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TRAINING MIDWIVES SAVES LIVES



Please remember Project Mercy in your planned giving. A gift donated through a will or trust can help ensure that a lifetime of giving, lives on.



PROJECT MERCY SPRING UPDATE 2019



Hannah's Confidence Midwives and Training

Hannah Tegene was a clinical nurse for nearly three years. Yet, she did not feel fulfilled -- nor competent -- before coming to Project Mercy's Health Science College to train. Hannah is extremely grateful for the hands-on clinical experience she obtained through Project Mercy's Health Science College.



"Yes, of course, I have studied for three years but we did not have the practical experience. The fact that Project Mercy has the dolls, it really benefits us. My other school never had this type of equipment. We were just given visual aids and told to imagine it." Hannah continues, "The training here at Project Mercy makes me feel more self-assured to do my job confidently. We were trained in a short amount of time with more knowledge. We were equipped to serve. I have gained confidence in myself."

The dolls Hannah refers to are life-size birthing mother and baby mannequins used to teach anatomy in our Health Science College skills training labs. Students spend hours practicing their skills. She only wishes more women would have the opportunity to study and garner clinical skills at Project Mercy's Health Science College.

Why Educate a Midwife?

Ethiopia is in desperate need of medical professionals. Consider these numbers from a 2016 survey:

- Twenty-six percent of women are able to give birth with a healthcare provider attending the delivery.
- Fifty-eight percent of women in rural Ethiopia receive prenatal care.

The numbers in rural Ethiopia are even more staggering! Project Mercy is working to improve outcomes by training women from many rural communities across the country. All expectant mothers deserve perinatal care and birthing assistance with a trained professional. This is not only vital for the mother's health, but for the

newborn's health as well. Unfortunately, this is not the common practice today. With your help, we are working to make perinatal care the norm.

*Numbers taken from the Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2016

Tohood's Story Saving a Child

Tohood Taseska studied at another health science college in Ethiopia but did not know how to take vital signs or to help someone who was choking. She studied for three years but was not given any hands-on experience. Tachood took the Certificate of Competence Exam three times and failed. (The Certificate for Competence Exam is similar to the NCLEX test taken by nursing professionals in the United States.) "I was so depressed about not being able to pass my training. I was doing nothing with my life," she says.

She came to Project Mercy with no computer skills. After three months of computer instruction at Project Mercy, she took her exam on the computer and passed! Project Mercy pays the 300 birr (Ethiopian currency) for the students to take the test. A great blessing to those whose average monthly income is 420 birr twenty-one dollars a month. "That in itself is a great opportunity for me", she says.

The training she has received at Project Mercy is lifesaving. One day in her community, a little child was choking. Many did not understand what was happening. "I was trained on choking at Project Mercy. I helped the child and they were able to survive." she says with passion and pride ringing through her voice. Tachood has big dreams in a country that desperately needs medical professionals. "After coming to Project Mercy, I am so hungry to be more educated even to a degree in a doctorate level."

Tachood is just one of many who are helping to change the heart of a nation because of all those who have come alongside the work in Ethiopia.



A Second Chance to Help

As a farmer's daughter, Desalech Zafu sacrificed so much to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. The other health science college she attended was very expensive. She tried to earn her Certificate of Competence but could not pass the exam. After she finished her education, Desalech Zafu could not find a job for six years.

She came to Project Mercy for a second chance on a dream to help those in her community. After coming to Project Mercy, she passed her Certificate of Competence Exam and is now training to become a midwife in her area.

"Not only did Project Mercy help us pass the Certificate of Competence Exam, but they are training us to be midwives," Desalech Zafu says.

She like many other women in the program is grateful for the opportunity she was given. "I thank Marta and her family for this chance that I have gotten. My vision is to go back to my community and become like Marta by helping women and children in my area. I have a vision to change my community like she did!" Desalech Zafu stated.

Will you help to *train midwives and safely deliver children in Ethiopia?*

The Certificate of Competence Exam: \$11

A Month of Tuition for One Student: \$250

Instruction and Living Facilities: \$600

Tuition for Entire Year for One Student: \$3,011