



Breaking News from JDC-Ethiopia: Next week 11 kids are leaving for Cochin, SW India for heart surgery by Dr. Krishna Kumar's team. We still really need contributions, ranging from small gifts to full sponsorships of about \$6000 per patient. The urgency of this is shown by the fact that when we called patients to inform them they could go abroad, 2 had died since we last saw them. Please give our group a chance for a normal life.

Tax-deductible donations to JDC's heart project at: www.RickHodes.org

CONTACT us at: EthiopianHearts@gmail.com

Thank you!

Dr. Rick and the JDC-Ethiopia heart team



ABUTI



ADINA



ARSEMA



EDILE



HIKMA

Abuti is a 16 year old boy who lives with 9 other family members in a mud house in Ambo, outside Addis. The house has a light bulb, but the latrine, 15 feet away, does not. His family lives on less than \$1 per day. Abuti is sad that he has never been able to attend school, due to his damaged heart, and though he loves soccer, he cannot play. Because his social interactions are limited, his best friend is his brother. A visiting team operated on Abuti to repair his mitral valve, but his condition worsened after 5 months when the valve "restenosed." Now, Abuti is always out of breath and feels as though he is "being stabbed". He must take frequent breaks, even when walking to the latrine. His dad died last year from heart disease, which also depresses Abuti. When he grows up, he wants to be a doctor so he can help other children with heart problems.

Adina is a 25 year old woman from Wello in northern Ethiopia. She lives with her father, a farmer; her mother is not alive. Her house has no electricity and she must walk 70 feet to a shared community latrine. After completing 5th grade, Adina has to drop out of school due to her heart condition. Now, she enjoys knitting, since it requires minimal physical activity. Her mitral valve is dangerously narrow and needs repair. She wants to be healed so she can support herself; she hates being dependant on her father.

Arsema is a friendly 10 year old girl from Addis Ababa. She was referred to us because of bulging eyes, but Dr. Rick diagnosed Marfan's syndrome and is more concerned about her worsening heart and aorta, which need repair. Her parents are divorced, so she now lives with her mother and step-father in a mud house. Arsema is handicapped socially by abnormal physical features; as a result her dad denied that she was his child. Since her early years, she has been teased about her abnormal appearance, which makes both Arsema and her mom sad. Arsema's sister moved to Arsema's school so that she would have someone to play with. Still, she comes home from school in tears and asks "Why won't anyone play with me? What is wrong with me?" Arsema is in 4th grade and ranks 2nd out of 20 students. Her favorite subjects are English and social studies. She dreams of becoming an ophthalmologist when she grows up so she can help children with eye problems.

Edile is a beautiful 15 year old girl from Gimbi. She has 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Her parents are farmers and live in a mud house with Edile, her 3 brothers and 2 sisters. The house has no electricity and they have to walk 200 feet to a communal latrine. Edile was in 7th grade and ranked #2 of 81 students, when her severely narrowed mitral heart valve forced her to drop out of school. Her favorite subject was math; she wants to become a math teacher. Now, Edile enjoys reading novels and playing with her best friend, Chaltu. Her family has had to sell many of their sheep to bring Edile to doctors, which requires a long bus ride to Addis Ababa.

Hikma is a 6 year old girl from Addis Ababa. Her parents are divorced. She lives with her mother and younger sister, and has no contact with her father. Her mom has a 4th grade education, and works as a day laborer. Hikma's home has electricity, but the communal latrine is more than 60 feet from the house. Hikma is currently in kindergarten, loves reciting the English alphabet, and is eager to start 1st grade. She is unsure of what she wants to do when she grows up, but being a pilot or a doctor are high on her list. Hikma enjoys playing soccer with her friends, but for the past 2 years, Hikma has been sick. Although she came to Dr. Rick for a dental problem, he learned that during surgery to close a PDA (an abnormal blood vessel around the heart) the doctors cut her pulmonary artery, which left her with only one working lung. She must now undergo a complicated repair. Her mom is desperate to get Hikma the surgery she cannot live without.



ROSA

SETEGN

TAMRAT

TEWABECH

YELASTAWORK

YOHANNES

Rosa is a 7 year old girl living in Gondar. She is an only child who lives with her mother; her dad does not contact them. She lives in a mud house, and must walk 30 feet to a shared communal latrine. Rosa's mother works as a waitress in a tea shop. Rosa is in the 2nd grade, and ranks 6th out of 80 students; English and math are her favorite subjects. She enjoys playing *akookooloo* (hide-and-seek) with her friends. Rosa has a twisted spine, and kids tease her in school because of her back. She was scheduled to go abroad in our spine surgery program, but was unexpectedly found to have a hole in her heart, which must be fixed first. Rosa's condition has taken an emotional toll on both mother and daughter, but Rosa is tries to be positive. She wants to be a doctor to help kids like her.

Setegn is a 21 year old young man from Tigray in northern Ethiopia. He lives with his wife and 1 year old daughter in a mud house, but due to his heart problem, his wife takes care of the baby alone. Their house has no electricity; they walk 100 feet to the communal latrine. His parents are farmers in the countryside and currently support him because of his heart condition. Setegn has 2 congenital abnormalities, a PDA and aortic coarctation, both of which require repair. Setegn is a deacon in the Orthodox Church but wants to become a priest to serve his community. He cannot wait to become healthy so he can work to support his family.

Tamrat is an 18-year-old from Sodo in southern Ethiopia. His father is a farmer and his mother is a housewife; he is one of 8 children. Tamrat lives with his uncle, however, in a mud house. In high school, he ranked in the top 10% of his class. His favorite subject is biology and he wants to become a professor. When not studying, he enjoys watching movies. Tamrat has been sick for 2 years. He put off enrollment in university to go to India for surgery. While he was in school, he worked as a day laborer to pay his school fees, but because his mitral valve is critically narrowed he is unable to work. He hopes surgery will enable him to continue his education.

Tewabech is a 35-year-old woman from Jiru, in northern Ethiopia. She has a 21 year old son. Her father died and her mother runs their small farm. She has been sick for over a decade. Tewabech never attended school and has never worked, due to her critically narrowed mitral heart valve. Although she has seen many doctors, they were unable to help her, and her lifespan is now very limited. She feels she is a burden to her family, and hopes to become healthy so that she can care for herself and her mother.

Yelastawork is a beautiful 20-year-old from Addis Ababa. Both parents have died. She has an older brother and an older sister, and lives in a mud house in the capital city with her brother, who is unemployed. They share a communal toilet with other families. She ranked in the top 25% of her high school class, where her favorite subject was English. Now, Yelastawork is in college, studying accounting. When not studying, she enjoys reading novels. For the past 10 years, Yelastawork has suffered from a narrowed pulmonary heart valve. She has visited over 20 doctors and spent many days in hospital. Her hope is to become healthy and support herself as an accountant.

Yohannes is a cute, talkative 3 year old boy from Addis Ababa. He has no sibs. His father deserted him and his mother when he was born, and a year later, his mother left him with his grandmother. His mother has never returned. He now lives with his grandmother, who has leprosy. Nevertheless, she does her best to care for him. Their mud house has electricity, but they still must walk 15 feet in order to reach the communal latrine. Yohannes has been sick since birth. He has neurologic problems (sacral agenesis) and is incontinent. He has clubfeet, and a hole in his heart called a VSD. He needs heart surgery before they can fix his feet. Nobody in Ethiopia can help him. His grandmother prays that he will be cured one day.