It was all started back in 2002. Nia Foundation was pioneering and paving ways to the concept of working in the field of Autism in the country; Creating Public Awareness, Providing Rehabilitative Therapeutic Services for children with autism, holistically empowering vulnerable youth and women, promoting needs to sexual and reproductive health and rights, enlightening communities for a sense of concern on a number of issues, and lobbying for systemic change in the face of decision makers and the legal framework. We have also been engaged in widely serving as a research and practicum facility for the local and international world of academia especially partnering with higher education institutions. The services we have been able to provide to the society has also extended to the extent of professionally diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders, holding individual and group counseling sessions and organizing forums for psychosocially empowering parents. The government of Ethiopia and the relevant sector offices at different structural levels have always been supportive of and guiding the Foundations humanitarian undertakings throughout the past fifteen years. Such collaborative efforts have resulted in multifaceted achievements for the betterment of communities we serve. We are now warmly marking our 15th year in service reflecting back on the remarkable achievements we have registered in collaboration with our partners and enjoyed with our constituencies.

Inside this issue:

Nia Celebrating 15th Years in Service 1
Joy Center Expanding to Dire Dawa 1
Cornerstone laid to Construct Joy CEA 2
Everyone Can Do Something 3
Inside Story 3
Your Donation Matters 4

Joy Center for Autism Expanding to Dire Dawa

One Step Forward!!! Joy Center for Autism Branch is due to be launched very soon in Dire Dawa city. Joy Autism Center under Nia Foundation Addis Ababa is on preparation to extend its services in all major cities in Ethiopia one at a time where the service is highly demanded.

On account of a vast range of children with autism spectrum and a very high demand of a holistic, therapeutic and diagnostic services in the city and as well as a considerable gap in the sector, it is intended and envisaged to be more imperative to open Joy Autism Center branch in Dire Dawa city for now and in Harar city up next. Having seen our ambitious plan to intervene in the city, Dire Dawa City Administration warmly welcomed our proposal and has also been enormously desirous to provide us with all the necessary support in every possible ways at its disposal. Of course, as a preliminary support it has promptly handed over one of rental government
A Brand New Joy Autism Center of Excellence building construction is to be commenced soon. In connection to this, a cornerstone laying ceremony was held on 23rd of March this year. During this event, many pertinent stakeholders, parents, donors and distinguished guests including high government officials took part in this significant ceremony. His Excellency Mr. Abdulfatah Abdullahi, Minister of F.D.R.E. Labour and Social Affairs, was the guest of honour and later the day at the event he unveiled the corner-stone for the planned Joy Autism Center of Excellence building construction.

The center has been designed to be one of a kind not only in Ethiopia, but in the whole continent of Africa and surely be a world class in terms of its infrastructure and therapies and trainings to be rendered within. This State-of-the-art Center of Excellence is meant to serve as a place where children with autism are rehabilitated and provided with varieties of holistic therapeutic services. The therapeutic and training services to be rendered will target maximizing the potentials of children enrolled. Making the center of excellence an operational research and specialized medical care facility is also an integral part of the plan; besides serving as an international conference center. The center gives priority in the utilization of indigenous knowledge that can be structured, developed and could also be shared to the international community.

The Addis Ababa City Administration has delivered as promised, handed over to us 4624 m² lease free plot of land to construct this center. The support to such an important initiative is not only from the direction of the government, the project has already attracted the interest of different local and international professionals in the field and the private sector to engage and make a difference in the lives of communities affected by Autism in the country.

As an asset for all Ethiopians, the realization of the center of excellence is definitely going to require the contributions and active involvement of all citizens. The late Prime Minister in his personal message to the foundation once said “Since a good society is perhaps best measured by how well it treats its most disadvantaged citizens, I call on Ethiopians, in and out of government, to show special care and concern to our children with autism”. We also call upon all concerned to show up and do their part for the realization of the center saying ‘Yagebagnal – It concerns me!’

Nia Foundation delightedly recalls the philanthropic and benevolent initiatives taken by our remarkable partners and donors in the past who believed in our work and its importance for the benefit of the underserved segments of the community affected by Autism. We show our gratitude on behalf of the Management & Staff of the Foundation, Parents, and our precious children with Autism!

“We also call upon all concerned to show up and do their part for the realization of the center”
Everyone Can Do Something

A very little initiative and strong willpower by the founder to alter ill perceptions and isolations against children and persons with autism and other developmental disorders in Ethiopia through awareness creation and teachings about the spectrum has now sprung dozens and dozens of high-water and revitalizations.

A kernel of little seed Zemi Yenus sew during the establishment 15 years ago at the much tapered sanctuary, Joy Autism Center Addis Ababa has grown into a big tree and has born an exceedingly bigger fruit that is now on the verge of blossoming. Her very small stride towards safeguarding and embracing those vulnerable kids in the spectrum who were shackled in the closet, isolated and treated so unkindly by the societies has transformed into a very big giant one. She and the foundation she established are tirelessly working to eliminate the isolations, the negative thoughts and discriminations towards these precious children with ultimate determination and outstanding willpower. All the stabling blocks and obstacles along the path have being broken into pieces and eradicated because of the persistent efforts being put by the foundation and this legendary woman’s untapped potential and her “Yes We can” spirit.

As a pioneer, we have had an ambition to render an equitable services to all vulnerable children with autism regardless of their race, sex, religion and life standards and that of course has resulted a remarkable effect in the cause in a way that could fill the gap in the sector and satisfy the community.

The little Joy Autism center has come a long way in achieving its mission through the past 15 years in service; aspires even further for greatness in the years to come with an ultimate goal of serving better, expanding to regions, and reaching the underserved communities. Therefore, we kindly urge all of you inside and outside the country in every sectors to come together, hand in hand, to contribute your share and do your little consistent support and kindhearted donations to keep the foundation moving forward just like Mrs. Zemi.

The Time For Academia

Nia Foundation’s Joy Center for Autism is offering the opportunity for the world of academia in the country especially for graduate and postgraduate students of the distinct universities studying in the fields of psychology, special needs education, medicine, social studies and other relevant disciplines.

This specific time of an academic year is the time of conducting researches for dissertation, have practicum and residency services as part of required fulfillment to course work or study programs. Inline with that, the Nia Foundation is once again actively helping these students and responding to the information and attachment requests being forwarded from the institutes and individual professionals cooperatively.

The foundation is also managing the intakes and assignments of Interns and Volunteer students from different colleges and high schools. These types of assignments are usually that of nonprofessional voluntarism meant to help us mainly in the form of teachers assistantship. If they could they are also expected to join the existing or establish their own group of volunteers to help us in our initiative of raising funds and mobilizing resources.

Maximizing the use of this time of the year as schools are being closed for the winter would hugely contribute to the personal developments of the soon to be full professional students as well as contributes a lot in terms of helping to the community.

As a non profit non governmental organization, Nia Foundation encourages everyone to become a volunteer and have the pleasure of serving by involving with the foundation in different ways to the good of communities seeking assistance.

“...She and the foundation she established are tirelessly working to eliminate the isolations, the negative thoughts and discriminations ...”

University Students Paying an Educational Visit to the Joy Center for Autism
Initiated in May 2002, Nia Foundation is an indigenous, nonprofit and non-governmental humanitarian organization established from the outset to alleviating the all-rounded challenges faced by persons with autism and other related developmental disorders, and young men and women living in challenging socio-economic circumstances.

The foundation is reregistered in November 2009 by the FDRE Charities and Societies Agency Proclamation No. 621/2009, as Ethiopian Residents Charity Organization with registration No 0854 and permitted to operate in all regional states of the country.

For more information about the organization, please do reach us via our contacts.

Giving Turn in Service

We Are On The Web
www.nia-foundation.org

Your Donation Matters

Help Us To Help Others!

Nia Foundation enormously relies on your support and donations to fund its projects, workshops, grant programs, special events. As an all-volunteer organization we strive to put your money to use directly accomplishing our missions and attaining our goals.

Your Support Helps Us to;

Empower and improve the holistic well-being of less privileged children with autism spectrum disorders, youth, and women mainly through education, rehabilitation, training and awareness raising, dialogue and discussion forums, entrepreneurship and leadership development programmes.

Please make your donations via any of the following bank accounts

DASHEN BANK
ACC. NAME: NIA FOUNDATION
ACC.NO. 0010608469009
SWIFT CODE: DASHETAA
P.O.BOX: 41876
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

OR

COMMERCIAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA
ACC. NAME: NIA FOUNDATION
ACC.NO. 1000066285808
SWIFT CODE: CBETETEE
TEL: +251-113-726162
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Donate Now >