



# **FITSUM BAHRU MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

**5-YEARS OF SUCCESS  
PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS  
TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND  
VOCATIONAL TRAINEES  
IN ETHIOPIA**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Five years ago, the Fitsum Bahru Memorial Foundation (FBMF) was just an idea being bounced around with family and friends. With the support of many of our founding members and donors, that small idea became a plan that has grown into an organization impacting hundreds of young Ethiopians annually. Each year since 2016 we have expanded our community of donors and beneficiaries -- our donors allowing us to provide increased financial assistance and our beneficiaries inspiring donors to do more. Every contribution to FBMF has made a significant impact on our beneficiaries who through the support they receive from FBMF have been able to focus on their studies to graduate from university or complete their vocational training and join the workforce. **To-date, we have awarded 233 university scholarships and sponsored 30 vocational trainees, with an additional 120 university scholarship awards and 110 vocational trainee sponsorships underway for the 2021-2022 year.** We are so proud of what we have accomplished and grateful to you for your unwavering support!

As we continue to celebrate 5-years of success, we would be remiss to not share that there are challenges along the way. Though we have wonderful partners and administrators on the ground in Ethiopia, we are often met with hurdles and setbacks beyond our control-- like closures due to the pandemic or political unrest, and requests to take on more beneficiaries than we can accommodate. We have faced each challenge head-on reminding ourselves that despite these setbacks our scholars and trainees are counting on our support, and doing our best to provide you with the most accurate information on the direction of our programs and how your contributions are being disbursed.

During 2020 we had to cancel our main fundraising events while continuing to support our scholars and trainees who were faced with increased economic strife as a direct result of the pandemic. However, in 2021, we were able to host an intimate in-person golf tournament and our first-ever Virtual 5K Walkathon with so many of you participating from near and far allowing us to raise funds towards closing the funding gap we were facing. We thank each and every one of you for participating and making the expansion of our scholarship and sponsorship programs possible.

While reflecting on the past 5 years we are motivated to do even more over the next 5 years. We have many ideas in the works that we hope to implement into meaningful and impactful ventures in the coming years. But, we can only succeed with your continued support and encouragement. Please continue to participate in our events, share our work with your network, follow our social media accounts, sign up for our e-mails, and most importantly donate what you can, when you can. **Annual memberships (\$120 per year) and recurring donations (as little as \$10 a month) sustain our programs and ensure our growth in the future.** Please visit our website at [FitsumBahruFoundation.org](https://FitsumBahruFoundation.org) to make a contribution today.

We wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in-person in 2022!

Sincerely,  
Yegeshen Work Ayehu

# 5-YEARS OF STEADY GROWTH

**2016**

FBMF was registered as a 501(c)(3), Partnerships are established with Addis Ababa University (AAU) and Wollo University (WU).

**2016-2017**

18 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

8 Scholars at AAU  
10 Scholars at WU

**2017-2018**

40 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

20 Scholars at AAU  
20 Scholars at WU

**2018**

A new partnership is formed with Hope Enterprises to sponsor students in their vocational training programs.

**2018-2019**

80 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

26 Scholars at AAU  
25 Scholars at WU  
29 Hope Scholars

30 VOCATIONAL TRAINEES

15 Dessie  
15 Gambella

**2019-2020 -2021\***

95 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

30 Scholars at AAU  
35 Scholars at WU  
30 Hope Scholars

30 VOCATIONAL TRAINEES

15 Dessie  
15 Gambella

*\*extended due to Covid closures*

**2021-2022**

120 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

50 Scholars at AAU  
40 Scholars at WU  
30 Hope Scholars

110 VOCATIONAL TRAINEES

40 Dessie  
20 Gambella  
50 Addis Ababa

The FBMF scholarship award of \$190 per student per year is disbursed as a monthly stipend over the 10-month academic year. In 2016 it was 350ETB per student per month, later increased to 500ETB and now at 800ETB per student per month. The training programs through Hope Enterprises were previously \$600 per year, per trainee, for a two-year period. Since the pandemic, Hope Enterprises has restructured and now offers accelerated vocational training programs lasting 6-months each, at a cost of \$320 per trainee, allowing us to sponsor more trainees annually.



## HOLIDAY RAFFLE

**1ST DRAWING:**

**\$500 CASH PRIZE**

**2ND DRAWING:**

**IPAD MINI (\$499 VALUE)**

**3RD DRAWING:**

**SOUTHWEST AIRLINES VOUCHER  
(\$350 VALUE)**

**4TH DRAWING:**

**ONE-YEAR WINE SUBSCRIPTION  
(\$250 VALUE)**

**5TH DRAWING:**

**BLUETOOTH SPEAKER (\$125 VALUE)**

### CUSTOM APPAREL

T-shirts, long sleeve shirts and hoodies in adult and youth sizes. Available for purchase at [www.bonfire.com/store/fbmf-merchandise/](http://www.bonfire.com/store/fbmf-merchandise/). All proceeds benefit FBMF's scholarship and sponsorship programs in Ethiopia.

### HOLIDAY RAFFLE

\$20 per ticket and 3 for \$50.  
5 drawings with 5 great prizes to win.  
Drawing will take place **December 31, 2021** and the winners announced via our website, email, and social media accounts.



## FITSUM BAHRU MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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