



## **The Fregenet Foundation 2011 Annual Report**

The Fregenet Foundation began 2011 by asking you, our supporters, to “dig deeper and think harder” about meeting the needs of our young students in Addis Abeba. As the New Year begins, we can thank you heartily for making 2011 one of the most rewarding years in our history. Please read on to learn of the ways in which you are making a difference to our students, their families, and Ethiopia.

### **QUICK FACTS:**

Revenue, including restricted account for capital expenditure: \$64,850.57

Volunteers, with a nominal overhead cost of 4%, run the Fregenet Foundation

In addition to funding from the Fregenet Foundation, the school received nutritious food and supplies with a market value of \$25,000 from the Feed the Children Ethiopia and \$6,000 grants from Global Fund For Children.

Number of students at the Fregenet Kidan Lehitsanat (FKL): 185

Number of FKL “graduates” still supported by the Foundation: 60

Staff on payroll: 19

Hours of instruction provided: 35 hours a week

Library holdings: About 4000



### **Outpouring of Love and Support**

The Fregenet Foundation celebrated its seventh anniversary with an afternoon of Ethiopian music, dancing, food, and art on October 15 in Los Angeles. The celebration was a huge success financially, bringing in over \$15,000. We looked back with pride over seven years of progress and achievements and honored our founding board members and long-time supporters. Joined by brand-new friends and supporters, we were also able to look ahead with confidence to coming

challenges and opportunities. We could not do this work without all of you.

### Running Toward A Goal

For the eighth year in a row, Fregenet



Foundation founders and board members along with a team of supporters ran the L.A. Marathon to raise awareness and funds for the work of the Foundation. This has become an important symbolic event for the Foundation. Last year, Markos Geneti, a young man from Addis Abeba, was the top finisher, with a time of 2 hours, six minutes. The Fregenet Foundation team was also composed of runners with strong ties to Ethiopia and, while our team's time was a bit longer than Markos Geneti's, their dedication, hard work, optimism, and commitment couldn't be beat.

### Local Leadership

The Fregenet Kidan Lehitsanat, the free elementary school in Addis Abeba funded by the Foundation, is run by its own Board of Directors which employs and supervises the teaching and administrative staff. The past year has seen redoubled effort and commitment on the part of these volunteers. The local Board formed a communication committee and sponsored a very successful charity luncheon in April, reaching out to caring neighbors and community leaders. The Board has also been at the fore of our negotiations with neighborhood and city officials as we continue to seek a more stable home for the school.



In addition, the FKL Board has assumed responsibility for raising and allocating funds to meet increased costs in Addis. A combination of local regulatory changes, inflation, and a shortfall in expected NGO support placed a large burden on the school at the beginning of the school year. In addition to providing a salary increase to all 19 staff members, the Board approved contributions into the pension system, and fully covered the cost of employees' health insurance. So far, and with your help, the Board has

been able to meet these challenges without having an impact on the care and education of the students.



### Students' Smiles

Strengthened leadership at the local level also meant that 2011 was a great year for seeing what the FKL and the Fregenet Foundation mean to its students, families, and staff. We were able to share more stories and photos of children—both in school and at home with their families. Seeing with our own eyes and reading about the daily lives of our students makes the case for greater support and increased commitment more clearly than any fundraising appeal ever could. (If you missed them the first time around, you can read some of these stories [here](#) and [here](#).)

## Visits

For the second year, a team of American librarians and public school teachers visited the Fregenet Kidan Lehitsanat to exchange information, ideas, and materials with teachers and staff there. Once again, the group was led by Chris Kurtz, Fregenet Foundation Board member, teacher, and author. He reported



that “when we entered through the steel door amidst the laughter of kids, any unease we felt was left in the alley.” Carol Settgest, visiting for the second time, said “Fregenet School will beat the odds if we pull together to create a safe harbor for children to access education.”

In addition, a pair of American high school students spent three weeks of their summer vacation with the children on the Fregenet School. Since school was officially not in session, Juliadele Male “played soccer, basketball, volleyball, experimented with crayons, markers, finger paint, and watercolors, danced, climbed on the jungle gym, went up and down the slide numerous times, pretended to wear really fancy clothing and put on a fashion show, and mostly exchanged a lot of affection.” Not surprisingly, these visitors and volunteers formed strong bonds with our students that now stretch across the globe.

In summary, 2011 was a year in which our roots grew a little deeper and our branches reached a little higher. This means that the Fregenet Foundation has started 2012 in a strong position, ready to work harder to bring to life the promise of education in the lives of needy children. Thank you for your continued support.

