

# ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



*Captions with pictures Asmayt Zeru EDF member from Louisville KY. (ABSB- Asmara, Eritrea)*

## ABRAHA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

*The Eritrean Development Foundation recently visited The Abraha Bahta School for the Blind. Below is a trip summary to the site by one of our EDF members.*

Commuting Asmara's streets is an unforgettable experience. Crowded, tiny, yellow taxis whizzing about while seeing Asmara's amazing architecture is unforgettable. In spite of the city's beautiful architecture my most memorable experiences was my destination to a spacious campus behind a large compound called the Abraham Bahta School for the Blind (ABSB).

I was welcomed by the sounds of youngsters; children laughing and talking as they were changing classes. Their joy was just infectious, bringing a smile and lightness to my heart. The students ages ranged from preschool to high school. The ABSB has been around for years and there is a long history of producing quality graduates who go on to be productive members of the Eritrean society. There is always an endless need for many supplies at such a large school. Needed supplies include braille paper, styluses, and a new digital reproductive printer as well as books to supplement and replace the older books in the library. In particular, the Braille books are sorely needed.

One of EDF's missions is to support education in Eritrea, in particular, for those in need. By supporting the children of the ABSB, it is hoped that the legacy of this school will continue in preparing children to be a part of the Eritrean society.

## UPDATES



By Dr. Fee Fickak Habtes, DPA., MHSA., MPH

Last year visiting Eritrea was filled with uncertainty due to the spread of the unexpected COVID-19 virus. I entered Eritrea just one day before its borders were closed by air, land, and sea. The necessary restrictions with quarantine and lack of activities and local businesses except few stores made life challenging for all the citizens. For me closing the government offices to do EDF business was challenging, however, I tried to manage to visit most of them and present my agenda.

I addressed our past project, the Kerkebet's Maternity Home with distinguished leaders involved in health care. I had a plan to visit the school but unfortunately due to COVID-19 I was unable to visit them in person but have been in contact with individuals regarding the work that is being done there. We will continue to be updated on the progress of the Maternity home and be involved in any assistance they may need.

I also met with a distinguished gentleman in the HEGDEF office and spoke about the E-reader project and how to transfer the Canada based fund for the E-readers. We are in the process of transferring equipment and the money. During my visit I was involved in an interview and information gathering for the 50 years anniversary of Ona (near Keren) massacre and a book will be published soon.

# MEET DELLINA

*Now hear the story of one of the phenomenal children that we are supporting named Dellina.*

Let us introduce Dellina, one of the amazing students of Abraha Bahta School for the Blind. When this picture was taken, Dellina was 7 years old and had just finished her final Exams for 1st grade in which she scored 95, 98, 100, 99, and 100 in five of her subjects. Dellina has been in Abraha Bahta School for the Blind since the age of 5. Her mother had health complications that caused Dellina to lose her eyesight at birth, and later her mother died right after she enrolled her in Abraha Bahta School. Dellina experienced many hardships in her life and has been left to the care of her family members and older half-brother, who looks after her during summer breaks. She is one of the many bright students I met. Her aspiration to continue her education to higher degree with marking higher scores is phenomenal, and I know she will achieve it despite all the odds she has faced at an early age. She is an inspiration to us all and we know that she is going to grow up and accomplish great things.

Dellina is just one of the many inspiring students at Abraha Bahta School for the Blind that we are honored to be able to support in her future endeavors.

*If you would like to help us with our efforts to support these children please donate to the Eritrean Development Foundation below.*



*Abraham director for ABSB with student Dellina*

### ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION MISSION

The Eritrean Development Foundation's mission is to work in partnership with grassroots nongovernmental organizations, community groups, and other local institutions engaged in education, health care, and agricultural development in Eritrea to build a productive and self-reliant Eritrea.

WE CAN ONLY MAKE PROGRESS TO THAT MISSION WITH THE HELP OF OUR DONORS. TO BECOME A DONOR TO THE ERITREAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION SUBMIT THE FORM BELOW OR GO TO [EDFONLINE.ORG/DONATE](http://EDFONLINE.ORG/DONATE)



EDF DONATION FORM

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