

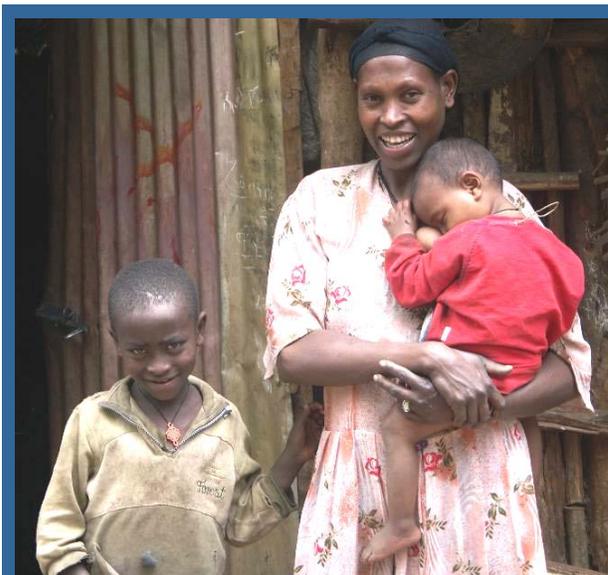
# The Kindu Trust Newsletter

Autumn 2008 news update

## Hello to all our supporters

It has been a busy time since our last mailing, in the UK and in Ethiopia. We, as new(ish!) trustees of the Kindu Trust, have been delighted to deepen our involvement with Ethiopia and build relationships with our sponsors.

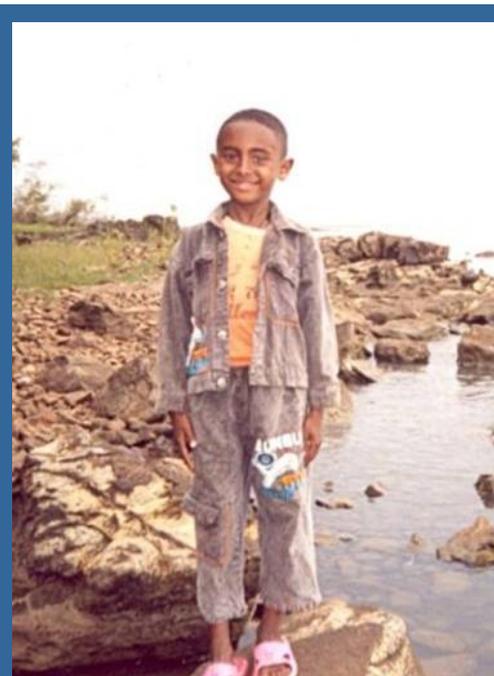
Three out of four of the team (Brian, Caroline and Matt) have been to Ethiopia and were immediately hooked by its breathtaking scenery, fascinating culture and welcoming people. Seeing first hand the fantastic work that the Kindu Trust does, they were so impressed that they became trustees. Matt's job takes him to Gondar, in northern Ethiopia, twice a year. This ongoing contact means we have regular feedback on the realities and challenges our sponsored families and the team based at the Tara Centre in Gondar face. Our fourth trustee, Tom, uses his skills and experience to develop our finance and ensure transparency. We all support improving opportunities for young children and the very poor in Ethiopia.



Girmachew Abebe, one of our sponsored children, and his family in Gondar, northern Ethiopia

## From Ethiopia: supporting Tesfahun Asnakew

Tesfahun's parents were both beggars in Gondar. His father has chronic TB which prevented him from doing much work.



Tesfahun Asnakew on a school outing to Lake Tana in northern Ethiopia

Tesfahun himself has had chronic malaria, which was never treated, and he was malnourished. Living in an area where illnesses spread very easily, and hygiene was poor, the family was often ill.

After Tesfahun became sponsored via the Kindu Trust, his mother stopped begging and started to make a living. She now spins cotton at their home, and has been given a job cleaning a newly established public latrine, which brings her a monthly salary of 150 birr (about £8). (The family is one of the many who have benefitted from the public latrine, which had previously been funded by the Trust.) His mother is therefore less vulnerable as she is not spending her days on the streets, and she can care for her family better with her improved income, from the

sponsorship and her salary. Her husband will be better fed, which will help improve his health.

Tesfahun has just completed his first year at Empress Mentewab School, a private, non-profit, school which is providing him with a quality education. It has a uniquely small class, with only 24 pupils, as opposed to the 40+ that is normal for private schools and 60+ normal for state schools. He has had a good teacher and has learned Amharic, English and maths as well as creative arts, hygiene and care of the environment. A key benefit of his attendance at Empress Mentewab is the care for his physical well-being: he is well-fed, his body weight and height is monitored and he is taught hygienic practices.

## The Kindu Trust

*Supporting families  
in Ethiopia*

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## Increasing food prices

You may have read about the escalating food costs that are affecting many in Ethiopia. Some areas of the country, particularly in rural regions, have been experiencing extreme food shortages as a result of drought and poor harvests. While our sponsored families generally live in more urban areas, they are some of the poorest in their communities and are struggling with the steep rise in food and general living costs.

The BBC's Gavin Hewitt recently reported from Ethiopia that the prices of basics such as maize, barley, lentils and beans had doubled in just five months. Local market traders find it

very difficult to sell their produce because people cannot afford the price. The price of tef, Ethiopia's most important grain, had trebled.

"The grain has never been so expensive," said Idris Mohammed, one of the traders. "It has never reached this level before."

To our sponsors, thank you for your ongoing support which is so very much appreciated by the children you help.

If you would like to contribute to our ongoing work with these children, or if you feel able to increase your sponsorship donations, please email Matt at kindu@ethionet.et.

## Miriam Howe: volunteering in Ethiopia

Miriam is working as a volunteer with Kate Fereday Eshete, the Kindu Trust founder, at the Tara Centre. She has been visiting the homes of the beneficiary families in Gondar and checking on their health and school life. She has also been working with the school children (pictured) on English drama, acting out the history of Ethiopia.

"Visiting the homes of beneficiaries with the excellent social workers has enabled

me to see the very real poverty that people are living in, and how as communities and individuals they survive. It is very humbling to witness, and also shows the value of sponsorship, which often forms the bulk of their income. I don't know how some of the families would survive without it. Finding ways to help and contribute, even in a small way, is very rewarding for volunteers like me."

## New address

We have recently moved to Shepherd's Bush, in west London, and now have space for volunteers to assist with administration, fundraising and correspondence. Our new address is above.

## Appeal!

Are you upgrading your computer? We are looking for two computers in good working order for our office.

## Calling supporters!

Why not make the Kindu Trust your chosen charity at your next pub quiz, jumble sale or marathon.



Miriam volunteering at the Tara Centre

## Web development

We are in the process of creating a new home for the Kindu Trust on the internet.

You will continue to find us at [www.kindustrust.org](http://www.kindustrust.org).

In the meantime, best wishes from the Kindu Trust.