

Helping Education Loretta Project

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Activity Report: September to December 2017

Dear Friends,

We wish you a very Happy New Year, Good Health and Peace! We hope you have begun the New Year well. Here is a report of HELP's activities in Ethiopia since September 2017.

Completed Classroom Constructions

- Shama Laka High School

Shama Laka village is located in the mountains, a 2 hours' drive above the town of Arba Minch, itself 500 kms south of Addis Ababa. It is a poor, remote, but breathtaking area. The people plant cabbage and potatoes, grow inset and cereals, raise sheep. In 2012, thanks to Cardinal Philanthropies, HELP began creating and furnishing a full high school for Shama Laka Primary School, so that students could continue their studies while living at home, instead of walking 3 hours to the nearest high school. We have now finished the third block (photo 1)!

- Dewara Tino Primary School

Dewara Tino village is in a beautiful agricultural area, with a variety of birds, livestock and fields of cereals and vegetables, 40 kms south of Addis Ababa. In 2016-2017, thanks to Cardinal Philanthropies, the Fondation du Grand Orient de France and a third donor, HELP built a second block of 4 classrooms and 2 small offices (photo 2).

- Galo Primary School

Galo Primary School is one and a half days' drive south of Addis Ababa, near the main road. There are a large cotton plantation and small villages nearby, in this very dry valley with never-ending plains. The people plant corn and raise goats and sheep. HELP has already built several classroom blocks in other locations for the district office. The need for a classroom block to replace the collapsing, wooden one here was crucial. HELP finished construction of a 4-classroom block in October 2017, and classes are in session (photos 3,4)!

- Zere Kofe Primary School

Zere Kofe Primary School is near the town of Jinka, almost a day's drive from Arba Minch. In February 2017 HELP completed a second 4-classroom block in order to open 5th grade. The class began in October 2017! A second section of grade 1 also began (photo 5)!

New Classroom Constructions

- Aleltu Primary School

From 2013-2015, thanks to Monaco Aide et Présence, HELP built 2 classroom blocks for Aleltu Primary School, a sprawling agricultural and livestock area, 50 kms north of Addis Ababa. The school lacks classrooms and the other existing ones are 55 years old, in very bad condition. Consequently, students study by shifts, only half a day. HELP has begun building a third block of 4 classrooms and a small staff room in cement blocks (photo 6). The Aleltu community is cooperative and we have a good contractor. The total cost, including supervision fees, is Euros 45,000. A lady donor has funded Euros 20,000; **would you like to contribute to this project for part or all of the balance?** Please contact us for more details.

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- Shama Laka Primary School

HELP has decided to begin building new classroom blocks in traditional materials for Shama Laka Primary School, very run down, located behind the high school. This year, thanks to Cardinal Philanthropies and a Propeller Club Port of Monaco member, HELP is building a laboratory/library block and a 4-classroom block in traditional materials (photo 7).

School Equipment

- Aleltu Kindergarten

In 2016, thanks to Cardinal Philanthropies, Monaco Aide et Présence, the Fondation du Grand Orient de France and a Propeller Club member, HELP built a 3-block kindergarten for Aleltu Primary School (2 blocks of 4 classrooms each and one administrative, 7-room block). Now we have donated 200 plastic student tables (photo 8), and tables, benches, shelves, chairs and lockers for the teachers.

- Shama Laka High School

In October 2017 HELP delivered 125 student desks to the school, made in Addis Ababa. In October HELP installed water in the school, connecting a pipe to a village tap 250 m. away. We then supplied a fiberglass water tank and erected a metal frame. This has enabled us to bring water to the school laboratory sink and to a student hand wash near the tank! We also recently donated more equipment lacking in the lab (photos 9,10,11).

Student Sponsorship

Since 2011, thanks to individuals and companies, HELP has been aiding needy students. This year we are sponsoring 73 students in all levels of schooling. We cover school fees, some clothes and shoes, some household expenses, tutoring and basic medical expenses, if needed. From time to time we send sponsors news and photos of their students. We find that student sponsorship keeps students in school, encourages them to study and relieves families of some worries.

Student lunches

Since 2011 HELP has been giving 200 student hot lunches daily in 2 Addis Ababa public schools (photo 12). We have 2 cooks who prepare and serve the lunches, clean afterwards. I buy the food and am often present. We do this so that the students are attentive for their afternoon classes.

Ethiopia is making great progress in the fields of education, health and infrastructure. It is a fascinating country to visit, with its hospitable people, rich culture, breathtaking scenery and pleasant climate most of the year (photo 13). Roads are constantly improving and all levels of accommodations can be found. Continental and traditional cuisines are available. I hope you will choose Ethiopia for one of your holidays in the near future!

THANK YOU for your donations, and for encouraging HELP in its activities, these are essential to us, **PLEASE** continue!