



# Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

"12 Years of Service to Underprivileged Children"

April 10, 2017

### Dear friends,

Recently we returned home from our Ethiopia trip. What a wonderful trip it was! We would like to share some of the highlights of the trip and what our Foundation is involved in there.



### BRENNNA'S HOPE - Ethiopia

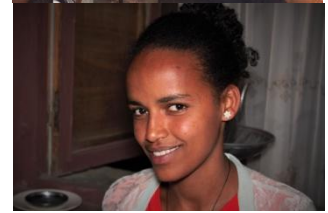
### High School Girls Program

We are presently supporting 30 high school girls to help them complete their high school education. Many girls in the province of Tigray must walk up to two hours each way to school. This is a challenge for them because the school is so far away and walking can be dangerous. Our support of \$25 per month per girl allows them to live near the school and focus on their education. This helps to prevent rape and early marriage which may lead to health issues, such as fistula. We visited one of the high schools and met with 12 of the girls we support and heard their stories. Many come from very poor families with multiple siblings and are from single parent families. Our support allows them to finish their education and continue on to college. These girls are very motivated and grateful for the support given to them. PLEASE let us know if you would like to help in this area. There are many others waiting for a sponsor to help (\$25 a month). Here we are visiting Mere-Meity High School and seven of the high school girls, along with Denes House. The high school principal, Hiwet, is also in the back row. The girls in this photo are new students for us this year. They were all very shy and soft-spoken, so it was a very interesting time together.



### Female University Students Program

Our second area of focus in Tigray is to provide support for girls for college. Our focus is on girls who are motivated, have a high grade point average, come from extreme poverty, and may be full or partial orphans. College is free if they pass the national entrance exam, but these girls need financial help for school supplies, monthly hygiene expenses, and travel to and from their homes. It costs \$20 a month per girl to provide the help they need. We have been supporting 38 girls for the last three years. During our trip we were able to meet with 11 of the students we support and hear about their progress. It was a pleasure to see how motivated they are and hear about their goals and aspirations for graduation. We hope to return in June, 2018 to attend the college graduation of the girls attending Mekelle University. We were able to provide each of the 38 college girls we support a flash drive (memory stick) which cost 5 dollars each. They were so happy to get their gift. Thank you to those of you who gave money for the flash drives. Pictured below are the eleven students we met from Mekelle University. Tadelech, in the photo with us is studying to be a veterinarian and has a perfect 4.0 average on her exams. The other student is Nigisti, majoring in chemical engineering.



There are many others who need support so if you are interested, it costs only \$20 per month to support a girl for her college education.

### Hospital Visits in Mekelle

While in Tigray, the northern part of Ethiopia, we had the opportunity to visit two hospitals. The first hospital we went to was the Mekelle Branch of the Hamlin Fistula Hospital. This hospital is for woman who have suffered from a condition known as fistula; a condition when the birth canal is ruptured during childbirth. It is common with women who give birth at an early age (common in Ethiopia if woman are not able to complete their education and therefore, are married off at an early age).

We were able to visit with several women post operatively as well as women waiting for surgery



to offer them comfort and support.



The second hospital was a large teaching hospital. The director of nursing gave us a tour of each unit. The hospital was just starting a homecare program and was very interested in speaking with Donna due to her extensive background in homecare nursing and Hospice.

Unfortunately, rape is common in Ethiopia. We also visited a new center, pictured here, which was just opened by Hope Community Services (our partner in Tigray) to house and provide counseling to those young woman who have been raped.



organization we had been working with on this



program decided not to continue, we are now planning the structure we will use to continue to provide needed support for these children as their mothers improve their lives.

### Central Ethiopia - "Adopt-a-Family"

Three years ago when Rich made his first trip to Ethiopia, he met a 10 year old girl in Debre Zeit named Beza. She made a real impression on him and we were determined to reconnect with her and her family. We were able to find her and visit her, her mother and three younger sisters. Her mother is a single, hard working parent who earns the equivalent of \$3.75 per day as a construction laborer. The five of them live in one room, with two beds, one electric outlet, and a small set of shelves. They are allowed to live rent-free in this room while the house is under construction. We bonded immediately with them and asked our contact there how we could best help out to improve their lives. It was told to us that by improving the education



of the children, we could help provide a better life for them long term. We decided as a foundation to "adopt" this family. We are asking if anyone wants to provide



"private schooling" for them, it would cost \$35/ month per child. At present, we have one of the four girls sponsored. Please let us know if you are interested. Together we can change the lives of a whole family! Here is a picture of all four girls with their mother.

### Central Ethiopia - Rehab Women and Children

The second part of our trip was visiting Addis Ababa and Debre Zeit in Central Ethiopia. We have had a small ministry in Debre Zeit where we provide education and



daycare support for children whose mothers have left prostitution and are in the process of rehabilitation. It costs just 30 dollars a month to provide care for one of



these children. It was a joy for us to meet some of the women and children in this program. While the

### Clothing Distribution

Thank you to all of you who donated children's clothing for the trip. What a blessing! We distributed it in a few different places. When we were in Debre Zeit, we asked our contact, Henok, to find the most needy families in



the area. Here are several pictures of the children receiving the clothing you donated!



### Ethiopian Trip Summary

We are excited about the opportunities we have had in the past three years to impact lives of children and teens in Ethiopia, even in a small way. We continue to move forward as we are led by God. We look for new opportunities that fit our model-impacting the lives of individuals that we have met, or have been specifically referred to us. Children and teens that we can connect with YOU, in a personal way. It's not always easy in a place like Ethiopia, where there are many challenges due to the remoteness of an area or lack of infrastructure. It's not always possible to visit every place where we sponsor students, but we do our best knowing that you understand and are willing to give us your trust to benefit "the least of these". We are fortunate to have great support and partners at Hope Community Services in Tigray. We are also grateful for the new relationships and support we have in Debre Zeit in Henok and Enat. They are providing valuable support and assistance as we move forward there.



### OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Please mark your calendar and JOIN US! This is a crucial event for our organization each year. We depend on the generous support of individuals like yourselves to provide for the children and young people that we serve. We have ambitious goals that we think are realistic, but we plan on continued support from our donor community and can only expand our work if new partners become engaged. We hope that you will help

spread the word about the worthiness of the causes we support.

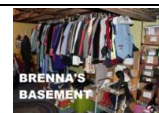
**Saturday, MAY 6, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
at the VASSAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE HOUSE  
161 College Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.**

We will provide coffee and dessert! We will have MANY WONDERFUL ITEMS for silent auction including Ukrainian and Ethiopian treasures, gift baskets, gift cards, a summer house rental in the Adirondacks, Renegades baseball tickets, and more. It will be casual and informal. Please consider stopping in, bidding on an item, and/or making a donation.

### Ukraine Summer Camp

Our Ukraine Summer Camp trip is scheduled to leave on Friday evening June 30. We will return to the US on July 13. We will be providing a week-long camp for 75-80 children. The cost will be \$95/child. This covers the entire expenses for a child to attend a sleep-away camp in two hours outside of the city - including three meals a day, activities, lodging and transportation. If you are interested in a "one-time" donation, please consider giving one or more of these needy children an "opportunity of a lifetime". You will receive a photo after camp of the child you sponsor. Thank you so much for considering this way in which to donate.

### Brenna's Basement - New York



We continue to provide clothing and small household items to needy families in the Mid-Hudson Valley. We receive referrals from more than 10 local agencies as well as word-of-mouth. Items in the basement are given away without charge. Thanks to Sue and Veronica, who faithfully volunteer to help, and to Gabriella, who gives up her time to pick up and drive people who do not have transportation.

### Some words about financial contributions...

**Hudson Valley FCU Members** If you don't like writing checks, you can do member-to-member transfers to the Brenna Engle Foundation. Contact us for more information and account details.

**PayPal Giving Fund** Donors who have a PayPal account or eBay sellers can donate through PayPal Giving Fund at no charge to donor or recipient. The Brenna Engle Foundation is an approved not-for-profit to benefit from this service. This service is available through our website.

**JustGive.org** Online donations can also be made from our website using the JustGive donation button. These donations carry a 4 1/2% service fee.

**Billpay** Many of our regular donors utilize a Billpay system through their financial institution for regular payments. If you are able to participate in such a program, we encourage you to do so. It eliminates the need to send out reminders.

**Automatic Transfer** If your financial institution provides you the opportunity to set up regular, automatic deductions and transfers, we can provide you with our routing and account number to set up regular transfers each month. Just ask us! It saves everyone from dealing with checks.

We have been blessed year after year with what we need, and this has allowed our work to grow and prosper. When we receive extra gifts, it enables us to think about expanding what we do. If you are in a position to provide significant resources, or are willing to include the Brenna Engle Foundation in your estate planning, please contact us.

**With love, Rich and Donna**



A special thanks to Thrivent Financial and to members that designate the Brenna Engle Foundation to receive Thrivent CHOICE Dollars.

All US donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be payable to "Brenna Engle Foundation" and sent to 3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Also on Facebook and YouTube:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Brenna-Engle-Foundation/101419966565747>

Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ah0gHE6eLM>

And our website [brennaenglefoundation.org](http://brennaenglefoundation.org)

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