



Levi, Beemnet, and Faith

Giving Back to Ethiopia

Adoption Associates, Inc. would like to thank Beemnet, a six year old girl that came home to her forever family from Ethiopia six months ago, her older sister, Faith, and her older brother, Levi, for saving their money for a month to help Ethiopian orphans.

Since Beemnet's arrival home, she has quickly caught onto her new language and has told her brother and sister many stories about what it was like to live in an Ethiopian orphanage, often without enough food and clothing. So when the children discovered that Mary Beth Tanis, their family's home study caseworker, would be coming to their home in one month for Beemnet's six month post adoption visit, they decided to save their money until that time to give to Ethiopian orphans.

The children went on a mission throughout the house, looking for spare change on the floor or in between the couch cushions, and they added the coins they found to a special bowl. Throughout the rest of the month, the children continued to add change to the bowl. Some of this money was from their allowance, some of it was found, and some of it was given to them by their grandmothers.

The children's mother, Oleta, says, "The children had opportunities to spend the money on themselves, but they didn't want to."

The money that the children saved has been designated toward AAI's Embracing Ethiopia project which supports two orphanages in Ethiopia's capital of Addis Ababa. The children's donation will help provide Ethiopian orphans with basic necessities such as food and clothing, as well as continued medical care and schooling.

Before Beemnet's arrival home, her family had participated in several different humanitarian projects by purchasing food for the poor or buying chickens for impoverished families overseas. Oleta continues to be amazed at the cultural awareness and compassion her children have, even in spite of their young age.

This summer, the children plan to have a garage sale and to send the profits they earn from selling their old toys to the poor in Africa.



Please call Tom Gill, director of fund development, at 616.667.0677 or 1.800.677.2367 to learn how you or your family can contribute to the Embracing Ethiopia Project.