

The Kindu Trust

December 2008 news

Seasons Greetings to all our supporters!

On a recent visit to Ethiopia, Kindu Trust trustee Matt Stockdale spent time with our partner in the town of Gondar. This proved to be a highly successful trip, and Matt saw important developments which will enable us to improve our supporter-beneficiary relationships.

We are pleased to enclose the latest newsletter from our partner, the Tara Centre. Here you can read about some of the work we support, and also other projects that the Tara Centre coordinates (funded by other donors). Having grown steadily over the last few years, the Centre is buzzing!

We need your email address, if you have one, and haven't given it to us! Email it to kindu@kindustrust.org so we can reduce paper and costs. Thank you!



Lunchtime at Empress Mentewab School



Sponsorship update

While Matt was in Gondar, we were able to support a reorganisation of the sponsorship team, which has already improved feedback to sponsors. We have been acutely aware that some of you have patiently waited for communication from your sponsored family for a long time. The good news is that the recent reorganisation in Gondar has led to a big increase in sponsor communication from Ethiopia – roughly the same number of mailings were sent from Gondar in November as were sent in the ten months prior to that. We are hugely grateful for the hard work and dedication of our friends and colleagues in Ethiopia. A big thank you to Birhane, Fante, Marta, Kassahun (pictured top left) and Wubit and Marcy (pictured far left). And for the tireless coordination of Kate Fereday Eshete (pictured left with one of our beneficiaries).

And most of all, thank you to you, for your commitment to reducing poverty in Ethiopia, and for your generosity.

Matt Stockdale, Brian Hamilton, Caroline Sherrard, Tom Caldwell
Trustees



Empress Mentewab School

Kate, and the Tara Centre, started this school with one class only a year ago and already it has 64 pupils. As all the students are beneficiaries of the sponsorship in the community programme, we are very excited about this development. We are looking forward to the day when we have the funds to educate all our beneficiaries at the Empress Mentewab School, which provides a much wider and in-depth curriculum than state schools. It also provides lunch, not normally provided by a school, to ensure pupils receive at least one good meal a day.

Currency fluctuations

Currency fluctuations have devalued your contribution by nearly a quarter since April 2008. So, for every £1 you donate we now get roughly 14 Birr, compared with 18-19 Birr earlier in the year.

With every penny counting and your donation going to the sponsorship programme, this is clearly a concern for us.

And, as if this isn't enough, inflation in Ethiopia has dramatically increased recently, with some basic food items doubling in price.

It's Christmas time!

It won't be Christmas in Ethiopia on 25th December! Ethiopians use the Julian calendar and celebrate Christmas on 7th January 2009.

So, there is still time to send Christmas cards and gifts to Ethiopia. See www.kindustrust.org for suggestions on what to send direct to the Tara Centre, PO Box 1500, Gondar, Ethiopia.

And if you're still wondering what to buy friends and family here, look at the enclosed brochure from Link Ethiopia, with original ideas which contribute directly to Ethiopian communities. Specifically, the chicken project, clean Gondar, complete school pack, school uniform and bag all fund Kate's work directly. As do the school dinners, which can be found at www.giftethiopia.org under 'Schooling'.

Call to action: How can you help?

- Could you help with the current economic situation by increasing your sponsorship donation? Your support has never been more needed.
- Do you know anyone who could sponsor a child? We have a number of children on the waiting list who we want to support.
- Can you help the Empress Mentewab School, which is funded entirely from donations, to educate our beneficiaries?