



SEASON'S GREETINGS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

#BigThingsToCome2017

Dear Friends,

Happy holidays!

As this year comes to a close, there is a lot to share and celebrate!

In October, Ethiopia Reads was recognized as an Honoree at the Library of Congress Literacy Awards in Washington, D.C.

This was an amazing honor and acknowledgement of *our ability to make a real difference* as a literacy organization in Ethiopia.

The most effective literacy campaign works across a broad front, and we've been very successful diversifying our methods and programs. With nearly two decades of experience, ER has developed an array of literacy-centered activities and services.

This is a testament to the power of our donors and to your support – thanks to you!

We own and operate libraries like the Hawassa Reading Center, which serves hundreds of children daily. We provide books and learning programs to remote rural villages where hundreds of children gather under trees to hear stories and hold books. We own primary schools like the Kololo School, located in a tiny village in the south that serves 250 children without another option for miles.

Take Tesfahun, an 11-year-old boy who lives with his family of ten in a two-room hut in the village. The Kololo School has certainly made a difference in his life! His father is a farmer who supports the family on \$100 per year. Before he enrolled at Kololo, Tesfahun tended his father's goats, collected fire wood, and fetched water. While he doesn't receive much help with schoolwork at home, Tesfahun comes to school each day eager to learn and wants more than anything to succeed – he dreams of becoming president one day when he grows up!

Big dreams are possible when young readers are inspired by big ideas – big ideas that blossom with literacy. Across Ethiopia, our organization hears thousands of stories like these each year. This *culture of reading* is what you make possible, and it spreads and blooms with your continued support.



As we start another year, we're already excited about the new stories to come and dreams to chase.

Thanks to you we've gotten this far, but there's still work to be done! Ethiopia Reads looks forward to new opportunities in 2017, with exciting partnerships and projects in the works. So stay tuned!

Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.

Laura Bush, Former First Lady of the United States

With your support, we can continue the incredible work that we're doing on the ground across Ethiopia.

Please consider giving a tax-deductible end of the year gift to Ethiopia Reads today!

Mail isn't the only way, you can contribute online at www.ethiopiareads.org/donate.

Thanks for such an amazing year; we can't wait to see what this next one has in store for us!

To receive updates just like this, visit our website and sign up for our newsletter.

Have a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!

- Ethiopia Reads U.S. Staff
Dana Roskey, Krister Karlsson, Kristina Berg, & Scott Wolf

Post Office Box 581302
Minneapolis, MN 55458
612.354.2184



EthiopiaReads.org



LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS
LITERACY AWARDS



2016

BEST PRACTICE HONOREE

Since 2013, the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program has recognized 60 organizations worldwide for their effectiveness in promoting literacy.

Through the generosity of David M. Rubenstein, the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program furthers this mission by encouraging the continued development of innovative methods for promoting literacy and the wide dissemination of the most effective practices.



“Thomas Jefferson, the Library of Congress’s spiritual founder, wrote of the pursuit of happiness. I like to think that literacy is fundamental to that pursuit. So many doors are closed to those who cannot read. Everyone in this world has a right to happiness and with that comes the right to read.”

Carla Hayden
Librarian of Congress



Pictured: Krister Karlsson and Pam Jackson, Director of The Center for the Book