

Dear Supporters, as the nights start drawing in and the summer warmth starts to fade, a New Year is beginning in Ethiopia. 11th September marks the beginning of the Ethiopian Calendar, and is traditionally celebrated by exchanging bunches of flowers, although many Ethiopians in urban areas now tend to opt for cards and gifts. Our beneficiaries are returning to school, resplendent in their new school uniforms. Meanwhile in the UK office we are busy preparing for Christmas with the launch of our new Gift Catalogue.

New School Uniforms and Books!

2010 is the first year that The Kindu Trust has provided School Uniforms and School Books for all of our sponsored children. In addition, we are very happy that we have been able to provide uniforms and books for children in Gondar who do not have a sponsor – thanks to money we raised through sales of this product in our Gift Catalogue last year. Nikole Allen, a Peace Corps volunteer helping out in the Gondar office, sent us this report.



Beneficiaries waiting to give their details to our staff

Lack of school materials and uniforms is a common reason for children dropping out of school in Ethiopia. Although school uniforms are required, children are not prevented from attending school without a uniform but may be stigmatised and have reduced self confidence causing undue stress. This year, Kindu Trust is providing all beneficiaries with school supplies and school uniforms. Each student will receive one new uniform, pens and 5 to 10 notebooks according to their grade. For our beneficiaries, this will be an opportunity for them to attend school in uniform with proper school supplies, like other school children.

Providing uniforms is a challenge in both coordination and information gathering. Uniforms vary by style, colour, and fabric quality, based on school and grade. In Gondar, there are more than 20 kindergartens, 54 primary schools, and 10 secondary schools. Generally, the uniforms are dresses for girls, which are worn over other clothes, and trousers and shirts for boys. Private schools have ready-made uniforms, such as brightly coloured sweaters, and these are purchased directly from the schools. When preparing

uniforms, The Kindu Trust had to verify the school and grade of each beneficiary, obtain the uniform criteria from each school, and record each child's height before giving the order to the tailor.

Uniform distribution is also dependent on national exams. Each year, grades 8 and 10 must pass a national exam to continuing learning in the government schools. Results from these exams are released at different times around the country and staff at The Kindu Trust office had to wait to hear the results for our beneficiaries before the uniforms could be fitted.

Uniform and school supply distribution is an important step for The Kindu Trust to make our care and support services more comprehensive and holistic. With your help The Kindu Trust is able to offer this program and others for beneficiaries each year.



One of our beneficiaries being measured for a uniform by the tailor



Kate Fereday Eshete

Honorary President's message from Ethiopia

The long *kiremt* rains are drawing to an end. This year's rains were heavier than normal, damaging crops and buildings, flooding rivers and washing away bridges. In one week, 19 people died in rivers in the Amhara State and an important bridge north of the state capital, Bahir Dar, collapsed, cutting Gondar off. North of Gondar, the main road to Aksum was blocked for days when a great tree fell across it.

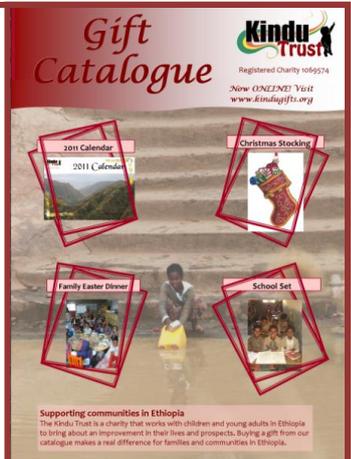
The majority of Ethiopians continue to struggle in their daily lives. There is optimism as the newly-elected government, with 99.6% of the 547 seats, prepares to start work in October, and inflation is now down to single figures, but life remains hard. A ream of white paper for the Kindu office that cost 33 birr two years ago now costs 78 birr. The worst hit by the price increases are the poor, whose incomes are slow to catch up with the effects of high inflation. We still have many vulnerable families needing sponsors, so please be proactive about promoting the Kindu Trust so that we can help them.

On 11 September, Ethiopians celebrated their New Year. Soon the rains will stop and the countryside will turn yellow with Meskel daisies, and children will return to school for the 2010-11 (2003, according to the Ethiopian calendar) academic year. Help us to make 2003 a brighter year for those families waiting for a sponsor.

2010 Gift Catalogue

2009 saw our first ever launch of a Gift Catalogue and it was so successful that we are continuing it again this year and have even added more products for a wider selection! The Gift Catalogue is also now ONLINE and can be accessed at www.kindugifts.org. This year we are also producing our very own Kindu Trust Calendar, featuring highlights from Ethiopian scenery, history and culture as well as featuring some of our beneficiaries. With all of the profits from the £8 cost going to The Kindu Trust, the calendar makes an ideal Christmas present. It will be sent out from the middle of November, so get your orders in now!

Can YOU help us? We would like to distribute our Gift Catalogue to as many people as possible this year. If you would like extra Catalogues to distribute among friends, family and work colleagues please drop us a note and we will send you more!



Real Way Down

'Patchwork World' was founded by John Anthony Sarson and his son, Matthew Sarson, in December 2009, with stated objectives of encouraging greater inter-charity cooperation, in a bid to increase the efficiency and transparency of the non-for-profit sector. They hope to achieve the 'Patchwork World' vision in a number of ways. Firstly, they aim to create an online social networking site specifically for the charity sector and ethical work. Secondly, is the organisation, and carrying out of innovative projects, to act as both a catalyst for co-operation, and as a way of attracting a wider demographic of people to the non-for-profit sector. The first project that 'Patchwork World' is set to embark upon is the 'Real Way Down'

Due to begin on 1st February 2011, the 'Real Way Down' is a journey by road from London to Cape Town. Beginning at London youth homeless charity 'Centrepoin't', the team will visit a charity project in each of the 22 countries they visit en route to South Africa. There is a diverse range of projects confirmed, including visiting **The Kindu Trust** on their way through Ethiopia. They will remain at each project for 3 to 4 nights, and will film a research documentary about the work each project does, how they do it, what issues they face, and how they hope to overcome them.

The objective of 'Real Way Down' is to promote the work of the 22 partner charities, and attract future support to their work. A second objective is to link the charities, to each other and to partner schools in the UK who will be supporting a patch (country) of the route, to encourage greater cooperation in the future. The team will also be taking a minimum donation of £250 to each of the charities they visit.

The film will be released as a series of documentaries on the 'Community Channel', and also as a featured show on their website. The Real Way Down team will be working in cooperation with 'True Tube', who will be showcasing the film on their site where there is a strong focus on schools. In addition, Centrepoin't will form a mock news team with some of their youths, who will follow the progress of the project along the way.

The Kindu Trust is proud to be working with Patchwork World and Real Way Down project, and we are looking forward to the team's visit to Gondar in April 2011. You can find out more about the 'Real Way Down' project at www.realwaydown.com.

Can you help us?

Do you know anyone who can sponsor a child? The Kindu Trust supports almost 300 families in Ethiopia, but we want to do more! We have a number of children still on our waiting list for sponsors and it only costs £16 a month – the cost of 2 cinema tickets – to change their life! Please talk to your friends and family and ask them to email or write to us for more information. THANK YOU!



Raise money by shopping!



Don't forget to register with Gift to Charity in time for your Christmas shopping! Gift to Charity has negotiated with a large number of well known retailers to provide a percentage of money spent with them as cashback. Retailers include Tesco, Superdrug, Marks & Spencer, Next, The Body Shop and Play.com. Half of all cashback earned will be given to the charity of your choice (please choose us!), and half will be returned to you, so it's a win-win situation!

Visit www.gifttocharity.com or phone 0800 085 3399 for more details.