

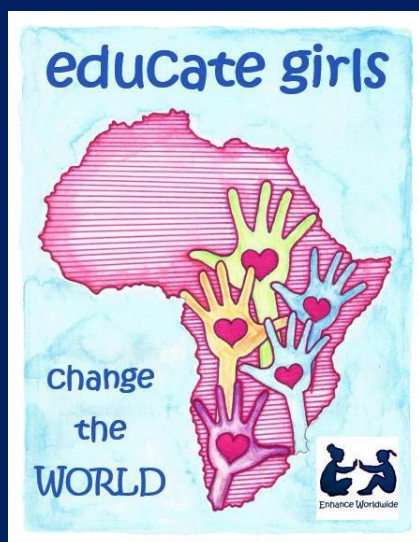
ENHANCE WORLDWIDE

June 2015 Newsletter

OVER 150 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES!

Thanks to generous donor support, our programs – **Kinship Care, Rising Autonomy, and Pathways Project** – and activities have directly benefited over **150 children and young adults** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Enhance Worldwide envisions communities where girls and women have the skills to lead meaningful, dignified lives and where each individual has agency, autonomy and aspirations.



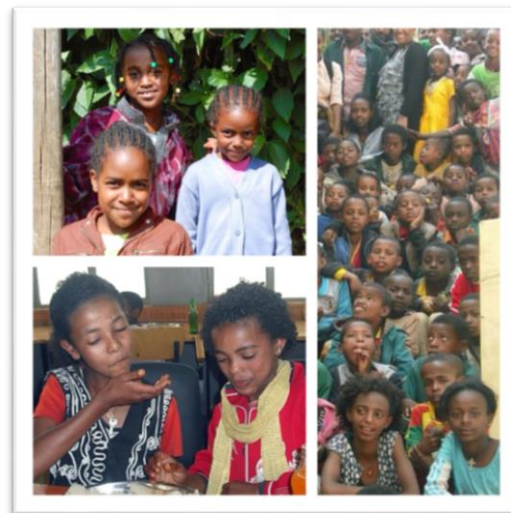
www.enhanceworldwide.org

MAKING AN IMPACT

These last two quarters have been a period of tremendous growth at Enhance Worldwide: completing incorporation, obtaining 501(c)(3) status as a tax-exempt organization, developing and implementing our first community-based programs in Ethiopia, sponsoring a life skills event for 100 school children, providing sanitary pad kits and education, becoming a member organization of Girls Not Brides, and establishing dynamic partnerships with Not Too Late and Days for Girls.

Through direct donor support – including our entire Board of Directors and staff – Enhance Worldwide launched three programs in Ethiopia this January: **Kinship Care, Rising Autonomy, and Pathways Project**. To date, Enhance Worldwide's programs and activities have directly benefited over **150 children and young adults**, challenging the threats of child marriage, institutional care (orphanage), street violence, heightened risk for HIV, and trafficking for either labor or sex. And Enhance Worldwide's vital work continues.

This quarter, our Board of Directors committed to long-term and strategic fundraising to support and amplify Enhance Worldwide's **capacity** and **impact**. Enhance Worldwide is well positioned to expand our program offerings, program reach, and the number of constituents served in the Entoto area of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We continue to live out our vision each day: developing communities where girls and women have the skills to lead meaningful, dignified lives and where each individual has agency, autonomy,



and aspirations.

Betam ameseginalehugn! Thank you to everyone – staff, board members, donors, and organizational partners – who support Enhance Worldwide's critical work!

–**Heather Mahardy**, Founding President ■

♥ **SUPPORT ENHANCE WORLDWIDE**
www.enhanceworldwide.org/donate

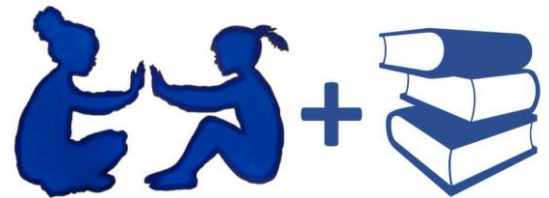
WHY ENHANCE?

There are thousands of organizations out there making a difference in the world. Why choose Enhance Worldwide?

We created Enhance because we are tired of working with the status quo. We are frustrated with organizations that spend donations on Land Rovers and breakfast meetings with lattes. Not that we have anything against Land Rovers and lattes – we just don't want your money to pay for our luxuries. Instead, our donations go directly into the projects. We take the term **nonprofit** seriously – we aren't going to get rich off of the kindness of others.

We also created Enhance because we are frustrated with western organizations determining solutions to local problems. We recognize that the **community** understands its own challenges to wellbeing: our job is to learn from the community and respond accordingly. It's easy to walk into a situation and point out what's wrong. It's challenging to walk into a situation and suspend judgment until the **real experts** – the people living the reality – come to the table to explain what's going on. We chose the challenging path because we recognize the difference between bandaging a symptomatic wound and applying medicine to the core.

We created Enhance to be innovative in its **simplicity** and powerful in its **humility**. We hope you'll join us in enhancing the wellbeing of girls and women worldwide. ■



Educate girls & change the world
www.enhanceworldwide.org

“A safe passage from the world of the child to the world of the adult cannot be an elite privilege.”

Kate Gilmore, Deputy Director of the United Nations Population Fund

EVERY DAY IS ORANGE DAY AT ENHANCE WORLDWIDE

276 Chibok schoolgirls abducted. Girls' college in Khyber bombed. An estimated 39,000 child marriages every day. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. In **Ethiopia**, WHO reports that **71% of women** experience **physical or sexual violence** in their lifetime.



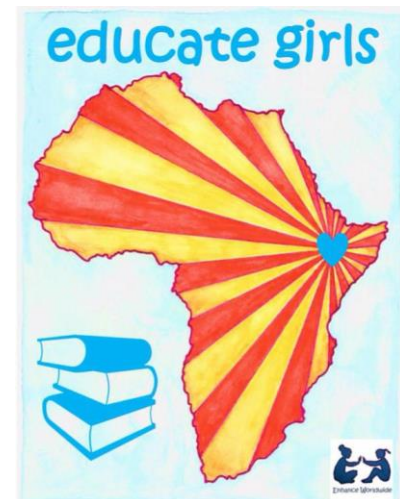
Violence against women and girls is a global epidemic and Enhance Worldwide is working to eradicate it! The United Nations Campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women has proclaimed the 25th of each month as **Orange Day**, “a day to raise awareness and take action against violence against women and girls.” Join Enhance Worldwide in making the world a safer and more empowering place for women and girls! Visit www.enhanceworldwide.org/orangeday to learn more. ■

♥ **SUPPORT ENHANCE WORLDWIDE**
www.enhanceworldwide.org/donate

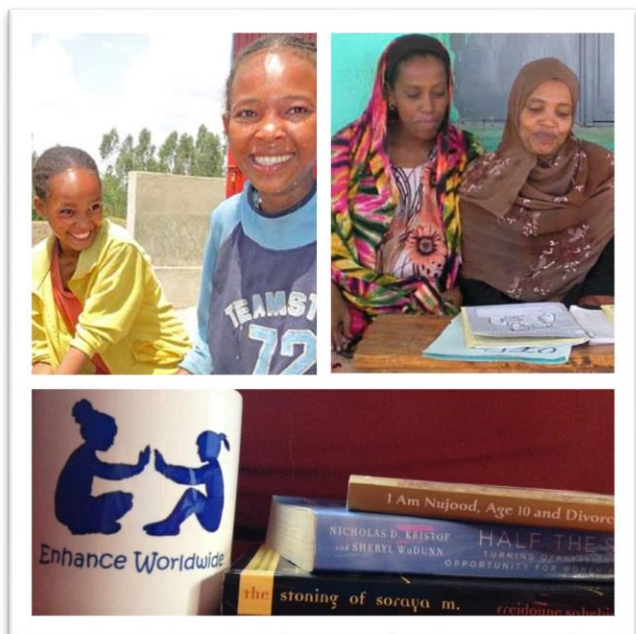
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY, VIOLENCE, AND INEQUALITY

For **\$25** a month, we can enhance a girl's life. For **\$60**, we can send a young woman to university.

Your participation and financial support provide girls, young women and their communities with the tools and strategies to navigate pathways out of poverty. Right now we are recruiting sponsors for **Kinship Care**, a program that keeps orphaned girls off of the streets by enabling them to live with relatives and attend school or university in their home communities in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Expanding learning into the community, we facilitate community conversations on topics that impact the wellbeing of the girls and young women we serve, such as HIV/AIDS and reproductive health, child marriage and gender based violence. Thanks to Days for Girls, all adolescent girls in our program started receiving sanitary pad kits in January.



Enhance Worldwide is growing, and you can help. Our **Rising Autonomy** program supports young women from impoverished households in the early years of their independence. The program is based on the fact that privilege emerges from privilege whereas social mobility is increasingly rare. Girls from privileged backgrounds are supported until independence. In order to ensure that girls from underprivileged backgrounds can gain independence, we support them in the same way until they are living independently. This might mean helping them lease their first apartment, understand their bank statements or reflect on their personal relationships. While many organizations stop support upon high school graduation, we recognize the vulnerability of young adults and are establishing this program to create a tangible pathway to independence. Any contribution toward **Rising Autonomy** will help create this pathway.



Because our administrator is a volunteer and we work within the existing social system, our program funds go directly to those navigating poverty and inequality. Let's send girls to school! To sponsor a girl's education, visit www.enhanceworldwide.org/sponsorship ■

“I speak not for myself, but so those without a voice can be heard. Those who have fought for their rights. Their right to live in peace. Their right to be treated with dignity. Their right to equality of opportunity. Their right to be educated.”

Malala Yousafzai, Activist and Nobel Laureate

♥ **CONNECT WITH ENHANCE WORLDWIDE**
Twitter: @EnhanceWW | Facebook: EnhanceWorldwide

ENDING FISTULA

May 23rd is the **International Day to End Fistula**, and Enhance Worldwide is engaged in global efforts to eradicate this horrible, and preventable, childbirth injury. Fistula occurs when prolonged childbirth creates a hole in the bladder or rectum, leaving girls and women incontinent. According to the UN, approximately **2 million women** suffer from fistula in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, the Arab region, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Here in the United States, we eradicated fistula by delaying first pregnancy and creating wider access to medical care. In Ethiopia, the Enhance team is working to end fistula by sending adolescent girls to school. Pregnancy and childbirth remain a leading cause of death for girls in lower income

countries like Ethiopia. When girls do survive they are at risk for fistula because their hips are not wide enough for safe childbirth. **School protects girls from child marriage**, helping communities see them as children and therefore not marriageable. Since the overwhelming majority of adolescent pregnancies occur in marriage, by delaying marriage age we are keeping girls safe from the psychological and physical trauma of pregnancy and childbirth during their own childhood. As I heard Kate Gilmore, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Population Fund, say, “a safe passage from the world of the child to the world of the adult cannot be an elite privilege.”



By keeping girls in school and away from marriage, we’re working toward creating this safe passage for a group of girls in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Join our conversation to **#endFistula** on Twitter. For more information on fistula in Ethiopia, visit www.un.org/en/events/endfistuladay or watch NOVA’s **A Walk to Beautiful**. Onward!

—**Dr. Ashley Lackovich-Van Gorp**, Founding Executive Director ■

“If you educate a man, you educate an individual; but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.”

African proverb

COMMITTED ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE

Learn more about Enhance Worldwide’s passionate and fearless **Board of Directors**, working for communities where girls and women have the skills to lead meaningful, dignified lives and where each individual has agency, autonomy and aspirations: www.enhanceworldwide.org/about-us. ■



♥ CONTACT ENHANCE WORLDWIDE

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EMPOWERING CHANGE-MAKERS

Greetings! It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as Founding Vice President at Enhance Worldwide. As an individual who grew up in a developing country, I can be a witness that women and girls have a limited access and opportunity to play a key role **socially, economically** and **politically**. Despite the fact that many women- and girl-centered program interventions are carried out to halt burdens, women and girls are also still subjected and predisposed to various problems such as early marriage, gender inequality, and HIV. It is my long standing, firm belief that **individually, collectively** and **integrated** works are needed to improve the lives of women and to pave the way to enable them to contribute socially, economically and politically.

I support Enhance Worldwide because I believe that **women are the major change-makers**, if they are equipped with



the necessary tools, capacity and resources to excel and to bring out many more **hero women**. I share Mr. Kofi Annan’s opinion that, “When women thrive, all of society, benefits and succeeding generations are given a better start in life”. Thus, as a member of the Enhance Worldwide family, I can help make a difference in people’s lives and truly enjoy what I do.

Enhance Worldwide is committed to serving the most vulnerable girls through **holistic, collaborative,** and **community-responsive** programs and partnerships. Our **Kinship Care** program is already sponsoring girls’ education initiatives in Ethiopia. Join us — invest in girls and better our world!

—*Amare Siraw Yihun*, Founding Vice President ■



“When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.”
Ethiopian proverb

PROGRAM IMPACT

January 1, 2015
 • **Kinship Care** and **Rising Autonomy** programs launch
 • Kinship Care sponsors 8 girls, Rising Autonomy sponsors 2 young women

February 2015
 • **Kinship Care** sponsors one more child

June 2015
 • **Pathways Project** second activity
 • Reproductive Health session with 20 adolescent girls and 5 young women, including all Kinship Care and Rising Autonomy beneficiaries

January 10, 2015
 • **Pathways Project** launches
 • Life skills event held for 100 school age children and adolescents, including all Kinship Care beneficiaries

May 2015
 • **Kinship Care** sponsors one more child



PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

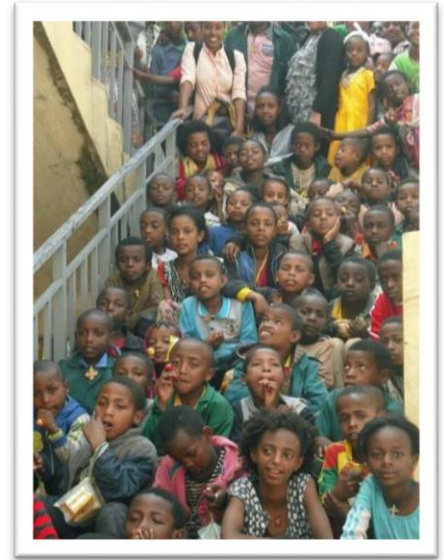
Enhance Worldwide’s **Pathways Project** focuses on creating opportunities for school age children, adolescents and young adults to learn, understand and practice the **life skills** necessary to navigate pathways out of poverty. Based on United Nations Inter-Agency recommendations for life skills, this project focuses on decision-making, problem-solving, creative thinking, critical thinking, communication, interpersonal skills, self-awareness, empathy and coping with stress (WHO, 1999).

Pathways works in the Gulelle section of Addis Ababa (Entoto), which is one of the poorest areas of the city. While Pathways does address the life skills needs of children and young adults, the primary focus of this project is **adolescent girls** (11-17). Life skills serve as tangible, applicable resources to help adolescents navigate the risks

of their environment; however, these skills are learned and are less likely to be acquired in situations of extreme poverty.

The goal of this project is to ensure that vulnerable girls living in Gulelle have the opportunities to **encounter**, **learn** and **practice** life skills via a community-based participatory approach that builds upon local, existing resources. Given that similar issues are present throughout other areas of Addis Ababa as well as other cities in Ethiopia, there is high potential to scale-up the project in the future.

In January, the **Pathways Project** hosted a holiday party and life skills event for all **100 students** at the neighborhood elementary school. All of the kids in Kinship Care attended. This holiday party may seem trivial, but such safe, joyful gatherings help children develop **healthy relationships** with adults and peers. Further, a playful interlude in a life of adult tasks aids in psychosocial development, helping children develop **resiliency**. This event provided the children with the opportunity to play, which is a rare treat for kids who spend their free time supporting their families. Play helps children make sense of their lives, deal with emotions and work through challenges. We believe that play should not be reserved for the childhood of the elite. ■



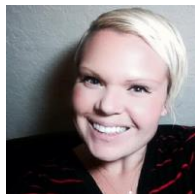
“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”

B.B. King

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



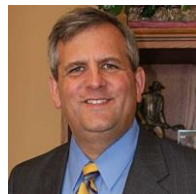
Ashley Lackovich-Van Gorp
Founding Executive Director



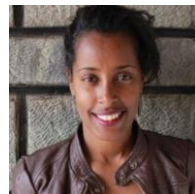
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