

SUMMER 2023 UPDATE

As we head into the summer, we want to update you and share some encouraging stories from Shining Lights Children's Home. This last week we set aside extra time to hear from Arero Abraham, the director, and are excited to share a summary of what he shared with us.

HARVEST OF TEFF

In our fall letter, we referenced the 2-acre garden located on the same property as the children's home, which, with good growing conditions, should produce two crops of teff (a staple in Ethiopia) each year. We shared how growing this crop will significantly benefit the children's home as food costs have risen in Ethiopia.

Although the first crop did not produce because of drought conditions, this morning, the director of the children's home was excited to share with us that the current teff crop is abundant! We are praising God! **The teff, which we anticipate to be enough for the children's home for the next year and a half**, will be processed by machine this week and placed into their food storage room. A community celebration will occur in a few weeks when the teff is fully processed. As is the custom in Ethiopia, local neighbors will be invited, food will be served, and prayers of thanksgiving and worship will be offered to the Lord!

Galatians 6: 9-10: "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."



FOUR MORE CHILDREN MOVE IN, AND ONE TEACHER HIRED



Also, in our last update, we shared that the Shining Lights Children's Home board of directors approved providing care for four more orphans. Four more children from nearby rural areas were selected and are now at the children's home. The children experienced some challenges at first adapting to a different environment, new daily routines, and new relationships. They continue to adjust but are more easily building relationships and are enjoying their new routines.

Three of the children were enrolled in school right away, but one of the girls, age 12, had never received any schooling and could not enroll. After sharing this information with us, we decided to send funds for Arero to hire a teacher (\$150 a month) to teach her at home from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm daily. **We are excited to report that she learns quickly and will start 2nd grade next year.** She will also continue to receive instruction throughout the summer and after school during the school year. In addition, the teacher has been coming from 3:00 to 5:00 pm to support the other 16 children with homework during the school year.

INCREASING THE GENERAL FUND AND EDUCATION FUND

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, please consider helping us increase our general fund and education fund. **Our first goal is to raise \$10,000 for the general fund** to continue to help provide quality, Christ-centered care to the 17 children and teens at Shining Lights Children's Home. **The second goal is to raise \$5,000 for the education fund.** Last year, we raised around \$4,200 for our education fund. Half of this was set aside for post-secondary schooling, and the other half was used for current school supplies, uniforms, and tuition. In addition, the money was used to hire the teacher now assisting at the children's home each day. **Like last year, money raised this year for the education fund will be split.** Half will be allocated for current education needs, and half will be designated to our post-secondary fund.

Please consider helping us raise \$10,000 for our general fund and \$5,000 for our education fund in one of two ways:

- By making a monthly, recurring donation to our general or education fund. Recurring donations can be set up on our website's donate page (see below).
- Making a one-time donation to either our general or education fund.

To designate a one-time or recurring donation to the education fund, please email shininglights@shininglightsministry.org. Donations will be assigned to the general fund unless noted otherwise.

Your support makes an invaluable difference!

Thank you for your prayers and support,

Bianna Nelson

Board Chair

Ways to Donate:

Online: www.shininglightsministry.org/donate

Mail: Shining Lights Ministry, 119 37th Ave E, West Fargo, ND 58078

Shining Lights Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; donations are tax-deductible.

