

TWICE THE JOY

A few months ago, we introduced you to Hana and Sifen, 4-year-old twin girls whose lives were recently turned upside down by the sudden death of their mother, and abandonment by their father. Left to live with their grandmother on a meager stipend given to them by a relative who sells tomatoes, their situation was dire.

The girls were beside themselves with excitement when they learned that someone opened their heart to sponsoring them. Their social worker captured the joy on their faces when they sat down to write to their sponsor for the first time.



Sifen and Hana, age 4, are thrilled to be sponsored

Post Newsletter

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IGA: PUTTING MOMS TO WORK

As so many of our families have struggled to make ends meet during the past 16 months, we, too, have struggled to fill the dramatically increased need for food support. We have been challenged to fully support 40 unemployed families. This is a feat in and of itself, and it has come at a time of historic inflation in Ethiopia. The inflation rate in Ethiopia was 20.35% in 2020, as compared to 1.25% in the US. Our families need more, and everything costs more, especially food.

There is no apparent end in site to the rapid inflation, so we have shifted our focus to creating new income generating activities for our families, so that they can have opportunities to support themselves. In true “teach a man to fish” fashion, we have created a plan to help our mothers earn an income. This plan includes a variety of small business models. Our mothers will be provided with required training in how to operate a small business, taught by an experienced professional.

Our first eleven mothers have been selected and are being trained on the ins and outs of starting and running a business. Their business type will be making a variety of injera, a staple food in Ethiopia. This is a simple business and the women all have experience making injera. There is a constant demand for injera, due to its importance in the Ethiopian diet. Our staff has developed a new kind of injera oven that



will help them produce their product more efficiently.

Each injera business costs \$250 USD to start up. This includes an oven and all of the supplies for the first few weeks in business. We have an initial goal of helping eleven of our mothers get this business off the ground. We know that helping them support their families is the best long-term solution.

Injera Oven	\$90
Teff (main ingredient)	\$120
Rice	\$30
Fire Wood	<u>\$10</u>
	\$250

If you would like to support a mother with a contribution in any amount towards her new business, please take a look at the enclosed form.

Please also join us in praying for the success of this business venture. The women are so excited for the opportunity to go back to work and at the prospect of earning an income to support their families.



A Mother Making Injera

BIG DREAMS & BRIGHT FUTURES



Bizuayehu Sisay

Now, 12 years later, he has completed a 4-year training program in hotel operations at Technical and Vocational Training School.

Bizuayehu is an amazing young man with big dreams. In the short term, he has a goal to learn French, Spanish, Chinese and to improve his English skills. Long term, he hopes to open a small café or hotel.

Bizuayehu Sisay is 24 years old. At the age of 12, his mother was hit by a car. She was unable to walk and could not earn a living, which made it impossible for her to provide for her young son. Sponsorship was an answer to prayer.

With his basic needs met, Bizuayehu was able to stay enrolled in school.

Mulugeta Kebede is 24 years old. He has a gentle soul and is an intelligent, observant young man. He lost both parents at a young age and went to live with his unemployed aunt and cousins, along with his brother.

Against a backdrop of poverty and tragedy, Mulugeta persisted with his education and in 2021, he graduated from Bahir Dar University. He plans to work and earn a living while pursuing a master's degree in geology.

Outcomes like this are the exception for a young person growing up in Mulugeta's circumstances. God is working through sponsors like you to turn stories and lives around and we are humble witnesses to His work.



Mulugeta Kebede

MEET AMANE



This young boy is gentle and kind. He has a caring servant's heart. Amane's mother passed away when he was just 6 months old. His father lives nearby, but not with Amane, and he does not help him. Amane's care is left to his aging grandmother, who provides for him with a meager pension. Amane helps his grandmother by sweeping the floor, washing dishes and making coffee.

Amane has never known a mother's love, and receives only a cold shoulder from his father. These are deep wounds for any child. Still, he has a wonderful heart and spirit and his future could be bright.

Can you help relieve the immense burden his grandmother lives with daily, as she struggles to keep Amane fed, clothed and protected? We know this story can end well, if someone like you will open their heart to Amane and his enormous potential.

YEAR OF KINDNESS - KEEP THE FIRES BURNING

In January, we introduced our "Year of Kindness" project. After the challenges of 2020, most of which continue to spill over into 2021, we are looking for small ways to add brightness and hope to the children's lives.

We offered an opportunity to surprise a family with a month of rent and it was a great success. Check out our YouTube channel to see videos of their reactions: <http://www.youtube.com/BlessingtheChildrenIntl>

This month, we want to keep the cooking fires burning at home. Our families depend on an open flame to prepare their meals. Charcoal is an essential part of this. For \$18 USD, you can provide a family with a large bag of charcoal to last them for many weeks of meals.

To get involved, make a One-Time Gift through our website and indicate that your gift is for charcoal: <https://www.blessingthechildren.org/donate.html>

Alternatively, mail a check with "charcoal" in the memo, or give us a call at (888) 269-2719. Be sure to follow along on our social media, where we will post updates about this heartwarming project:

<http://www.facebook.com/BlessingtheChildrenIntl>
<http://www.instagram.com/BlessingtheChildrenIntl>



Yordanos and her mother receiving rent funds

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Sponsorship of Amane

Provide monthly sponsorship for 10-year-old Amane Tesfaye to meet his needs and help him thrive.

Need: \$90/month
Raised: \$0
Remaining Need: \$90/month



July Food Support

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

Need: \$30/family
Raised: \$0
Remaining Need: \$1,200



Injera Business

Help a mother support her family with an injera-making business.

Need: \$250/mother
Raised: \$0
Remaining Need: \$2,750



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