

*Please consider a contribution toward this important story of need.*

Last November, in the beautiful Sidamo region of Southern Ethiopia, two pregnant women labored in separate villages for two days. Both women's labor stalled, and both were a days walk from the nearest hospital. Both women made the 24 hour trek on foot with partially born babies. One woman formed a fistula – a hole from the birth canal to the urinary tract from the pressure of the partially born baby. The other woman's uterus ruptured. Both women made it to the hospital and lived, however one left with a repaired fistula and the other with no uterus. Both with no baby to take home.



Although these women experienced grave losses, they were considered the lucky ones. They lived. There are stories of so many others making the same kind of unimaginable trek on foot, on make-shift stretchers, carried on bikes or in wheel barrows. Most die en route. They are children, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. They live and work and love just like you and me. But they live in parts of Ethiopia where there is no ambulance service when medical help is desperately needed. So they attempt the harrowing journey any way they can. Often it ends in completely preventable death. Mothers leave behind orphaned children. Children die from treatable diseases.



I share the story of these two women with you because there is something that you and I can do to change this situation. Together, we can raise the funds to buy two urgently needed ambulances for two new hospitals being built in Ethiopia. With the support of the stable and democratic Ethiopian government, Wide Horizons for Children, a non-profit, non-sectarian child welfare agency in Waltham, MA is working in partnership with local Ethiopian communities to construct and staff these new hospitals. The local Ethiopian communities have donated 10% of their own labor and resources to the projects. The result of this partnership will be the Leku Hospital in the southern Sidamo region, and the Adwa Clinic in the northern Tigray region. It is unfortunate that as these projects near completion, each hospital is still without an ambulance.



My name is Rebecca Winokur, and I am a physician and adoptive mom. My three year old son became an orphan at four months of age in the Sidamo region of Ethiopia because of a lack of access to health care. Since becoming a mom, I have made two trips to Ethiopia and have been both awed by the utter beauty of the people and the place, and shocked by the unthinkable lack of resources.



The ambulances will each cost \$25,000 and will be purchased in Africa, serviced and maintained by Ethiopians working for the hospitals, and are expected to last 10-20 years. Contributing to the purchase of these ambulances will help maintain the integrity of tens of thousands of Ethiopian families. So, while the story of the two women who lost their babies sits deeply in my heart, and my son's fate and my family's story are intertwined with the Ethiopian health care crisis, there are millions of others whose stories have not yet played out. With a monetary donation, you can have a hand in stopping the unnecessary loss of loss of life in Ethiopia.

**To donate towards the purchase of the ambulances:**

Go to this link, select Ethiopia and Humanitarian Aid. In the comment section type "Ambulance Project- Ethiopia" <http://www.whfc.org/WHFFC/OnlineDonation.htm> or mail a check to WHFC, 38 Edge Hill Road, Waltham, MA, 02451, Attn: Tamar Lewis and write "Ambulance Project - Ethiopia" in the memo line of the check.

To read about WHFC's work in Ethiopia:

<http://www.whfc.org/WHFFC/projects/ethiopia.htm>

To read my blog about this work:

<http://whfcadoption.wordpress.com/>

To follow the work of WHFC's quarterly medical missions to Ethiopia: <http://twitter.com/WHFCMedMission>



To see a video showing WHFC's work, shot by adventure photographer & adoptive dad, Tyler Stableford: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qp51ADj3EE>  
*Tyler's photographs are included in this letter.*

Thank you,  
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