

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



# THE FREGENET FOUNDATION 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

Thanks to our committed supporters, partners, and volunteers, 2013 was another solid year of achievements for the Fregenet Foundation. The year started with a fundraising event that was a resounding success, followed by the procurement of land in Ethiopia for our future school. Then there was the grant we received from the Three Graces Foundation, trailed by the recognition of honors from Aid for Africa, which gave our organization the much appreciated press and exposure. We also welcomed a new school manager at the Fregenet School who carries with her a powerhouse of experience and expertise that will elevate the quality of education for our students at the school.



Along with the achievements, 2013 marked the 10 year-commemoration of Fregenet Woubshet's untimely passing. In honor and remembrance of Fregenet, the Fregenet School (Fregenet Kidan Lehitsanat) was established in the fall of 2004 in hopes to provide education for those children in need. All of us at the foundation work tirelessly, on behalf of Fregenet, to help children of poverty to obtain the education they so desperately need to propel them toward better and

brighter futures. And with this in our minds and hearts, we press forward into the New Year with absolute determination to make it another successful year.

## FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

The Fregenet School Benefit, "An Italian & Ethiopian Evening of Food and Music," was held on the beautiful patio of St. Alban's Episcopal Church on Sunday, April 28, 2013. The evening featured delicious homemade dishes, fine wines, and cool jazz by Lorenzo Grassi and Riner Scivally. The event was a resounding success, raising *three times* its goal! Enough funds were raised to sustain the entire student body of the Fregenet School, with breakfast *and* lunch for six months. An extraordinary feat! We would like to thank Dr. Luisa for organizing and spearheading this benefit dinner.



The delightful evening resulted in many new friends for the Fregenet School — it was just plain fun to meet and greet and to enjoy great food, music, and wine together, *al fresco*. The event also brought together many local communities to support a global common goal. Many guests new to our work asked: When is the next event? What can we do to help? Creating such a widening sense of community was precisely what the organizers had in mind when they planned the event!

### LAND IN ETHIOPIA FOR FUTURE SCHOOL

**D**uring our founder Tafesse Woubshet’s visit to Addis Ababa from May 3, 2013 to July 12, 2013, he helped the Fregenet School make significant steps towards securing a plot of land for our future facilities.

Our land request for the location of our future school passed all the necessary reviews and approvals from the sub cities and city administration. Ultimately, we were given the choice between two pieces of land: although the 1500-square-meter-plot we selected is the smaller of the two, we believe the location will yield larger impact in serving our present community since it is located a mere block away from our current facility. Our request is now in the final stages of approval and we hope to receive the title deeds very soon.



### THREE GRACES FOUNDATION

**T**he Fregenet Foundation was pleased to be the recipient of a \$6,000 grant from the Three Graces Foundation, a philanthropic organization that evaluates and provides funding for worthy nonprofits.

This grant was yet another testimonial to our ongoing success in establishing and operating a school in Addis Ababa, which provides a free education, a feeding program, and basic health services to students in need. The Three Graces Foundation has added its voice to those of other charitable organizations (e.g., Global Fund for Children, USA for Africa and others) who have recognized our ongoing achievements.

The \$6,000 we received from the Three Graces Foundation will go towards building a permanent school once we have officially acquired the land on which to break ground.

### AID FOR AFRICA HONORS

**A**id for Africa honored the Fregenet Foundation by naming us its highlighted member of the week. This significant spotlight provided us with the opportunity to increase awareness about our organization and the educational needs of the community we currently serve.

Founded in 2004, Aid for Africa now consists of more than 80 charities addressing important

issues ranging from education to health. Please visit [www.aidforafrica.org](http://www.aidforafrica.org) to read more about this important alliance and to see us highlighted on their website.

## NEW MANAGER

We are pleased to welcome Tigist Habtemariam as the new manager of the Fregenet School.

Tigist, born and raised in Ethiopia, completed her elementary and high school education at Lycee Gebremariam School in Addis Ababa. She then moved to the United States, where she finished her Associate Degree in Economics at Los Angeles Valley College before earning a Bachelor in Business Administration at Winona State University in Minnesota.

After graduating from the university, Tigist worked for Wells Fargo Investment Bank in Minneapolis in various capacities prior to moving back to Ethiopia, where she served at Belgian and Finnish Embassies. Tigist, who speaks fluent Amharic, French and English (and currently learning Mandarin), also gained experience at Warid Telecom in Congo Brazzaville.

We are confident that Mrs. Habtemariam will execute her duties and responsibilities with the highest esteem and take our cause to the next level.

## GRADUATION



Graduation ceremony for 28 Kindergarten 2, and 29 grad 4 students was held on July 13, 2013. Parents, guardians, FKL Board Members, invited guests and FKL staff attended the graduation. The children presented various programs of entertainment such as poetry reading, short drama and cultural dances.

campus and off campus sites.

In the school's tenth year of operation, the number of students enrolled has grown to 286 with 158 female and 128 male students to a total of 286 students on

## NEW SCHOOL SEASON

The Fregenet School in Addis Ababa began its 2013/14 school year on September 16, 2013. With the addition of 30 new students in KG-1 (20 of whom are girls), the number of students attending the school totaled 180! Most of the new students are from households with only one parent, and some have no living parents.

As in the past, the Women's, Children's and Youth Affairs Office for Woreda 05 and 11 recruited the new students. The Fregenet School accepted three children from Woreda 05 and 27 from Woreda 11, after the school conducted a door-to-door assessment to ensure that these children were from impoverished homes.

These newly recruited students received school uniforms and most importantly, the crucial early-childhood education they otherwise would not have received.



To expand its educational mission, the Fregenet School plans to increase the number of students in all grades. And, in addition to the enrolled students, the school provides continuing education services to about 120 older students who attend nearby public school.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For Fiscal Year 2013, the Foundation received \$12,890 from student sponsorships program, \$3,459 from Marathon sponsorship, \$10,190 from annual event, and \$9,425 from general donation for a total cash donation of \$35,964. In addition to the cash donations, the Foundation received \$50,000 worth of in-kind donation of administrative services.

The Foundation allocated \$21,500 for the Fregenet School in Addis Abeba to support: Fregenet School rent, teachers and staff salaries, maintenance of playground equipment, classroom furniture, school uniforms, office administration expenses, school supplies, utilities, and general maintenance. Also, \$6,000 of the cash received is transferred to donor restricted account for future school construction. The Fregenet School also directly received \$8,000 grants from Global Fund For Children.

An independent auditor's report of detailed income and expense statement for the year ended December 31, 2013, is available upon request.

## CONCLUSION

2013 proved to be an amazing year for the Fregenet Foundation. With the help of our supporters, the Fregenet Foundation continues to strive towards breaking down obstacles and barriers for the children of poverty to obtain their rights of education. Our work on behalf of these children will forever bond us with our generous and dedicated supporters, partners, and volunteers. With sincere gratitude, thank you!

The Fregenet Foundation  
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The Fregenet Foundation and its School Fregenet Kidan Lehitsanat admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, gender, disability and religion to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, gender, disability or religion in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.