



2005/2006: Three Years of Stepping Forward

The Fregenet Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation dedicated to creating educational opportunities for impoverished children in Ethiopia. It was founded to honor the life and dreams of Fregenet Tafesse Woubshet, a 29-year-old American citizen of Ethiopian origin who died in an auto accident in the summer of 2003.

The Foundation, true to its mission, opened the doors of its pioneer Fregenet Kidan Lehitsanat School in November 2004 with a capacity of only 31 children.

For the Fregenet Foundation, 2006 has really been the most productive year of its existence. Although the Foundation was conceived in the fall of 2003, it is in FY 2006 the Foundation firmly established itself in the community. The restructuring of the organization in 2004 followed by the opening up of several offices such as the ones in Minnesota, Los Angeles, and Ethiopia in 2005 were the major factors that helped lay the foundation for the organization. In addition, in



FY2005, the Foundation's [web site](#) was beautifully redesigned and got actively promoted at every chance through press releases, brochures, email, and other forms of communications.

All these preparations appear to have helped the Foundation grow and have its presence felt in FY2006 in the community it serves. 2006 was the year real work begun in earnest and where the foundation among other notable achievements held a successful fundraising campaign.

In 2006, with the help of generous and dedicated individuals, the Fregenet Foundation was able to lease a larger site for its school, furnish it with desks, playground equipments, books and other essential stuff. It was also able to hire a trained staff consisting of teachers, assistant teachers, a janitor, and security guards. The Fregenet Kidan Lehitsanat School is now fully operational with very encouraging and promising prospect. To day, the School gives free education, provides free snacks during school hours for 105 children, of ages 4 to 7 years old.

Despite the persistence of the daunting challenge of educating and thereby changing the lives of millions of Ethiopian children, the success of the Foundation in humbly contributing in this regard is however noteworthy.

Lack of Funding, Lack of School

As one of the poorest nations in the world, Ethiopia allocates only 4.8 percent of its total Gross Domestic Product towards education and requires a portion of school cost to be covered by the students' families. Unfortunately, most Ethiopian families are so poor afford to food let alone pay even partially for their kids' education. This lack of substantial and proportional funding for education has resulted in a nation where the rate of literacy is one of the lowest in the world.

Current figures show only 39 percent of the total population is able to read and write. The lack of opportunity to essential education is said to contribute to many destructive social ills including:

- The spread of HIV/AIDS (7.2 percent of the entire population is infected);
- One of the highest level of infant mortality (nearly 17 percent of all newborn die or are stillborn);
- Mal-nourishment (stunted growth among children stands at 51.2 percent and 47.1 percent of all children are severely underweight),
- Gender inequality (Ethiopia is one of the few places in the world that still practices female genital circumcision); and
- A population susceptible to oppression because they are unable to read writes or deciphers issues important to them and their families.

Girls are said to be more affected by this lack of opportunity to education. The literacy rate for girls is 8 percent lower than that of the general population, which is 39 per cent. Girls enroll in school at a rate of 11 percent lower than boys. They are more likely to repeat grades; they are 13 percent more likely to dropout too. This trend has consequently contributed to the higher rate of HIV/AIDS infection among girls has kept them in a low social status.

The Fregenet Foundation strongly believes that a bright future begins only when people are empowered to act on their own behalf, and what better avenue is there for better empowerments than education. However, lack of schools, teachers and materials, has made education in Ethiopia sub standard if available. The home environment in which the children find themselves is also not conducive to learning.



That is why Fregenet Foundation picked the betterment of the future of Ethiopia's children as its mission. By establishing schools free of tuition, by providing books, school uniforms, pens, pencils and other school materials, the Foundation believes it can make a dent to the problem.

In addition, the Foundation strives hard to make its' schools serve as community resource centers that provide basic training on hygiene, health and other matters that directly relate to the health and well being of the under privileged children and their families.

To summarize 2006 accomplishments

- Registered as a non-profit organization locally in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, and has received certification from the ministry of justice, received a temporary license from the Ministry of Education to teach preschool age children up to the 4th grade.
- Changed the Foundation's organizational structure, overhauled and revised the bylaws and in line with the changes recruited new board members.

- Selected a new school site based on need assessment study and entered into a five-year lease agreement for the facility, furnished the school with office and classroom furniture, playground equipments and other school materials.
- Hired additional teachers, teacher's assistants, a janitor, and security guards.
- Enrolled additional 35 boys and girls ages 4 to 6 for a total of 105 students.
- Redesigned the web site to enable the Foundation to collect online contributions.
- Promoted the foundation's mission and goals through outlets such as the Internet, brochures, press releases, in addition to participating in big events and festivals.
- Raised funds through events such as the Los Angeles Marathon, the annual Ethiopian soccer tournament, selling raffle tickets and participating in lunch/dinner parties.
- Celebrated Christmas at the school compound and provided the needed opportunity for parents, staff and board members to interact.

How We Spent 2006

The following items were paid for using the Foundation's start up capital and donations collected during 2006:

School rent, facility renovations and paintings, salaries, playground equipments, classroom, furniture, uniforms.

In addition, money was also expended for office administration, school supplies, utilities, and maintenance.

An audited detailed income and expense spreadsheet for the year 2005 and 2006 is available upon request.

Our plans for the FY2007

Pledge Program



The Foundation is currently implementing a pledge program that allows generous individuals to sponsor our school and or individual students. A pledge program not only allows the Foundation to have a consistent stream of revenue for operation, but also allows the monthly donors to see the progress and results of each dollar they contributed. The Fregenet Foundation encourages generous and concerned individuals to participate in this program with a donation of as little as \$15 per month.

Grant Opportunities

The Fregenet Foundation is committed to its ideals mission and objectives. To achieve its aim it will pursue every funding opportunity that advances its aim. Important avenues in this regard are institutions and government agencies that provide funds to organizations such as the foundation that are committed to further education and community development. Funding applications are continuously being submitted. It is also prudent to emphasize that up to now the primary source of operating revenue remains to be contributions from generous individuals. The fact that the Foundation's 2006 fund raising efforts were greatly helped by a number of individuals who either donated money directly, held fund raising galas, and/or participated in raising funds by joining events like the Annual Los Angeles Marathon attests to this reality.

How We Plan to Spend FY2007



Currently, operating and maintenance costs of Fregenet Kidan Lehitsanat School are covered by funds derived from fundraisers and donations as mentioned above. The focus for FY2007 is to start to build and expand the capacity of the current school and begin working on the development of a large and modern school facility that effectively supports a minimum of 200 students. This is essential to reaching the ultimate goal of creating a literate and healthy community in this

impoverished region where the School is currently found.

Looking Ahead

2005/2006 was a year of great progress and fuel for the future. It was a year that exceeded the Foundations best expectations. With a productive FY2006 behind, the Foundation is eagerly looking forward to FY2007 with more ambitious and far reaching goals.

The Fregenet Foundation looks forward to FY2007 as the year it expands the current school, enroll more children, and begin the construction phase on the large modern school facility that will not only shape a bright future for our kids but also work as an important health, education, and social resource center for the entire community.

The Foundation will also continue to reach out to as many individuals as possible to encourage them in joining it in its well deserving mission, for so far the Foundation's success can solely be attributed to the generous and dedicated people who have given so much.

