

Positive Action Charitable Organisation



Dear donors and supporters,

We are back to describe you the months of July, August and September 2016 at Yawenta Children's Center in Shashamane.

After the Report Card Day which marked the end of the school year, we closed the school for a week for a major cleaning and reorganization of our services for the rainy season. Indeed, while other schools across the country are closed, our project remains open to beneficiaries during the months of July and August, since the majority of them depend on our support and our daily follow-up for their survival and well-being. Their number however is somewhat reduced because some families keep their children at home or take them to other regions for the holidays. Teachers also take their leave one month or the other, while their colleagues look after their students. To compensate for the lack of human resources, we call on university students to volunteer and provide educational support to children. This year, Misgana came to teach the principles of physics and visual art; Desta gave courses in English and mathematics; Fisseha and Demere organized debates and discussions with the adolescents; Fitsum proposed yoga and gardening sessions with older children. Yawenta becomes a summer school and offers children a variety of activities: more aesthetics, sports, movies, gardening etc. This summer, we had many nice collective dancing sessions with our teenagers as DJs!

Bekele, the psychologist, organized relaxation and meditation sessions which were very beneficial to the children. He also taught them collective games to improve their self-esteem and strengthen their ties.



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These two months of the rainy season also scored their share of visitors: our trainee Sonia spent her last days at the center with her sister Malika, a physics teacher who made electricity experiments with the bigger children; Pierre was still there to take care of the garden as he had been doing for the previous three months. In August came Corinne, the president of the Yawenta France team. Like last year, her luggage was full of items for the project and she gave a hand in the preparations for the new academic year.



Finally, Pascal relayed Pierre and Corinne in the garden after they left. On July 25th, we were honoured by the visit of Ras Kawintseb, a local guitarist and singer who had been very present at the beginnings of Yawenta Children's Center project, years ago. This time, he was accompanied by David

Aarons who played steel pan, an amazing musical instrument from Trinidad and Tobago. We had a fascinating private concert in the morning that moved both the children and staff. Again, we are very grateful to all those who gave some of their time to the project, each one with his or her special talent helped to ensure the well-being of our children.

These last months, the case of one of our beneficiaries in particular caught our attention. Freyhiwot is a pretty young girl of 14 who has been among us for more than five years. Shy and quiet, she lives alone with her father Getachew – who is deaf - in a small house downtown. Getachew's health has deteriorated since the beginning of 2016 and in June Freyhiwot began to miss class and no longer attended the center. Our psychologist and our social worker went to visit the father and discovered a very gloomy situation. He refused any treatment, and forced his daughter to go begging for money, cigarettes and khat for him, thus preventing her from going to school. Affected by the distress of this father and daughter, our employees clubbed together to bring them help. In August, a team was formed to thoroughly clean the house, and bathe Getachew who had not showered in months. He however refused to go to a doctor the next day, and Freyhiwot continued to miss Yawenta's activities. She herself begged us to take her out of this hell; being the victim of her father's verbal abuse and forced to witness alone the slow death of her father. When coming to Yawenta she could at least find her friends, keep busy with various activities and get love and attention from our team. At the end of September, after school started, Freyhiwot was still absent so we went back to her home. Her father had become incontinent and the house was in the same condition as we had found it in two months earlier. This time, we decided to warn the local authorities, because Freyhiwot's health and future were directly involved and we could not continue to monitor the situation alone. The ladies from the Women and Children's

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Affairs Office and local district were shocked to hear the story and gave their approval for us to do our utmost to ensure the safety and education of Freyhiwot. The next morning, Bekele and I went to bathe Getachew again and took him to hospital where he was finally admitted in the emergency room through lack of available beds. Although initially consenting, he began to ask us to bring him back home in the late afternoon. The next morning, we found him a bed, a blood transfusion and purchased various treatments that were prescribed with the money that the employees had gathered, yet he categorically refused the drip and became aggressive with everyone. Reluctantly, we made him sign a discharge and had to drive him back home without administering his treatment. Freyhiwot went to stay with some extended family who promised to care for her. Unfortunately, the next day, the neighbours reached there and forced her to return to her father, in the name of family obligations. In a society where social services are extremely limited, responsibility rests primarily on family members, whatever their age and condition may be. Deadlocked Freyhiwot continues to be torn between her duty to her father and her need to flourish away from these difficulties. As for us, we are monitoring her attendance and go to her anytime she's missing. The experience was difficult for our team which undertook much more than it is expected to do and eventually faced a failure.



On August, 26th, the school closed for three weeks of renovation and school reopening preparations. We are very grateful to the members of the local Rastafarian community who freely helped in the repairs and gardening works: Ras Joseph, Ras Kassa, Daniel, Judah. Our owner Dawit invested a lot to rebuild the fence and cut a huge eucalyptus tree which threatened to fall. We also welcomed among us a new teacher who will take care of Grade 1 this year, Miss Seble. She was introduced to our educational principles and the use of Montessori materials. We spent these days of preparation in a nice atmosphere, and were ready to welcome our students on September 19th, after Ethiopian New Year celebrations.



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The school began with a team more cohesive and dynamic than before; our many discussions on our strategies and principles strengthened the commitment of each and everyone towards the project and we are already feeling its effects on the quality of our services. With the start of the school year corresponded the registration of new beneficiaries who have joined kindergarten: Tesfanesh, Eftu, Rebira, Nadiro, Ashenafi, Reyad, Edelawit, Daniel, needy children referred to us by the local child protection government offices. We hope that this Ethiopian year 2009 will be full of success and achievement for Yawenta Children's Center. Thank you for your valuable support that allows us to see the fruits of our efforts and continue to sow seeds of hope.

During the months of July, August and September 2016, we fundraised **226,869.09 ETB** (approximately 10,300 US\$), while our total expenditure were **364,165.54 ETB** (approximately 16,500 US\$), distributed as specified in the table below. Our lack of resources has forced us to postpone the purchase of certain equipment and furniture to prioritize the necessities which are food, transport for children and staff salaries. Now that the school start is over, the administrative team is dedicated to fundraising and hope to finish the year 2016 with a greater income. As you know, the success of our work so far depends only on private donations and your support is so essential to us: we thank all those who contribute to our work and hope to continue our partnership for Yawenta children.

Yours truly,

Berenice Morizeau

Project Coordinator

Yawenta Children's Center

Shashamane, October 20th, 2016.

Positive Action charitable Organisation



Nr	Budget Category	Amount
1	Yearly rent for project site	85,533.43
2	Transportation for children	20,510.00
3	Teaching materials	11,883.39
4	Private school fees for 4 children	1,295.00
5	School trip	1,047.17
6	Counselor Expenditures	375.00
7	Transport for medical treatment	906.00
8	Medication and Treatment	3,994.46
9	Meal Allowances	204.00
10	Foodstuff	49,980.25
11	Cooking fuel	3,090.00
12	Gardening tools	25.00
13	Hygiene Articles	2,909.00
14	Cleaning utensils and detergents	2,810.00
15	School slippers	2,208.00
16	Uniforms	5,912.00
17	Sport Outfits	4,183.99
18	Office equipment	325.00
19	Bills	1,312.76
20	Internet	1,200.00
21	Mobile Allowance	50.00
22	Transport for purchaser	1,385.50
23	Transport for administrative staff	311.50
24	Perdiem for administrative works in A.Ababa	900.00
25	Stationnery	1,912.16
26	Legal and bank fees	81.86
27	Postal fees	48.00
28	Maintenance and Repairs	1,230.00
29	Yearly renovation of project site	3,644.36
30	Staff Salaries	154,897.71
	TOTAL	364,165.54