



Dear friends and supporters

We have had a busy time in Mekele over the last couple of months. We have been very fortunate to welcome many visitors to the school. Several longstanding supporters came to visit for a few days, meet their sponsored children, and explored Ethiopia.

Other visitors have spent between 1 week to 3 months helping with different subject tuition at the school, improving the skills of our teachers and supporting in many other ways. We thank them all for their help and we will produce another video in a few weeks telling you more about them.

In this newsletter we have decided to focus on some of our high achievers at the school. 2 years ago, we were proud when Feven achieved the opportunity to study IB at United World College in Thailand. Now we are delighted to announce that Samiya in grade 11 had just won a scholarship to join UWC, starting in August 2019. Another talented student is a short list candidate for the African Leadership Academy, and we will hear the outcome of her interview in April.

Three students have applied successfully to universities in the US. However sadly none of them have had scholarships worth more than 50% of the cost of study and this is well beyond their reach. The family incomes average less than \$1,000 per year! We are looking for organisations who might support them towards to full fees.

The Nicolas School accepts all children without any assessment of ability, when they join our kindergarten. Most of the children are from the families of the most disadvantaged families in the town, the families of our local partners, the Tigray Disabled Veterans' Association. Our aim is to break the cycle of poverty by educating these young people to the highest possible level and to reach their full potential whether their talents are academic, artistic, sporting or practical. Therefore, we are especially proud of our students who have gone on to achieve so much success. We also congratulate our teaching staff and excellent leadership team at the school who have helped all our students in so many ways.

Our technical training department continues to blossom. 16 students took a Certificate of competence exam in food preparation recently, and all of them passed. Now we will help place them in hotels and with the help of PUM (Netherlands technical experts) we will run our first entrepreneurship training in May this year.

Finally, our first round of ICT training on practical skills for adults has started using our staff as volunteer students, to test our training materials. We are very optimistic about the future of this training as we see it as an area of great need. More of this in our next video.

To find out more or to support our work, please log into our website at www.rainbows4children.org

Especially if you know of, or have access to, grants for funding for overseas studies, please do let us know.

<https://youtu.be/08DQbXwhFK4>

Thank you for your support and very best wishes from Max and Kathryn