

***I*llubabor *C*hildren *A*gape *RE*sponse**, Sponsored by the Ethiopian Partnership, Shenandoah Presbytery

Goals – provide education, health, life skills, faith skills to children who are without an adequate support system.

September 12, 2020

Dear iCARE Sponsors, Supporters, and Friends,

Greetings to you from our friends and the children at the Gore Home!

The Lord has given us all things to think about--and to do. First, now is the time of year for iCARE sponsorship monies to be sent to Presbytery or through your own church. I know this is a really tough time. Some folks here haven’t worked in 5-6 months.

Second, COVID-19 is in Ethiopia, too. This may be where Gore’s relative isolation works to their advantage. See Kes Ayana Hedu’s note later on. When you don’t own a car, you tend to stay put and isolate yourself. If you haven’t already, look up Gore, Ethiopia and see where it is located, way to the West in Ethiopia. Look here: <https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/ethiopia-political-map.htm>

Third, Gore is not quite on the Western border, but the next country to the West is South Sudan. Over the past several years, due to the unrest in Sudan, many refugees have come over the border into Ethiopia for safety. While these refugees are not physically at Gore, what this does is drive up the prices of agricultural commodities. Kes Ayana has sent a list of foodstuffs they use at the Home with comparative prices. Here are a few:

Teff (their grain) 1 quintal 2500 birr now costs 4000 birr

Onions 1 quintal 700 3600

Green peppers 1 Kg 25 140

Lentils 1 quintal 3000 6700

Beans 1 quintal 1500 4500

Shoes 1 pair 250 500

1 quintal = 100 Kg or 220 # 1 Ethiopian birr = $.028 USD

The Gore Home buys in bulk whenever it can, to save money. There are currently 53 children at the Home and Kes Ayana wants to add 10 more. With more children, the Home gains economies of scale in their buying power. There is no shortage of orphans in Ethiopia. Alas.

What to do? Pray for Ethiopia – that its political issues resolve into stability. (They’ve been praying for us ever since COVID hit) If you can keep up your sponsorship, by all means do so and now is the time to do that. If you cannot, give what you can. There are children on the other end of this effort. If you know of others who are interested please share this information. We pray for sponsors for these 10 new children to be able to come to the home.

Here is Kes Ayana’s last email of a few days ago:

*COVID19 infection is getting increase from time to time and trying to cover all regional states of our country. Till August 28/2020 in total 850,236 people are checked and 48,140 of them found positive of covid-19. 758 died 17415 recovered.*

*Both from Mettu & Gore town 90 people found positive, no death yet recorded. The infected people stay in health station in Mettu town. And part of Mettu university campus helps as the quarantine place.*

*Using face masks is a must for all people. People use hand wash and hand sanitizer outside of their home and social distancing.*

*Churches are trying to reopen using face masks and hand washing.*

*School registration is officially announced but not yet of exact date of class begins known.*

*Gore home needs face masks and hand sanitizer when students back to home. We already prepare our selves to welcome them at the beginning of school year.*

The Gore Home continues to turn out graduates who find good jobs and take their place in Ethiopia’s workforce. Two recent graduates are Habtamu Asmamaw Yehala, who completed Technical and Vocational Training Level Three to become an electrician, and Pawulos Jemalu Dureso who completed Technical and Vocational Training Level Four to become a Sanitary Engineer. Best wishes to these two young men!

A related milestone: This year, Africa is celebrating four years of no cases of wild polio in Africa. Working with WHO and other organizations including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary International has been working hard for many, many years to eradicate polio worldwide. Only Afghanistan and Pakistan still have endemic polio cases. This is quite an accomplishment!

Please call or write if you have questions, and thank you for your years of support! I hope we can continue to support the children at the Gore Home.

Lou Dolive 

iCARE Chair

PS: Please note on the check that your contribution is for *iCARE sponsorship*. If you are sending through your church, *please have the church treasurer make this notation*. Make checks to Shenandoah Presbytery. The coupon below may be used if you choose.

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School Year 2020–2021 Amount\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please mark your sponsorship contribution for *iCARE*. The **annual support amount is now $1050**. If you have budgeted to send less and can not increase at this time, please continue to sponsor as able. An additional **$50** may be added to be used in a Christmas pool for all the children. You may also contribute additional amounts for general use. As reported food costs have more than doubled, so the need is greatly increased.

Checks are sent directly to Presbytery **marked for *iCARE sponsorship***. Including your coupon helps us keep everything straight. A letter from presbytery will be sent for your tax records .

If you have already sent your support, thank you.

You are offering care and hope where it is desperately needed. Thank you !

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