



Mile Marker

Make a Difference!



Message from the Founder/President



I am proud to announce that Vision on Africa (VoA); an organization that is dear to my heart has reached its 5th year of dedicated service since the initial establishment. It has been a milestone and blessed with lots of accomplishments in making a difference in the lives of many.

VoA strives to fulfill the emerging need that currently exists in the Yeka Sub-City, Kotebe area in providing a mother and child health services to those living in abject poverty. This area comprises of six kebeles and three farmers' associations. We serve the community at large in collaboration with the Kotebe Health Center and have made a remarkable impact. In the last three years we participated in the polio, measles and the voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) National Campaigns. Besides giving free health service to mothers and children VoA is also engage in women and youth empowerment project by providing training to build the capacity of individuals through learning new skills, produce and market merchandise hence improve their livelihood. We are so grateful for all the above achievements.

I thank each and every one of you for sharing our passion and your constant support so that we continue to provide these vital services. Without your support, we couldn't have sustained our mission, remove obstacles and improve the lives of many.

-Senedu Araya-Sellassie

VoA's Projects

Our **Mother and Child Health Center** provides service to mothers & children with; antenatal care, immunization, family planning, counseling, health education, laboratory tests, voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) with special emphases of prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT).



So far we provided treatment and health education (IEC/BCC) to about 26,000 mothers and children, immunizations to 8,700 mothers and children, family planning and counseling to 3,529 women, voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) to 789 men and women, provided pre-test and post test counseling to 187 mothers and referred 120 mothers to other partner hospitals for delivery service and HIV positive patience for anti-retroviral treatment (ART) and neverapine uptake treatment upon delivery and post-natal treatment for the child. We also

provided laboratory tests to 957 people for various types of tests including VCT.



We participated in the National Campaigns of poly, measles and volunteer counseling and testing (VCT) provided by the Ministry of Health, Addis Ababa HAPCO and MSH Ethiopia. We truly made a big impact in the lives of many.

We have been working diligently in Kotebe where there is a great need and also an opportunity to succeed.

We hope to replicate our existing programs in other parts of the country.



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VoA's Projects Continued...

Sustainable Development Project: Arts & Crafts Initiative

Our women and youth empowerment project is a capacity building and skill enhancements workshop designed to help the deprived women and youth to improve and sustain their livelihood through learning easy skills with affordable materials; produce and supply finished hand made products to commercial outlet. The program runs in two shifts everyday for a period of four to five months and consists of designing patterns, color coordination, hand sewing, hand crafting and crocheting. Concurrently we provide health education and marketing strategies during their training phase.

VoA's objective for its



arts and crafts training is to enable the participants to improve their skills, become self-sustained and independent entrepreneurs.

775 people were trained and received certificates of completion. The trainees can make stuffed animals, hand bags, wallets, jewelry boxes, sweaters, hats etc. to generate income on their own.

This year VoA's products were displayed and sold at the Diplomatic Bazaar held at the Egyptian Embassy, the NGO Consortium Bazaar held at the Millennium Hall, the Artisan Bazaar held at the Tropical Gardens, The Millennium



Secretariat Celebration of Africa Week held at Jan Meda and other outlets. All the proceeds from selling the products have been going back to drive the project until now.

VoA is in the process of organizing the certified trainers to work together as cooperative; produce quality exportable items with local raw materials to distribute and sell abroad as well as use our e-shop to make the products available to a wider global market.

Our last session was generously sponsored by The Ambassadors and Head of Missions Spouses Group (AHMSG) to further expand skill-based training there-by empower women and Youth economically.



2008 "Make a Difference" Graduation Events

Sustainable Development Project:

VoA's fifth capacity building and skill enhancements graduation of 125 women and youth was held on July 29, 2008 at the Vision on Africa's Mother and Child Health Center, the tent was filled with distinguished guests from the surrounding community, the non-profit organizations and also the private sector.



Amongst the distinguished guests were His Holiness Abune Paulos Patriarch of Ethiopia President of WCC & Honorary President of World Religion for Peace, Ambassador Stéphan Gompertz of French Embassy, Mme. Kirsten Hennekens (Spouse of the Netherlands Ambassador), Mme. Monika Reinhardt (Spouse of the Swiss Ambassador), Mme. Lyndsay Wade (Spouse of the Defense Advisor, United Kingdom) Dr. Upma Ranjan (Spouse of Second Secretary of Indian Embassy), Mme. Saba Gebremedhin (President of Women Network Association, NEWA), Mme. Hdiya Mohamed, (President of Ethiopian Women Exporters Association, EWEA), Dr. Lemlem Sissay, (General

Manager of ETHIO Passion Agro PLC), Mr. Surafel Allene (Commercial Manager of St. George Brewery (BGI)) and more...

"...I am so happy to be here and witness a true grass-root work helping the deprived..." said VoA's esteemed guest, His Holiness Patriarch Paulos who Blessed and opened the ceremony and also presented VoA's Sponsor's Certificate of Appreciation and bouquet of roses to our Proud Sponsors with his blessing and commended them for their mission. He also congratulated the organizations for its achievements and Miss Senedu's dedications to make a difference in the lives of many. Mme. Kirsten Hennekens, Chair of the Sub Committee of Ambassadors & Heads of Mission Spouses Group expressed her sincere contentment to see the changed lives which comprises of mothers and the youth. Mme. Hennekens accompanied by her colleges Mme. Reinhardt and Mme. Wade presented the certificate, start-up kit and roses to the cheerful graduates. Our heartfelt thanks go to AHMSG for sponsoring this joyous graduates, Mme. Megebar Ayalew for allowing us to use the premises free of charge, UNFPA for spon-

soring the renovation of the clinic, Kadisco Chemical Industry PLC for supplying the paints, French Embassy for providing the tent and storing VoA's possessions, St. George Brewery (BGI) for providing the refreshments, Mme. Zemzem



of Green View Pizzeria for supplying the sumptuous figure foods, Mme. Leyone for the delicious Ethiopian Bread, the Jerusalem Association for providing the tent and chairs, Dr. Lemlem for supplying the lovely roses, Mrs. Hadiya for the bouquet of roses and the Ethiopian Women Exporters Association (EWEA) for printing our brochures.



Volunteers From All Over The World Recognized For Their Commendable Service To The Ethiopian Community



Beza Taye, born and raised in Germany from Ethiopian parents volunteered to do her internship at VoA's Mother and Child Health Center. She is a seventeen year-old 11th-grader attending Lichtenbergschule in Darmstadt. This school is known as one of the few European schools in Hessen.

Beza's urge to help the needy in Ethiopia is portrait as; "... I believe that if each and every one of us dedicate our time or help in any way we could then it will be easier to eliminate poverty in Ethiopia or anywhere else in the world...". From the irreplaceable satisfaction she encountered during her 10 days service at VoA and the people her paths crossed with, she is determined to dedicate her time to the needy for one whole year upon graduation. She encourages others to help their community through volunteerism to "make a difference" in the lives of the needy.

The **Global Reach Children Fund** Canadian Group laid by Mark Hymus who is the Director of Team Development visited VoA's new site which was undergoing renovation; They dedicated two days of their time to help with the construction of our wicker cottage. They also shared their knowledge and experience with the women and youth of our Arts and Crafts Workshop.

We are truly grateful for their dedication to help our organization and the community at large.



Many thanks
to all the
VOLUNTEERS!

VoA's Concerned Visitors and Potential Partners

Members of The Entoto Rotary Club came to visit Vision on Africa's new location provided by a concerned friend of VoA, Mrs. Megbar Ayalew. This premise needs further renovation of the



existing building and construction of additional accommodations for office use, storage and multi-purpose meeting hall. As the renovation is sponsored by UNFPA, The Rotary Club is looking into the possibilities of helping in the construction of the additional rooms. We thank them for all their willingness to accommodate our needs.

The Grand Prieur of OSJ from France accompanied by his lovely wife and his colleagues from Portugal and São Tomé & Príncipe were presented with Vision on Africa's projects, accom-



plishments and needs during their visit in May 2008. They were all content and willing to exhaust the possibilities of working together especially with the implementation of mutually agreed projects. The above picture was taken at VoA's new site during their visit.



Africize your mind...



1. The Olympic symbol is made up of five rings, standing for Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and North America.
2. Africa is the second-largest of the Earth's seven continents – covering about 30,330,000 sq km (11,699,000 sq mi), which makes up about 22 per cent of the world's total land area. Africa has more countries than any other continent (40).
3. The smallest African country is The Seychelles covering an area of 453 sq km but Gambia is the smallest of the mainland African states, covering an area of 11,300 sq km (4,363 sq mi).
4. South Africa is the only country with three official capitals: Pretoria, Cape Town and Bloemfontein.
5. The River Nile drains north-eastern Africa, and at 6,650 km (4,132 miles), is the longest river in Africa and in the world. It is formed from the Blue Nile, which originates at Lake Tana in Ethiopia, and the White Nile, which originates at Lake Victoria.

Our Sponsors

VoA would like to thank all of those who have joined in our efforts to “make a difference.” Our Sponsors are the backbone of the operation and the source of our success. Without them VoA's programs would not have been fully implemented. Thank You!!

Individual Sponsors:

- Mrs. Zelekawork Mengistu
- Mr. Tedla Melese & Mrs. Leyone Agbaw
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- Mr. Amakele and Mrs. Mekdes Gebeyhu

- Mrs. Megbar Ayalew
- Mr. Habete Selassie Tafesse
- Ms. Kiros Wode-Giorghis
- Ms. Manalebesh Seleshi
- Mrs. Sonia Pasquale

VoA's Volunteers:

- Beza Taye from Germany
- Global Reach Children from Canada

USA

- Miss Ruhama Eshete
- Miss Abigail Eshete
- Miss Zayid Douglas
- Miss Meredith Dobbs
- Miss Ruvini Jayasinghe
- Miss Anaid Villanueva
- Mr. Tawanda Mandaza
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- Reise Engineering
- Gigi's Afro-Asian Design & Fine Interiors
- Green International Logistics Services, PLC

- Ethiopian Airlines

Benefactors:

- French Embassy
- Belgium Embassy
- The Ambassadors and Heads of Missions Spouses Group (AHMSG)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Christopher Smale Foundation

- Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI), a USAID sub-grant
- Ms Megbar Ayalew
- Miss Senedu Araya-Sellassie

Becoming A Sponsor:

We urge you to share in our passion, and support us in any way you can so that we can continue to provide these vital services. A donation of any amount from you to VoA will make a big difference.

For on-line donations please visit our web site on www.visiononafrica.org, choose the Contribution/ Donation button and click on Donate now. It is a secured and reliable system or make checks payable to:

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