

# Kate Fereday Eshete

*helping the needy and inspiring change in Ethiopia*

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**Until 30 September 2009** PO Box 1500, Gondar, Ethiopia

**From 1 October 2009** PO Box 10, Debark, Simien Mountains, Ethiopia

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August 2009

Dear Supporter

## **EXCITING CHANGES**

The Tara Centre and Empress Mentewab School continue to amaze and enchant visitors:

- ◆ "Inspiring... truly an island of excellence that should become a lighthouse." David, UK
- ◆ "The minute you enter this beautiful place you feel the good energy and vibes." Lee and Eitan, Israel
- ◆ "The projects here are fantastic and a real credit to the obvious dedication of the staff and organisers." Nichole, UK
- ◆ "Tara Centre is a colourful centre. I did not expect it would be like this. I found it very impressive. You can do more and more things. You have a vision." Mulugeta, Ethiopia
- ◆ "An inspirational place... marvellous to see the good organisation and happy children. I loved to see the playgroup area with their own shop and the bright classroom with lively pictures." Suzanne, UK
- ◆ "What can I say and what can I suggest? The [sponsorship] project is awe-inspiring and it was a huge privilege to spend the day with you." Jan, UK
- ◆ "A very impressive organisation - far more interesting than tourist destinations." Jasmine and Bridget
- ◆ "What a beautiful surprise this day! We saw people walking with monkeys [Tara Centre staff exercising the rescued monkeys]... and our guide brought us to this place. A place full of hope!" Cocky and Marit, The Netherlands
- ◆ "...a terrific project. Wonderful what you are doing... so good to see a cheery and bright schoolroom and yard that obviously take children's needs for creativity into account." Cynthia, USA

I feel privileged that my life path led me into circumstances that enable me to have the pleasure of helping others. As the years slide by, I am increasingly conscious of how important it is to spend days, hours and minutes to best effect. I want to use more of my time working towards changing people's minds and habits for the communal good, prompting them to think about their lifestyle and the impact it has on the those around them and the planet, our shared home. As the world population spirals towards a predicted 9,000 million by 2050, Ethiopia's 77 million recorded in the 2008 census will more than double to 174 million. There is a lot of work to be done in Ethiopia on responsible living, alleviation of all the aspects of poverty that stunt people's potential, and the eradication of harmful practices that cause untold suffering.

As a life-long resident of Ethiopia, I want to ensure solutions are implemented to solve some of the social and environmental challenges faced by Ethiopians. To do this, I need to free up more time. The project that has occupied me day and night for the past ten years is the Sponsorship in the Community Project, which helps almost 400 vulnerable families, orphans in foster care and young adults in full-time education across the northern Ethiopian Highlands, from Addis Ababa to Tigray.

The end of the three-year rental agreement for the current Tara Centre premises approaches, and I have decided to take the opportunity offered by the contract termination to reassess my priorities towards my work and my family. In October my family and I shall move to the remote village of Dib Bahir, about 120 kilometres north-east of Gondar, where we have a small organic farm, Sebkana Farm. We chose the area because of its outstanding natural beauty and also because my husband, Asenake, has many relatives there.

The Tara Centre has three main community projects. In October these will split up, and will continue to run and expand at new locations. I'll continue to manage the two smallest projects and will hand over the largest - the Sponsorship in the Community Project - to The Kindu Trust team in Gondar and London.

*continued overleaf...*

### (1) Sponsorship in the Community Project

I shall be leaving the Ethiopian end of the project in the capable hands of enthusiastic and hard-working colleagues such as Marta Bekele, who has worked with me for ten years, and Kassahun Demissie, who joined us four years ago. Funded 100% by The Kindu Trust, the project will relocate to other premises in Gondar.

### (2) Empress Mentewab School

The school will relocate to Dib Bahir and serve poor children from the village and surrounding rural community. I shall remain headmistress and plan to develop the school to provide pre-school and infants education from February 2010, and primary grades from September 2011. The school will also have community facilities such as a hall (for meetings, drama, music, films) and a public library. Visitors will be as impressed by the new Empress Mentewab School in Dib Bahir as they were by the Tara Centre in Gondar.

For the forthcoming academic year, 25 high achievers amongst those children (Gondar beneficiaries of the Sponsorship Project) who attended Empress Mentewab School last year will be placed in private schools in Gondar, fees covered by The Kindu Trust; other former pupils will join their nearest state school, which is free.

### (3) Animal Welfare Project

The Canine Birth Control and Monkey Rescue activities (these are separate to The Kindu Trust) will also move to Dib Bahir.

**Please note that all future sponsorship payments relating to the Sponsorship in the Community Project should be paid direct to The Kindu Trust ([www.kindustrust.org](http://www.kindustrust.org)) and not to me.** I shall be grateful to receive donations for my work, for Empress Mentewab School at its new rural location, and for the animal welfare activities. Until I have organised a bank account in Debarq (the nearest town to Dib Bahir), please continue to use my Gondar bank account number (see Tara Centre News). When Empress Mentewab School has been registered by Debarq Education Office, it will have its own bank account.

Despite retiring from the Sponsorship in the Community Project, I am very keen that it should go from strength to strength, to continue to help more families and to cover school and training fees for beneficiaries. To do this, The Kindu Trust needs more funds and more sponsors.

The organisation of The Kindu Trust is in better shape than it has been for years. It has a proactive Board of three trustees (Matt, Brian and Tom), a shared office in London with an efficient part-time voluntary administrator (Hannah), and an experienced team in Ethiopia. Thanks to Marcy's efforts in Gondar, the backlog in sending out report packs to sponsors has been cleared. However, to ensure the continuing success of The Kindu Trust, we rely on your help:

- ➔ **More Active Supporters Needed!** It is its supporters who make all the Trust's work possible. They play an important role in raising money and helping run the Trust. With all the changes that are occurring, now is the time to reinvigorate our fundraising efforts to boost the work being done in Gondar. Please refer to The Kindu Trust's website, or contact the Trust if you have fundraising ideas and are able to get involved.
- ➔ **More Sponsors Needed!** The Kindu Trust needs more sponsors to commit to supporting the poor families, orphan children and young adults it helps. Too many of the disadvantaged on its caseload have no sponsor. Aid is paid out from general funds for humanitarian reasons, but there is no regular contribution coming in to cover these particular cases. In addition, we have a long list of vulnerable cases waiting for a sponsor. If every supporter found one individual or family amongst their relatives, friends or work colleagues who would agree to be a sponsor, we would no longer have to turn away poverty-stricken families from help they so desperately need. The infrastructure and resources are now in place to cope with many more sponsors in a way that would not have been possible a year ago. So please help. Ask the new sponsor to contact The Kindu Trust to arrange the sponsorship.

My family and I are excited about our new home in a remote rural community north of the Simien Mountains. Life is going to be very interesting. You can follow our progress on my website. I shall remain in touch with you through my new role as Honorary President of The Kindu Trust.

With thanks for your continuing support and best wishes from a green Gondar (it's the rainy season until September).

*Kate Fereday Eshete*

Kate Fereday Eshete (Mrs)

**Don't forget – find one sponsor this month!**