

## FALL FOOD NEEDS

In late August, we distributed the last of the extra support provided for our 40 families in urgent need. The extra support provided by our donor family meant that the 40 families hardest hit by the pandemic were able to receive extra support for their entire family. This support came in the way of food items like wheat, teff and cooking oil as well as hygiene supplies, including plenty of soap.

As the pandemic continues on, the economic impact continues to hamper the families in our program. Most guardians are out of work or have had severe reductions in their income due to limited earning ability caused by the economic downturn. Their needs for enhanced support for their entire families remains critical into the fall and winter months.

The cost of one month of enhanced support for an entire family is \$30 USD. The need is \$1,200 USD to provide this extra support for all 40 families for one month. Every dollar counts - please reach out if you are able to help us meet the needs of one or more of these 40 families.



August Food Distribution

## Post Newsletter

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WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

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## ‘WOOHA’ MEANS WATER

Water. The most fundamental element to human life. Needed for hydration, cleaning, cooking, and hygiene. A necessity for all, and something that should not be a luxury afforded to only a few.

Several years ago, we shared the need for water tanks for the Bethlehem campus of the BCI Academy. The generosity of our donor family meant that we could put a stop gap into a much larger issue. We were able to store water in the tanks, for use at the school, and this has helped immensely.

The water challenges faced by the Bethlehem campus can be traced back to the source. The entire area the school is located in suffers from chronic water shortages and will go weeks at a time without access to water. A water well has been on our wish list for the school since it opened in 2017, but the increased demands on water due to the pandemic makes the need critical. We will be unable to meet the student’s needs for the upcoming school year without a well. There is simply not enough water for the constant hand washing and campus cleaning that the pandemic requires. Installing a well will be a laborious effort and will require specialized machinery to dig deep enough to reach the water source.



Ready to run for water for her school

Our children want to do what they can to help their school meet this critical need. In just a few weeks the BCI Academy will host the “Wooha Run”. Wooha is the Amharic word for water. Our children have never participated in bake sales, bottle return drives, car washes and the like and they can’t wait to take an active role in this fund-raising effort to bring a water well to the school campus.

Not only will a well facilitate hygiene for the pandemic, it will also help ensure that teen girls remain in school full-time and will drastically reduce dehydration risk for the students and staff while also lowering the risk of a variety of illnesses caused by poor sanitation.

The water will be shared with the local community, meaning thousands of additional people will benefit.

Forty children will participate in the run, and each child hopes to be paired with a sponsor who will pledge them for completing their race. There is no minimum pledge amount and you may pledge as many children as you’d like. If you would like to partake in this FUNdraiser, you may view a list of participating children at the website URL below.

<http://www.blessingthechildren.org/water.html>



## CATCHING UP WITH EYOB TEKLU

My name is Eyob Teklu. I started in the BCI program in 2008. BCI is my home. I grew up in a better living standard because of BCI. Sponsorship helped me a lot in my childhood. After high school, I graduated from TVT and became a cake baker in Debre Zeyit. Today I am an independent, confident, hard working man because of BCI.

There is a proverb that says “no appreciation is enough for great kindness.” But here, I still want to thank you all for your kindness, which has provided us with hope and courage to live a better life. I would like to express great appreciation on behalf of all those financially sponsored by you.

I am the main pastry chef at Gold Mark International

Hotel and a teacher at Bishoftu Hotel Training Center. I make 15,000 birr per month (\$400 USD). I

am able to provide a good standard of living for myself, my mother and my sister. My plan is to someday own a bakery and hotel training center. I enjoy attending the youth program at church and playing sports in the morning.

To all of you kind people, you help us so we can stand by ourselves. You give us so much love, and I cannot express my gratitude by any words. Through you, God’s love reaches those children who are in difficulty and in need.

More photos at: [blessingthechildren.wordpress.com](https://www.blessingthechildren.wordpress.com)



Eyob with several of his creations

## TABLETS HAVE ARRIVED

To say that our students are thrilled with the arrival of their tablets would be an understatement. Nine-year-old Faven could not contain her joy and jumped and shouted when she received this gift. The children now feel inspired and motivated to work hard to become distinction students. After so many months of discouragement at home during lock down, the spark has returned to their eyes and they look forward to learning. We are in need of additional tablets to ensure that every family has one for the children in their home. Any gift towards the purchase of a tablet helps.



Surafel receiving his tablet



Faven with her new tablet

## FIELDS OF GREEN

Fekadu Alemu has grown up in the BCI program. We were so thrilled when he was accepted to university in 2019. In March, his freshman year at Jijiga University was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. Like the rest of the world, Fekadu was forced back to the confines of his home. Instead of passing his time at home simply waiting for lockdown to end, Fekadu became an entrepreneur and started his own business.

Fekadu decided to grow plants at his home, including a variety of fruit trees and avocados. He currently has more than 3,000 seedlings. We believe Fekadu will go far in life with the traits he has demonstrated through this project. He is coming up on his 10-year anniversary of sponsorship with the same dedicated sponsor, and this sponsorship is bearing fruit in a literal sense. It is truly inspiring. Bravo, Fekadu!



Fekadu Alemu



Fekadu tending to his plants



Fekadu’s plants are nearly ready for sale

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

### Wooha Run

Help a child earn a water well for the Bethlehem campus of the BCI Academy

**Need: \$5,000**  
**Raised: \$0**  
**Remaining Need: \$5,000**



### Fall Food Support

Provide critical food support for families in crisis due to the effects of the pandemic.

**Need: \$1,200/mo.**  
**Raised: \$0**  
**Remaining Need: \$1,200/mo.**



### Tablets for Education

Provide tablets to keep the children connected to education during the pandemic.

**Need: \$35,280**  
**Raised: \$7,200**  
**Remaining Need: \$28,080**



You can make a donation by phone at (888) 269-2719, by web at [www.BlessingtheChildren.org](https://www.BlessingtheChildren.org) or by mail to: Blessing the Children, 2265 Fraser Road, Kawkawlin, MI 48631