

“I was able to be a model for youth in my community”



Ewnetu Teklu was born in Addis Ababa on 5th December 1997 in Addis Ababa around a place called Dejachwube in Piassa. Ewnetu is the youngest child of the family and has two sisters and two brothers living with his father. Ewnetu's mother passed away five years ago and after her passing away, the family's struggle to support their children which was shouldered

both by Ewnetu's mother and father, has now dwindled and befall only to his father. The family's petty trade activity to support their children to fulfill the basic needs to their children was not sufficient. As a result, Ewunetu and his sister's basic educational as well as other needs were jeopardized.

Since Ewnetu was from destitute family members, he got opportunity to be one of Future Hopes Integrated Development organization (FHIDO) enrolled children to get age appropriate support. Starting from his enrollment, FHIDO was providing Ewunetu with scholastic materials, school uniform, and school fee including tutorial classes, and medical coverage when he fall ill. Other than direct support from FHIDO, as one of sponsorship beneficiary, Ewunetu has received capacity building trainings in areas of letter writing skills which helped Ewunetu to communicate with and thank his sponsor in times of money gifts sent to him. The child right and child protection trainings improved his knowledge on basics of child rights issues and become a vanguard in his community to protect child right abuses.

On his grade 10th national examination, unfortunately Ewnetu could not score satisfactory result to join pre-college preparatory classes. As a young boy living in vulnerable community settings where many youths like him who are exposed to unwanted behavior, Ewunetu's future was also at the brink of disposition to engage in undesirable bad behavior. At one time, Ewunetu has

spent a rambling state of condition in his village on the street with no concrete near future. Neither Ewunetu has a well to do family or other relative members to support him in meaningful way and take him out from his state of condition.

However, Ewunetu did not give up and come to his senses to find some means of escaping from the trap. It was at this time that Ewunetu joined his brother's barbershop as assistant barber. Working as attached with others was not Ewunetu's option and began to develop his dream of having his own business. Hence, Ewunetu decided to join Technical and Vocational skill training to get basic skills. After assessing his potential and motivation, FHIDO stretched a supporting hand for Ewunetu to be one of youth beneficiary to get business planning and management and career counseling trainings. Ewunetu further got skill training support from FHIDO in hair dressing by covering the full expense.

After completing the skill training program, for a short while Ewunetu was employed in private barber shop for nine months. Seeing Ewunetu's motivation and far sightedness in having his own business in hair dressing, FHIDO provided Ewunetu with necessary startup materials for starting barber shop like swivel chair, big mirror and Tondos (haircutting machine) which costs 9,200.00 Birr. Now equipped with basic working materials, Ewunetu bothered his brother to lend him 5,000.00 birr and opened his own rental barber shop by renting a house in Addis Ababa around Addis Sefer situated along road side.

Currently Ewunetu has attained license to legally work on barbershop. Since Ewunetu's barbershop is located in suitable place and his quality and hard work, he is attracting many customers and even hired one assistant barber.

Ewunetu said "Because I got skill trainings with the support of FHIDO on how to handle customers, select marketable place and provide quality service, I was able to be a model for youth in my community and attract and retain many customers."

Other than sufficient income for himself, Ewunetu is currently repaying his loan and paying 2,200 birr per month for house rent. Ewunetu has plans to expand

his business and submit a larger business plan to local micro finance enterprises for loan. **Once Ewunetu said**

“Hopefully in the coming new year I will move to the adjacent new building with additional necessary facility to satisfy and attract more customers. In the long run I have a dream of having women beauty salon and spa besides male beauty salon”

Now Ewunetu is self-sufficient to fulfill basic needs for himself and even supporting his sisters and family and thank his deepest gratitude to his loyal sponsor Ms. Valli Kilby for changing his life and be productive citizen.