

# PARTNERS *with* ETHIOPIA

## Sponsorship Update



A fellow sponsor, Noel Weaver, traveled on our team. She said, "The moment that I met the

three children I sponsor, a piece of my heart melted into my soul. I saw exactly where my sponsorship money goes and without hesitation sponsored another child as soon as I got home. The support that these children receive from this sponsorship program is life changing. By supporting Partners With Ethiopia you are helping to change lives! Going on this trip has given me so much appreciation for what I have, and I am so proud to be a part of changing lives."

An exciting update to our sponsorship program is increased medical care. The children are now receiving annual preventative well-child exams by an Ethiopian physician. Also, each sponsored child now has an ID card which they can take to a local clinic to receive medical care as needed. The cost of that medical care is covered through the sponsorship funding.



## Ethiopia Trip 2019

In March, Ingrid Olson led a team to Ethiopia to visit the incredible programs and projects we support. It was a fantastic trip. Donors, our team saw firsthand how you are changing lives through your generosity!



Ingrid's biggest highlight from the trip was seeing our first development project completed. "Seeing the Shanto Library completely finished brought tears to my eyes. Words cannot express my deep gratitude to each and every donor. Your generosity will change so many lives in the decades to come. Thank you from the bottom of my heart." The library can seat 500 people and houses over 20,000 books. They are keeping daily statistics on the library's usage which will help evaluate the success of this development project in the years to come.



The librarians, Tigist and Petros, said the library is well used.





The team agreed that a highlight of the trip was meeting the sweet women in Shanto who have been impacted by the Women's Empowerment Program. The program gives marginalized women an opportunity to receive business and financial training along with the capital to start a small business which works in their local economy. Most of these women are widows who have struggled with extreme poverty; at times unable to feed their own children. Their joy, exuberance, and stories of success were a powerful testimony of the impact your donations are having in Ethiopia.



In April we added Nicole Sheldon and Erin Hobson to our Board of Directors. They both come to us with years of experience and expertise. Erin has six years of international finance and compliance audit experience and is our new treasurer. Erin recently traveled to Ethiopia with our team. Erin said, *"It was*

*amazing to see firsthand the positive impact on so many lives. I met the accountant at the home office of our partner, SHAPEthiopia, and reviewed their procedures. After seeing the programs, projects, and accounting system with my own eyes I can say with confidence that SHAPEthiopia is a good steward of the funds entrusted to them."*

Martha, from Minnesota, along with Ingrid Olson, did home visits in the city of Hawassa. The goal was to learn more about the challenges women face each day. This sweet mom, also named Martha, is a widow who moved to the city from the rural countryside in hopes of finding better opportunity. She struggles to pay the \$10 USD rent of her one-room mud hut. We are continuing to raise funding to bring more women like this sweet mom into the Women's Empowerment Program. To donate anytime go to [www.give2pwe.org](http://www.give2pwe.org) or mail a check to the address below.



**May 2019**