



(Rahel loves posing for the camera)

Those of you who have been supporting and following Elevate since the beginning might remember me sharing about Rahel.

When Rahel first came into the program she was a 2nd grade student. She was illiterate in both Amharic and English and finished the year with a 36 average in school

Over the next year our education staff worked hard with her, teaching her how to read and trying to get her caught up in different subjects. By the end of 3rd grade she was literate and improved her grade to 48. Obviously, not as high as we would hope to see but we were happy for the improvement.

This year we have been amazed by the pace of her improvement. She has caught up with her peers in the program and is learning quickly. She comes to our center every day after school, sits down, and gives her complete attention to her schoolwork. We had high expectations, but when she told us her average we were shocked.

She brought a 77! That is almost a 30 point improvement in one semester. In Ethiopia, the grading system is a bit tougher. A 77 would probably be a B average in the US.

We are proud of Rahel and the hard work she has put in, as well of the staff and how they have invested in her.



(Semira and her brother Anwar)

Speaking of hard work, the second story I'd like to share with you is about Semira, an 11th grade student in the program. She was also one of the original children to join the program, and had low performance in school at the time.

One thing we have always appreciated about Semira is her work ethic. No one works harder than she does. However, despite this, she wasn't getting the results that she wanted in school. Even in her first full year after joining the program, her average went backwards a little bit. It was discouraging for her and for us. Yet, Semira didn't give up and kept giving her full effort.

Finally, her persistence has paid off. Semira got her report card and, even to her surprise, she ranked #1 in her class this semester! Everyone is encouraged, after all the hard work she has put in, to see her finally get the results she has been seeking.



The third story I want to share with you is about Almaz. She is the mother of Matusala and Leilt, who I shared about in the Team Update a few months ago.

When they came into our program, they were in a tough spot. Their home was inadequate to even be called a home. Almaz was working hard, but was burdened by her son's bone condition which needed regular protein and supplements.

Slowly, they have been seeing change in their life. The food support we give provided massive financial relief. On top of that we were able to get the supplements, which are very expensive locally, from abroad. Matusala and Leilt joined our after-school program which helped them build character and they have made some improvement in their education too.

Recently they experienced breakthrough in their living situation. Almaz's work has stabilized. She recently was able to upgrade to a much better home, which they are sharing with a family friend. This month she will also join the next round of moms to be trained and enter the microbusiness program. We believe that this will help them move forward even more.

On top of all this, in Ethiopia adults can take grade school classes through extension courses if they want to continue their education, and Almaz has enrolled! She is picking up where she dropped out and is

now an 8th grade student, just a year ahead of her kids! She was even at our office to study and get some help from Abel, our Education Coordinator, the other day.

We are really encouraged by Almaz's story and excited to see what lies ahead for her and her family!



(Abel tutoring Almaz at the office)

Thank you for your continuous support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lincoln Vallett', written in a cursive style.

Lincoln Vallett
- Co-founder & Executive Director