

The Aysanew Kassa Trust

Improving Education in the Azezo Schools

aysanew.org 72 Brackenbury Road, London N2 0ST +44 (0)208 883 8722

NEWSLETTER

Education Ethiopia, Issue 16, December 2019

Registered Charity 1090931

Email: aysanewkassa@hotmail.com

The newsletter of the Aysanew Kassa Trust, set up in memory of the late Aysanew Kassa by his wife Jean Bailey and friends.

The Aysanew Kassa Trust's primary goal is to support the education of the poorest and most disadvantaged children in Azezo (Ethiopia), through the sponsorship of students and the funding of projects that aim to improve the provision of education in the local schools.

This annual newsletter describes our successes, activities and challenges in 2018: more information can be found on our website at www.aysanew.org.

This year's successes:

...at university...

...**17 students completed their studies**: over 280 of AKT's sponsored students have now become skilled workers who can contribute to Ethiopia's develop and their local communities. We **continue to support 130 students in higher education**, among whom we are delighted to count eight blind or partially-sighted students from St Raphael's.



...in Azezo Senior High School...

...**80 children were sponsored**, equally split between boys and girls: they will all hopefully follow in the footsteps of the many others we have sponsored in going to university in the next academic year..



...the Azezo circus and gymnastics group...

...continue to **wow us with their performances**, and are still trying to attract more girls to train up for the Ethiopian team. We welcome suggestions as to how we can best support them.

...at St Raphael's School for blind and partially-sighted children...

...wear and tear had caused the old linoleum tiles in the girls' and boys' dormitories to become extremely dangerous and a health and safety hazard for both children and staff. However, the generosity of GEES allowed us to **completely replace both floors with new ceramic tiles**, which are much safer and should be a lot more durable.



Sadly, however...

...internal problems have been affecting the education of children in the northern part of the Gondar region and Azezo High School has had to increase its intake of students by more than 500. That is a tough ask of any school but especially one where class sizes are already high.



...at Atse Fasile Elementary School...

...we assisted with the **construction of new toilets** for the approximately 200 kindergarten students who attend the school.

...in computing...

...some of your donations have gone towards **providing computing classes** for students at Azezo Senior High School; while the generosity of Gondar (Ethiopia) Eye Surgery (GEES), its trustees and the wife of the late Sandy Holt Wilson has allowed us to **purchase more laptops for the blind and partially-sighted children** at St Raphael's, as well as to continue a series of taught classes for them.



Our events:

The AKT has organised several extremely exciting fundraising activities this last year, culminating in the **very first major event** taking place in Azezo itself! As we were going to press, runners were finishing the **inaugural Azezo 10K!** This was jointly organised by the local AKT committee and Mayleko Lodge, a relatively new hotel situated between the centre of Azezo and Gondar airport. Mayleko Lodge sponsored the event and the funds raised will go towards supporting the work of St Raphael's school for blind and partially-sighted children. Jean attended (as a spectator!) and sent through these pictures:



From left to right: the winner of the inaugural Azezo 10K, with Ethiopia (right), owner of Mayleko Lodge; students from St Raphael's waiting at the finishing line; part of the course, run in intense sunshine; and recovering after the run in the gardens of Mayleko Lodge.

Sefton Samuels photography exhibition

In another first for the AKT, we organised a **photography exhibition** at the Albert Square Chop House in Manchester. The photographer Sefton Samuel, well known for his photographs of politicians, artists, musicians, footballers and much more, gave us a fascinating insight into his pictures that hung around the room, while we enjoyed a splendid lunch. Furthermore, Sefton kindly donated half of all the sales on the day to the AKT.



British 10K

We had an international team of runners—from Ethiopia, India, Slovakia and the UK—enter the British 10K this year. Congratulations to them all and a special thank you to Samuel for travelling all the way from Slovakia to help us. Thank you also to their sponsors, whose generosity will go towards our various causes. If you would like to run for us in July 2020, please get in touch!

Ethiopian meal

September saw 40 supporters and friends once again enjoying Tessa's hospitality and Egyi's culinary skills at a lunch in brilliant sunshine! This is becoming a regular and ever-popular event, full of talk, laughter and friendship. Thank you to Tessa, Egyi and Maggie who provided us with some amazing desserts and her handmade decorated biscuits.



Imbottigliamento 2019

The bottling of the prosecco in Italy was an amazing success, thanks to the great generosity of the Rossi family. At the time of going to press, the money raised is being used to buy the children at St Raphael's school a set of clothes for Christmas, as is tradition in Ethiopia. In the picture, we are at the *ponte di Bassano*, talking to passers-by about the work of the AKT: their kindness and interest is truly humbling.

To everyone who has supported us in whatever way over the last year: thank you! The successes of the AKT are thanks to you, and the sterling work of the volunteer committee in Azezo, led by Melash and Eshete. A special mention also to St Mary's Church (Wilshaw), St Mary's Church (East Finchley) and Gondar (Ethiopia) Eye Surgery, who have supported so much of the work of St Raphael's school for blind and partially sighted children.

Please help us as we move into the new decade. Donations can be made by cheque, payable to The Aysanew Kassa Trust and sent to 72 Brackenbury Road, London N2 0ST; or bank transfer (account number 80808350, sort code 20-58-51). If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, please complete the Gift Aid declaration, thus increasing the value of your gift at no extra cost to yourself.