

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Ethiopia



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 01 Volunteer Story
- 02 International volunteers day
- 03 Article from Journalism volunteer
- 04 Volunteer Story continues
- 05 Editor's note



VOLUNTEER STORY

A Professional Nurse and Child Development Psychologist from Australia used her leave time to volunteer her time in Orphanages in Ethiopia



Cathleen Levy is a professional nurse, born in Northern Ireland and currently living in Australia. Cathleen has wanted to work in Africa for a long time but couldn't due to her profession and family commitments. When she finally got a long enough leave period from work, she knew the time was right. After discussing it with her family, who supported her life-long dream, she finally decided to sign up with Projects Abroad and came to Ethiopia to work at one of our care projects for three months.

She was placed at Kidane Miheret Orphanage, where Cathleen worked with abandoned children between the ages of three to twelve years old, some with disabilities. "I usually start my day at the orphanage by teaching between seven and ten children from the ages of 4 to 8 years old. Other volunteers and I would teach them basic English and math to help prepare them for formal Kindergarten. When I am not teaching, I look after the babies and help the mothers by providing an extra pair of hands."



Cathleen raised 1800 Dollars back in Australia before she arrived, half of which she used to buy materials for the children and the orphanage and the rest in a series of donations to schools who are short in materials. "In collaboration with Projects Abroad and other volunteers, we have managed to donate a sports kit to a poorer school and buy dozens of supplementary books for a couple of other schools". Cathleen said she is very thankful to have the chance to impact the quality of services these schools give to the less fortunate students.

The donation is not the only contribution that Cathleen brought with her... *(story continues on page 5)*

International Volunteers Day

Help... Learn... Explore

International Volunteer Day (IVD) on the 5th of December was implemented by the United Nations in 1985 as an international observance day to celebrate the power and potential of volunteerism. It is an opportunity for volunteers, and volunteer organizations, to raise awareness of, and gain understanding for, the contribution they make to their communities. The act of volunteering is found in all cultures, languages, and religions. Each year, millions of people volunteer their time and skills to help contribute towards making the world a better place. When they volunteer, they help to improve the lives of others. And when they volunteer, they also gain a greater sense of belonging to their communities.

Projects Abroad being one of the largest volunteering organisations sends about 10,000 people abroad each year on a variety of [service projects](#) and [internships overseas](#). Being one of the many destinations Projects Abroad works in, Ethiopia has been welcoming volunteers for the past seven years. Projects Abroad Ethiopia would like to use this opportunity to thank all volunteers around the world who have helped us throughout the years and made sustainable impact on the projects and community. As the need for volunteers increase each year in Addis Ababa, we look forward to seeing more volunteers in the available projects.

This year's outstanding Projects Abroad volunteer acknowledgment goes to Rebecca Williams, Sarah Bateman, Tatiana Hansen and Anna Olesen, who really stood out as volunteers. We celebrate these most outstanding volunteers whose contribution exceeded the ordinary. Their impact will be felt long after they end their time on their projects.



Article from Journalism Volunteer

Addis Ababa, a tourist destination under construction



Recently it is inevitable not to feel the change in Addis Ababa, as at every corner in the city, shopping malls or luxurious hotels are arising from the dust, which at the moment have turned Addis into a big building plot. Of course there is a reason for all this: One of Africa's most prominent cities is transforming into a modern capital, as well as a travel destination.

Addis Ababa is currently under a huge transformation. The builders are busy and the restaurants are trying new menus, and even though foreigners will always be amazed by the African impressions, you will during your stay at this time of Ethiopian development, face even more fascinating experiences on the streets.

It is not only new buildings or the look-alike-western food you are going to meet, the culture and look of the city are about to change into a more modern place, at a pace which is hard to believe.

Also the infrastructure is changing with help from the Chinese. Though it causes some roadblocks and problems such as delays in the traffic it is going to be a new and much better road system. Also the new traffic lights which are showing up, many places are going to make the traffic smoother and more western like. It will cause an extreme change in the Ethiopian way of driving but would make it safer and easier for visitor to get around. Last but not least, this is not only going to change Addis but the entire Ethiopia in general.

For a city as Addis this does not only mean development as a capital but also development into a more global atmosphere. Please click here to [Read more](#).

Volunteer Story Continued...

The donation is not the only contribution that Cathleen brought with her...

Her 10+ years of experience in nursing and child development also brought light not only to the orphanage she worked in, but also for other orphanages as well. Knowing what she acquired through her years of experience and education, Projects Abroad Ethiopia organized training sessions for care givers in Kidanemiheret and SOS Toukoul Orphanages for four days. "The feedback I got from the care givers about the training are all very positive, I hope it will have a long term effect on the way they treat the children" said the exceptional volunteer.



"During my holidays, I had a really great time with the other volunteers from different projects. The trip to Awash, south east Ethiopia, was unforgettable. We saw Walya and enjoyed the hot spring water. The social dinner, mount Entoto, Merkato and all other social events are also experiences I will definitely share with my family and friends once back home.

Cathleen enjoyed her three month stay with a "lovely, welcoming family" as she refers to them, in Addis. "My host family were very kind and good people interested in our welfare." Cathleen explains even if she faced some culture shock on the first few days, she enjoyed each and every moment once she got used to the climate and how things work on this side of the world.

"Projects Abroad Staff are friendly, young and approachable people. They will always help you with whatever you need. If you have any plans to volunteer in Addis Ababa, the care project is definitely worthwhile. It is a great experience for both the children and volunteers. I am entirely grateful for the overall experience."

Cathleen's advice to future volunteers is that they should make decisions to live their dreams and take action.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Greetings!

As usual, I hope you found something touching and inspiring within this newsletter. I would like to thank all volunteers from the past and present for sacrificing your valuable time, money and knowledge to make a difference at our projects. We always have a place for anyone who wants to come and be part of the great work being done by the big family of Projects Abroad. Big thanks to the volunteers who have shared their stories and photos with us. We encourage everyone to join us in making the newsletter more interesting and exciting. You are welcome to send your own written articles and pictures. This will help others to understand and learn more about Ethiopia and Projects Abroad. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact: - berekettesema@projects-abroad.org

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