

Dining for Women

Final Grant Report: *January 31, 2017*

I. Background Information

1. **Organization Name:** Visions Global Empowerment
2. **Program Title:** Empowering At-Risk Deaf Women & Girls in Ethiopia through Education, Mentorship, and Livelihoods Development
3. **Grant Amount:** \$46,728
4. **Contact Person:** Gregory T. Buie, *Executive Director & Co-Founder*
5. **Address:** 1621 Barry Avenue #PH1, Los Angeles, CA 90025

II. Overview of Stated Program Activities & Outcomes

The following list encompasses the originally stated objectives & outcomes of our grant proposal:

1. **Livelihoods Development:** To provide vital vocational training opportunities and livelihoods development assistance to 40 deaf women in Addis Ababa (20) and Bahir Dar (20) with the goal of ensuring each has a job or trade by the end of the program that promotes independent living and economic independence.

Update: Bahir Dar

In Bahir Dar, twenty (20) Deaf women were selected to participate in the livelihoods development initiative through the local partner organization – the Kal Center for Special Needs – after a rigorous vetting process. Those chosen to participate were all living in an economically vulnerable situation and passed through a several month vetting & preparation process. Before beginning this initiative, 15 of these women were unemployed and earning no income, while 5 had irregular work and were not earning enough to meet their financial needs. Additionally, 5 had no formal education, and 10 had no sign language ability, which created further hardships and challenges to overcome.

As a starting point, Kal Center staff counseled each of these 20 women individually to devise an income-generating plan that was reflective of their interests and available resources & skills. They then began making plans and logistical arrangements for each person, and giving skills & basic business training (ie: how to communicate, creating a business plan, managing finances, teamwork & team-building, social skills, etc.). Once the 20 women successfully completed all the required training sessions and had developed a clear idea of their proposed business endeavor, the Kal Center provided or made available start-up capital in the amount of ETB 7,000/person (approx. USD \$320/person). These 20 women undertook income-generating activities in various industries, including commerce, sewing/embroidery, agriculture, animal husbandry, running small shops, bread making, etc. Over the ensuing months, Kal Center staff conducted regular site visits and provided training & mentoring support.



Of the group of 20 women, 2 had their involvement delayed due to pregnancy. Both

women have since had their babies and are now back on track with resuming their business plans, though having an infant has limited their efforts in some ways. One of the two has progressed enough to now be self-sufficient.

In total, 19 out of the 20 women in Bahir Dar are now self-sufficient (up from 0 before for the start of this program)! The average monthly income is now about \$66/person, and the average total savings per woman is now about \$93.

Update: Addis Ababa

In Addis Ababa, an additional 20 women were initially identified and selected to participate in the livelihoods development program by the other local partner organization – the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA). Due to practical and financial constraints, a few of the women were dropped from the program. However, sixteen (16) women successfully completed a 3-month food preparation training at the Vinvinido Food Preparation Training Institute in Piassa, Addis Ababa. The training was structured into three 2-hour sessions per week. Trainees were equipped with the skills necessary for preparing different kinds of breakfast foods, snacks, pastries, etc. The training was specifically designed to teach members how to prepare food which does not require huge capital or equipment.

Following the completion of the program and graduation ceremony, a 4-day business skills development training was then provided for the 16 graduates in order to help participants to:

- Identify the kind of business each woman wished to pursue
- Help participants to create individual business plans
- Calculate the estimated costs, revenue, and profits, and how to set prices for their goods/services
- Understand how to save & access credit
- Understand how to interact with customers



Additionally, two EWDNA members shared their experiences and expertise with the women. The first individual shared her experience of having participated in a similar program a few years earlier and how it changed her life. Her savings have now grown to more than ETB 100,000 (approx. USD \$4,600). The 16 program graduates were excited to hear her success story and eagerly asked her several questions, including how she overcame the variety of challenges she came across in her efforts.



The second speaker was the Director of the Hulune Alfa Savings and Credit Association, an independent entity that was formed earlier under EWDNA with the major objective of giving women with disabilities access to credit. After 6 months, association members who contribute regularly toward their savings are able to access credit based on their respective saving levels. The 16 program participants were encouraged to join and enjoy the benefits of membership.

Following this 4-day training, all the women were requested to present their business plans to EWDNA for review. Then, EWDNA staff conducted individual home visits with the objectives of:

1. checking on the feasibility of each person's plans
2. determining what support each woman could expect from their respective family members or relatives/support network
3. assessing the availability and regularity of electricity
4. assessing the local market opportunities

Ten of the 16 women submitted business plans, while the other 6 are still working to secure a free work space from the government before submitting their plans. Once each of the first 10 business plans were approved, each beneficiary signed an agreement on the permitted usage of funds. EWDNA staff then utilized the allotment of ETB 4,000/person (approx. USD \$185/person) to purchase equipment and/or other necessary supplies for each woman. All equipment and funds were then disbursed to the beneficiaries.



In total, 8 out of 16 of the women in Addis Ababa are now earning enough to be self-sufficient (up from 0 before the start of this program!); 2 out of 16 are in the early stages of their business but are making progress; and 6 out of 16 have not yet started their small businesses on account of the government not yet providing them a free work space.

Of the women now running their own small businesses, the average monthly income is now about \$69/person, and the average total savings per woman is now about \$127.

2. **Mentoring & Support:** To provide regular mentoring support, counseling, life skills training, and formal Ethiopian Sign Language training for all participants.

Update: As part of the above-mentioned initiative, both local implementing partner organizations provide regular trainings in various topics (such as understanding deafness, social & economic challenges for Deaf women, leadership development, rights training, personal finance, etc.), as well as regular support and mentoring in both an individual and group capacity. Additionally, in Bahir Dar, regular training, mentoring, and support is given by 10 staff persons (5 of whom are Deaf themselves) to Deaf children through the Visions Model Deafness Center and at 3 nearby public schools with Deaf classrooms, which collectively serve 86 children (of which half are girls). And in Addis Ababa, regular support services and counseling are provided to women on an ongoing and individual basis, and weekly “coffee ceremony” meetings are held every Sunday for all differently-abled women.

3. **Human Rights Trainings:** To conduct two 5-day training programs on human rights (including women's rights and disabled persons rights), advocacy, and community organizing in partnership with local organizations.

Update: The initial two 4-day “Deaf Women Empowerment Trainings” were held in Addis Ababa from April 25th – 28th, 2016 and in Bahir Dar from May 2nd – 3rd & 5th – 6th. Later, a 1-day training in “Social & Economic Problems for Deaf Women” was held in Addis Ababa on June 2nd, 2016. And a 1-day training on “Personal Leadership Development” was held in Bahir Dar on June 18th, 2016.

Further follow-up trainings were held in Bahir Dar in July & August for Deaf women and girls by local and international volunteers who conducted a number of seminars in Ethiopian Sign Language, Deaf culture, Deaf empowerment, Deaf history, women’s empowerment, and leadership development. Furthermore, all 20 Deaf women livelihoods beneficiaries were provided with an official hearing test and follow-up counseling by Visions volunteer audiologist Dr. Catherine Clark (of the Rochester Institute of Technology – National Technical Institute for the Deaf). Several women (13) were found to have some residual hearing and were thus fitted with and given a hearing aid. Each of these hearing aid users is required to check in once per month at the Visions Model Deafness Center to have their device checked, cleaned, etc. and for further training and support to be provided. This intervention has had a significant impact on the lives of these women, many of whom have little to no formal Ethiopian Sign Language ability.

4. **Advocacy Materials:** To create printed (including posters, newsletters, brochures, etc.) and multimedia (including short films) public awareness materials about deafness and deaf-related issues.

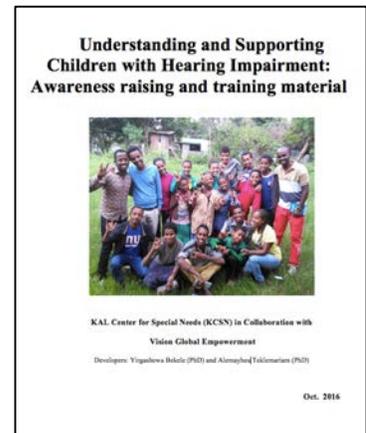
Update: The first 3 of 5 short educational films following the theme of “Understanding Deafness in Ethiopia” have been released to the local partner organizations and published online. These 3 films touch on the topics of: 1. “Livelihoods” (<https://youtu.be/n8iv7kBoCb8>); 2. “Health” (<https://youtu.be/mBfVssK420>); and 3. “Community Participation” (<https://youtu.be/sWasCiffMsQ>). All these films are currently available in English only, as the Amharic subtitling has proved challenging to execute and to ensure the accuracy of the translation. However, the Amharic-language versions of these 3 films are expected to be finalized by March 2017.

Drafts of the 2 remaining short films (which follow the topics of “Education” and “Ethiopian Sign Language”) that have not yet been released have been completed, and both films are now in the final production stage. The English-language version will be released and published online first, then the Amharic-language versions will be made available by April 2017. Our volunteer filmmakers have been working diligently to finish the films on-time, but juggling the post-production of 5 films at the same time, each of which requires multiple layers of translation and proofing, proved to be quite the herculean task. Nonetheless, both the English-language and Amharic-language versions of the 5 films are on track to be completed and disseminated/published by April 2017.



Additionally, Visions volunteers who joined us in Ethiopia this past summer helped to film and produce a handful of short instructional videos in learning Ethiopian Sign Language. The first 2 (of 8 planned) short videos have already been released: 1. “Family Signs” (<https://youtu.be/yKGB4kUSSLY>); and 2. “Nature Signs” (<https://youtu.be/WDnwwBl8igo>). The remaining 6 videos are due to be released in a staggered format over the next 3 months.

In both Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa, our local partners continually create and disseminate Amharic-language literature and awareness-raising materials for the individuals they serve and for the public at-large. Typically, these take the form of simple handouts, posters, or brochures. Recently, however, in Bahir Dar, the Kal Center for Special Needs worked closely with 2 academics & researchers from Addis Ababa in conducting a study and producing a 63-page manual on “Understanding and Supporting Children with Hearing Impairment”. As this manual is the first of its kind, our friends at the Kal Center for Special Needs are currently working on translating the document into Amharic and plan to distribute it to any government agency, NGO, organization, association/society, or other group working with the Deaf community or interested in learning about & helping to raise awareness for the Deaf community. Priority will first be given to all schools with “special classrooms” for Deaf and other differently-abled students in the Amhara Region.



5. **Community Education:** To conduct regular (at least 12) community education and awareness-raising trainings for teachers, parents, deaf individuals and their families, physicians/medical students/health workers, and general community members about deafness, human rights, and deaf-related issues.

Update: In Addis Ababa, EWDNA holds open weekly coffee sessions for women who are differently-abled (not just deaf), in which several hundred women participate throughout the year. EWDNA also engages in public education outreach on a regular basis, helping to inform the public about disabilities and to reduce stigma & discrimination. Along these lines, Visions assisted EWDNA in drafting a brochure focused on “Deaf Women Empowerment,” which they are using for advocacy and public education.

In Bahir Dar, the Kal Center for Special Needs (which is focused exclusively on serving the Deaf community) also engages in regular advocacy and community education work. They organize regular outreach programs with Bahir Dar University, Felege Hiwot Hospital, Amhara Regional Education Dept., various public schools, local government officials, family members of Deaf persons, and more. Over the past year, 143 new individuals participated in a training program organized by the Kal Center for Special Needs, and more than 3,000 individuals in the community were reached through community education/outreach efforts.

6. **Capacity Building:** Through all of the above activities, to help build the capacity of local women’s and disabled persons organizations actively engaged in serving, organizing, and empowering deaf women and girls.

Update: In Ethiopia, it is still quite rare to find an organization led by women, which makes building the capacity of both EWDNA and the Kal Center for Special Needs all that much more important. EWDNA also has nearly all women staff, and the Kal Center for Special Needs has half women staff. Recognizing the importance of supporting these two organizations in particular, Visions has sought to support the development of both organizations through building skills and better equipping these local allies. For instance, Visions has created websites (www.kalcenter.org & www.ewdna.org) and marketing

collateral for both organizations, and works regularly with the Kal Center in devising fundraising strategies and designing new programs.

Through this grant, Visions was also able to provide much needed equipment to EWDNA (such as a projector, speaker, and digital camera) and operational support to both organizations. As part of Visions' regularly organized volunteer programs, 21 international volunteers spent time with EWDNA and/or the Kal Center in 2016 (of which 81% were women). This included 1 young woman who interned with EWDNA for several weeks in May & June 2016, and 1 young woman who interned with Kal Center for 2 months in July & August 2016.

III. Beneficiaries Update

<i>Original Estimate:</i>	400 women & girls
<i># of Direct Beneficiaries to-date:</i>	343
<i># of Indirect Beneficiaries to-date:</i>	300 (<i>children of direct beneficiaries; family & friend networks impacted; general community activities outreach impact; etc.</i>)
<i>Total # of Beneficiaries to-date:</i>	643

In Bahir Dar, the local partner organization has kept a tally of 152 new individuals who were directly impacted through participation in awareness-raising events, language trainings, and other activities since our last grant report. And in Addis Ababa, we estimate about 40 additional Deaf women participated in weekly coffee sessions/meetings since our last grant report.

Concerning indirect beneficiaries, we estimate about 300 individuals across Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa have so far benefitted from new access to information & awareness about deafness or from having newly empowered members of their household or family networks.

IV. Challenges Encountered & Solutions for Overcoming

As with all development initiatives, we encountered a few new challenges in implementing this project (though none resulted in a change of overall strategy or approach):

- The issues of illiteracy, extreme poverty, and homelessness created extra challenges in working with a number of the selected livelihoods beneficiaries, though none of these proved to be insurmountable challenges
- The rising costs of goods, transportation, and life in general in Addis Ababa forced us to focus on serving 16 (rather than 20) women there through the livelihoods development initiative, as we did not want to compromise on the quality of the assistance being offered
- Two women became pregnant soon after being selected for the livelihoods development program, which pushed back the timeline on their involvement

V. Organizational & Program Situation Update

There have been no changes in leadership, program-related staff, or local implementing partner organizations, and no major organizational or program-related updates. The project progressed mostly as originally anticipated.

VI. Lessons Learned

1. Massive public misperception about deafness and prejudice against women who are differently-abled stand as major obstacles to their development and full integration in society as productive & socially accepted members. Much more investment of time & resources, and the development of

educational materials & curriculum, will be necessary in helping to break down these immense cultural roadblocks.

2. Language is the major barrier preventing Deaf women and girls across the country from leading meaningful, productive lives. Outside of Addis Ababa, there are only pockets of those with access to formal sign language learning opportunities. Training teachers and interpreters in Ethiopian Sign Language, and then disseminating those individuals to provide instruction throughout the country (especially in rural areas), would have perhaps the biggest overall impact on the quality of life for this vulnerable and neglected demographic.
3. As is the case with hearing loss in general, many women & girls in Ethiopia who are deaf have some residual hearing. With a proper hearing test, those who could potentially benefit from using a hearing aid can be identified. And if proper channels for providing, fitting, and managing hearing aids can be established, many women and girls stand to benefit greatly. Visions is already doing this work in Bahir Dar with very encouraging results, and is planning to make this a key initiative/focus area moving forward to reach out to many more communities in need.

VII. Unexpected Events & Outcomes

Partially as a result of our implementing this project, Visions has decided to shift our focus in the coming year (2017) to efforts that specifically seek to educate and empower women & girls. In India, we are launching a new “Educate a Dalit Girl” scholarship campaign with the intent of securing university admissions for 50 dalit (low caste) girls from rural communities. We are also now exploring the idea of establishing a “Women’s Education & Empowerment Center” that will provide legal & protection services, counseling, livelihoods support, leadership & rights training, educational & social support for their children, and more. And we recently initiated a livelihoods development & skills training program for widows. This year, we are also formally announcing our plans to establish the “Vera Corazón School for Girls” in Matagalpa, Nicaragua – a residential school with an IT, leadership, and spoken English concentration for girls who are orphans, in the foster care system, or are children of migrant laborers. These are just a few of the new initiatives we have planned, and we hope that we may continue to partner with Dining for Women in some capacity moving forward.

VIII. Measuring Success

Community Education & Awareness:

- *# of total persons reached:* 600+
- *# of new educational materials/handouts/films created:* Dozens
- *Change in # of respondents with favorable opinion of Deaf persons:* All persons who attended a training or community education event cited a positive change in the way they view deaf persons
- *Impact on change in attitudes & knowledge:* Much improvement in overall understanding of deafness, reduction in stigma/social exclusion, and renewed effort to appreciate & include deaf women & girls

Vocational Development:

- *Impact on monthly earnings of beneficiaries:* Average individual monthly earnings before commencing this project was \$3.40/person (of the 36 selected beneficiaries) vs. \$65.40/person afterward (of the 30 who are currently earning)
- *# of beneficiaries who are financially independent/self-sufficient:* 27 to-date (or 75% of the 36 who successfully completed the training programs); the remaining 9 women (25%) are making progress and should achieve the same status within 6 months
- *# of small businesses established:* 27 to-date
- *Average savings per individual:* \$104.31/person to-date (of the 30 who are currently earning)

- *Impact on overall confidence, skills, self-worth, health, wellbeing, etc.:* Through testimonials obtained and interviews conducted with all beneficiaries, we have noted a significant increase in all of the above and a noticeable improvement the overall quality of life & wellbeing for all participants.
- *# of women who received a hearing aid:* 13

Rights Education & Advocacy:

- *# of persons trained:* 151
- *# of hours of instruction/interaction:* 50+ per individual
- *# of respondents with improved human rights knowledge:* All persons who attended these trainings cited an improvement in their overall understanding and appreciation for the rights & leadership training. Most had no exposure or knowledge beforehand.
- *# of persons trained who carried message forward:* We expect most participants, as requested, shared what they learned with their families, friends, other Deaf persons, communities, etc., thus indirectly impacting several hundred more individuals.

Testimonials:

#1: Beteha (Bahir Dar)

Originally from Gondar, Beteha is now 25 years-old and living in Bahir Dar. She lost her hearing at age 10 due to an unknown illness. Soon after, she lost her mother and was raised by her brother. Unlike most Deaf persons, Beteha was able to study up to Grade 10 without any special support. After that time,



however, she faced many challenges in life and developed what she described as a sense of worthlessness. There were no appropriate classes, sign language learning opportunities, or learning materials available to her, in addition to the daily discrimination she faced from the community and a total lack of employment opportunities.

When she would apply for jobs, she would be blatantly denied on account of her deafness. Once, she was given an opportunity to be trained in sewing, but that never lead to meaningful earning due to a lack of start-up capital. Now, having successfully participated in the livelihoods development program enabled by Dining for Women, she is earning 70-100 birr per day (approx. \$3.20 - \$4.50/day) and has saved more than 12,500 birr (approx. \$570).

“I think two of the biggest challenges Deaf people face in gaining employment and becoming self-reliant is having to deal with communication & attitudinal barriers. I want to be a good model for my friends who live in similar situations, and I’m trying my best to work hard in order to make my dreams come true. For me, the most important thing is to be independent from others. So I am very happy now, because I’m living independently on my own.”

#2: Asmaru (Bahir Dar)



Asmaru had been living with her son in a devastating situation, often going each day with only one meal. When she became sick and lost her hearing, her husband ran away, taking all of their possessions with him and leaving her destitute. *“No one reached out to me in my darkest hour or helped me to establish a better condition for myself or my son,”* she said. *“At that time, I was considered worthless by friends and people in my neighborhood. I had given up hope...”* Now, Asmaru is earning on average 70 birr/day (\$3.20/day) through sewing and selling vegetables & eggs. She has already even managed to save 9,000 birr (approx. \$410).

“I have great hope that my son will grow up and work beside me, which gives me plenty of joy and hope for the future. People who are deaf like me should not expect anything or depend on anyone. They should love the way they are and manage their own lives. Begging is the worst thing. I want to share my life experiences with others to encourage them to be independent and to lead their own lives. I thank all who supported me for enabling me to improve my life.”



#3: Birtukan (Addis Ababa)

Birtukan was homeless and living on the streets of Addis Ababa when she gave birth to her only child. One day, a woman saw her and helped her to find shelter in an abandoned home nearby. That woman began to care like a mother for Birtukan and her child, helping her to earn some income through doing small tasks like washing clothes and preparing food. Now, through the livelihoods development program supported by Dining for Women, Birtukan has been given training and is working independently in running her own small business selling snacks (like biscuits, french fries, etc.). Though she is still working to build her business, she is already earning on average \$35/month and has managed

to save 2,310 birr (approx. \$105).

IX. Progress Toward Stated Objectives

Major Activity to be Accomplished	Activity Timeline Update
Hire and train 2 program staff (Local Program Coordinator and Interpreter)	✓ Completed: February 2016
Advertise and solicit applications from Deaf women for Livelihoods Development Program, in partnership with the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association	✓ Completed: February – May 2016
Make logistical arrangements for establishing small industries and providing vocational training to women participants in Livelihoods Development Program	✓ Completed: February – July 2016
Conduct two 5-day human rights education and advocacy trainings (one each in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa) with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission	✓ Completed: April – May 2016 (4 days/each); June 2016 (1 day/each); additional Bahir Dar trainings held in July & August 2016
Create 5 short educational films on Deafness, Deaf Rights, Ethiopian Sign Language, and other Critical Deaf and Women’s Issues	✓ Nearly Completed: First 3 short films have been released/published; the remaining 2 short films will be released/published within the next month
Create, print, and distribute at least 10 rights-based outreach/awareness-raising materials, and e-archive materials	✓ Completed: Throughout February 2016 – January 2017
Conduct quarterly program reviews and evaluations	✓ Completed: progress reports with photos & expense reports were submitted by the two local implementing partners at quarterly intervals
Organize selected Livelihoods Development Program participants into small collectives and commence vocational training, regular mentoring, and business development activities	✓ Completed: 36 women successfully completed the training program and 27 women total (or 75%) are now earning enough to be self-sufficient. Of the remaining beneficiaries,

	<i>3 women (8%) are not quite yet self-sufficient but are making progress, and 6 women (17%) are still working on getting their small businesses off the ground.</i>
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X. Expense Summary

	PURPOSE	AMOUNT ALLOCATED	AMOUNT SPENT	BALANCE
1.1	Local Program Coordinator (<i>full-time</i>)	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
1.2	Interpreter (<i>full-time</i>)	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$0
2.1	Vocational Training/Livelihoods Development Activities and Establishment of Small Businesses	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$0
2.2	Women's Rights & Advocacy Training Seminars	\$6,000	\$6,057	(\$57)
2.3	Community Education and Awareness Raising Trainings	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
2.4	Printed Materials for Advocacy and Awareness Raising	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
2.5	Filming, Editing, and Post-Production of Educational Short Films	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
2.6	Transportation for Public Awareness Campaigns & Program Activities	\$1,360	\$1,360	\$0
3.1	Office Supplies	\$500	\$500	\$0
3.2	Printer	\$400	\$400	\$0
3.3	Ink/Printing and Photocopies	\$480	\$550	(\$70)
3.4	Phone Cards	\$240	\$240	\$0
3.5	Digital Camera	\$300	\$309	(\$9)
3.6	Multimedia Projector	\$800	\$432	\$368
3.7	Projection Screen	\$200	\$0	\$200
3.8	Power Generator & Electrical Cords	\$500	\$0	\$500
3.9	Speakers/Sound System	\$800	\$167	\$633
4.1	Visions Admin. Support & Project Implementation	\$4,748	\$4,920	(\$172)
	TOTAL	\$52,228	\$50,836	
	<i>DFW Grant Contribution</i>		<i>\$46,728</i>	
	<i>Visions Contribution</i>		<i>\$4,108</i>	

XI. Project Funding Impact

In order to continue the operations of our Visions Model Deafness Center in Bahir Dar, Visions submitted 2 large grant proposals earlier this year to foundations with whom Visions had been communicating. Unfortunately, one of the grantmakers ran out of funds for this year, and the other had a strategic shift in the types of initiatives they support. As a result, Visions is now drafting grant appeals to a handful of previously identified grantmakers, though all are smaller grant opportunities. In the meantime, a fall fundraising campaign and series of events (in Boston, Rochester, NYC, Los Angeles, etc.) was successful in raising much needed funds to sustain the operations of the Deafness Center for several more months.

Locally, however, the Kal Center for Special Needs was able to leverage this program in getting publicity and financial commitments from various government agencies. Last summer, the Ethiopian Broadcasting Co. (ETV) approached the Kal Center and offered to do a 30-minute documentary feature on deafness and their Deaf empowerment work. That feature aired multiple times on television, bringing a lot of awareness and recognition to the work being done to improve the lives of Deaf persons in Bahir Dar. Within a few months, Mrs. Aynalem Ayalew was able to leverage that publicity into grants from at least 4 government agencies, totaling more than **USD \$22,000** (and counting) to construct a new “**Vocational Training Center for Deaf Adolescents & Adults**” in Bahir Dar! The formal unveiling of the project idea and commitment ceremony was held with great excitement in January 2017. Construction is scheduled to get underway in the next few months.

XII. Message for Dining for Women Supporters & Team

We are so grateful for the vital and very generous support offered by the Dining for Women family. Thank you so much for shining a light on this vulnerable and often forgotten segment of society! Your support has enabled change in the lives of hundreds of Deaf women and girls. We invite you to join us in Ethiopia any time and see the impact of your efforts in-person.