



## ONE OF OUR MANY SUCCESS STORIES!

After their parents died, Abel Kefele and his sister cared for themselves, begging food from neighbors. They tried to go to school, but had trouble learning because they were often so hungry. In 2005, when Abel was 13, they came to Hope for Children seeking food and shelter, but also the opportunity to continue their educations.

Today, after scoring exceptionally well on the 12<sup>th</sup> grade national exam, Abel is attending the University of Addis Ababa. Upon receiving his exam results, he rushed to the Youth Center to thank the teachers for the English and computer classes and the many, many hours of help they provided.

We are in the business of helping students like Abel achieve their dreams. We hope you will join us.



## INVEST IN A CHILD'S FUTURE TODAY

For more information, please contact:

Carol Rhees, President  
Hope for Children US  
5801 Searl Terrace  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
301.467.7993  
crhees.hopeforchildrenus@gmail.com

## THE YOUTH CENTER AT HOPE FOR CHILDREN

Now in its fifth year, the Youth Center at Hope for Children has grown into a well established program that provides critical assistance to older youth as they prepare to make the transition from sponsorship to independence after the age of 18. More than 175 youth take advantage of its offerings after school, with attendance jumping to more than 300 in the summer break.

**English proficiency:** When the first English classes were offered in the summer of 2006, almost none of the youth spoke any English. This put the children at a serious disadvantage since the national exams are largely given in English. Today, all Youth Center students progress through multiple levels of English classes, all of the students are able to communicate in English and many have acquired real fluency.

**Computer skills:** Not surprisingly, kids love computer classes at the Youth Center where they progress from learning basic typing and computer skills essential for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to more advanced classes in programming and computer maintenance.

**Tutoring:** Regular tutoring sessions are offered for students, particularly as they prepare for the national exams.

**Academic performance:** Students must pass difficult national exams to continue their education. Since the Youth Center opened, academic performance has shown marked improvement, and many more students are qualifying for university or vocational programs.

**The Youth Center library:** The Youth Center library now has more than 2,000 books and is a popular place for students to read and study.

**Celebrating artistic success:** The art classes at the Youth Center are an important way for the youth to express themselves. In August 2011, the Center held its second art exhibit at the National Theater in Addis Ababa. Each young artist was filmed explaining his or her artwork, and the interviews and presentations were shown on Ethiopian television. The excitement among the youth was palpable, and all of the adults there were bursting with pride.

**“Let’s Talk About Sex”:** In addition to its regular class schedule, the Center serves as a forum for many different kinds of discussions among HFC youth. One of the most successful and innovative programs has been a multi-week course called “Let’s Talk About Sex.” While the course is offered to both boys and girls, it has been particularly empowering for HFC’s young women who traditionally have not been equal partners in relationships.



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**Thank you for your support!**