Wales, was very moved by news reports of famine in the Horn of Africa. Realising that the price of gold was very high at the moment, she took some old

gold jewellery to her local jewellers, and from the proceeds of that sale, was able to send us a substantial cheque.

'I was very pleased to get such a large sum for what was a very sad selection of broken chains, odd earrings and so forth,' said Mrs Holyfield. Encouraged by that story, her sister, Nancy Adams, sold some unwanted gold rings which has also benefited SMCF Ethiopia as well as her church.

If you have any old, unwanted gold at the bottom of your jewellery box, why not see what you can get for it and perhaps help the vulnerable people of Ethiopia too.



## Tackling poverty of expectation

**Ensuring a vulnerable child is cared for in a loving family is a great achievement. But it is also important to enable them in turn to do something to help themselves and their community escape from the dull grind of poverty. This is exactly what has happened to one child from Hawassa.**

Getahun Wuletaw is now 18 and a quite remarkable person. He was one of the orphan and vulnerable children supported by JeCCDO through SMCF Ethiopia. His family were left without any income when his father died.

Three years ago he was elected as speaker of the Hawassa Children's Parliament, an initiative set up by JeCCDO to introduce local children to the process of government and how to promote the rights of children. He was particularly involved with tackling harmful traditional practices that threaten children's wellbeing such as the beating of children, child abductions and female genital mutilation.

In May this year he was chosen as a participant in the international Young Child Rights Advocates Programme, for children living in politically and socially deprived environments who have defended the rights of children in their community. The aim of this project is to unite young heroes and give them the chance to extend their networks and learn from each other.



Getahun speaking at the seminar.

One of only seven children chosen, Getahun travelled to the Netherlands to attend a two-day seminar and to visit organizations working on the promotion of child wellbeing. He also secured a grant of 2,500 Euros to implement a child-focused project he has designed.

'I'm very proud of my participation to promote the issues of children at the international level. I have learned a lot from experiences of others, particularly of their strategies to deal with challenges,' said Getahun. According to him, the event has encouraged him to think of preparing another national level project in the future. 'I am very grateful to JeCCDO and other organizations that facilitated my visit', he added.



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a new relationship between people in Ethiopia and the UK contact us for details.