



GIRLS GOTTA RUN FOUNDATION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

Girls Gotta Run Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that invests in girls who use running and education to empower themselves and their communities. GGRF is the only non-profit organization in Ethiopia using the national sport of running as an innovative approach to creating safe spaces, ending child marriage and expanding access to primary and secondary school for vulnerable girls

VISION

Girls Gotta Run envisions a world that empowers and invests in the exceptional initiative of young women who are working to establish their places in the world as competitive runners and leaders in their communities, who are finding strength, courage and power in their pursuit of excellence, and who are achieving their fullest potential in running and society.





OUR WORK

The UNFPA identified early marriage as the single most important reason why girls' education is undermined in almost all regions of Ethiopia. Though the Ethiopian government has outlawed marriage before the age of 18, this practice continues to happen at alarming levels due to traditional norms, poverty and fear of violence. Girls in Ethiopia are often pulled out of school at the cusp of puberty, cementing their isolation. As a result, girls lack the support network and safe spaces needed to avoid or deal with the experiences that threaten to derail them: leaving school, forced sex, pregnancy or early marriage.

GGRF is the only non-profit organization in Ethiopia using the national sport of running as an innovative approach to creating safe spaces, ending child marriage and expanding access to primary and secondary school for vulnerable girls. Since 2006, the Girls Gotta Run Foundation has empowered girls through running in Ethiopia and effectively eliminated early marriage before the age of 18 from the lives of the 117 girls with whom we have worked.



ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In 2013, we introduced a new program, the GGRF Athletic Scholarship Program, which now has 55 participating athletic scholars on two teams (35 in Sodo, 20 in Bekoji), positively impacting 55 families, with a total of 275 family members. The program is designed to accommodate 60 students in total in each location, 20 in each of three consecutive years. We are in year two in the Sodo program and year one in the Bekoji program.

Program Objectives

- Provide the tools girls need to avoid early marriage.
- Support girls in moving from primary to secondary levels of education.
- Provide girls with access to a community of peers and resources for self-empowerment.
- Provide the families of the girls with the skill set they need to improve their financial security through savings groups and entrepreneurship.

Program Components // Education, Athletics, Life Skills, Savings Groups and Entrepreneurship

EDUCATION

GGRF is dedicated to reducing and eliminating the complex barriers that keep girls from attending school during their most vulnerable academic years. Through our holistic Athletic Scholarship Program, girls in grades 5 – 9 are provided 3 year full scholarships with the objective of helping them graduate from primary school and move into secondary school.

The scholarship includes healthcare for the student and her mom, daily meals, uniforms, school supplies, tutoring, access to school clubs and library, soap, showers and space to wash clothes on the weekend. GGRF also covers the cost of annual school exams that allow students to graduate into higher levels of education.

In Sodo, Ethiopia, we partner with the Abba Pascal Girls School, a private, all girls school, to implement our Athletic Scholarship Program. In Bekoji, Ethiopia we work with the government funded primary and secondary schools in the town.



ATHLETICS

GGRF Athletic Scholars meet three times per week to run as a team and train under the direction of their Coach. This schedule allows them to train without sacrificing the time they need for homework and family obligations. Each girl is equipped with athletic wear, running shoes, running socks, athletic tights, water bottle, and sanitary pads as needed. Healthy snacks are provided after each practice so the girls can properly recover from their workouts. The GGRF Team is also invited to travel and compete in one local race annually.

LIFE SKILLS & PEER MENTORSHIP

Each Saturday, the GGRF Athletic Scholars complete a life skills lesson organized by their Female Mentor. The curriculum for these lessons was co-developed by the Center for Creative Leadership and GGRF to create safe spaces for girls and provide experiential learning modules on family planning, financial literacy, HIV/AIDS awareness, nutrition, healthy relationships, leadership, and creative expression. Each month features a different topic over the course of the yearlong curriculum. Upon completing the year long life skills course, the Athletic Scholars then become peer educators for the incoming class of female students.



SAVINGS GROUPS & ENTREPRENEURSHIPS

GGRF helps to establish savings and entrepreneurship groups with the mothers of the girls for whom we provide Athletic Scholarships. The aim of this project is to integrate a long-term sustainability plan for the families participating in the GGRF Athletic Scholarship Program by providing them with the tools they need to build successful, female-led businesses. At the end of the three year GGRF Athletic Scholarship Program, the participating girls and their families are equipped with the knowledge, tools and mentorship needed to build a better life for themselves and their communities.

GGRF partners with a local organization, the Siquee Women's Foundation, to implement the savings and entrepreneurship groups. Together, we organize workshops with community stakeholders to discuss the Savings Group Project, conduct 5 day business development training workshops with the female participants, provide materials to assist in the establishment of the Savings Groups, including seed capital, and train the volunteer Community Mobilizers to continue to develop the relationship between the Savings Group participants and key stakeholders in the community.



PROGRAM EVALUATION & MONITORING

Baseline and Endline Evaluation Surveys: The Girls Gotta Run Foundation conducts baseline and endline evaluation surveys to assess the impact the program is having in the lives of the girls with whom we work. These surveys assess the personal, athletic, academic and social growth of the girls throughout the program. GGRF also conducts daily monitoring and recording of all program activities. Some of the feedback that we received from our surveys this year included:

"When people say, 'there is the girl who can run and is strong' it makes me feel proud of myself as a runner." – Athletic Scholar Betelhem.

"I love having school lunches in this program. Lunches let me stay at school to eat so I don't have to walk home. My home is very far and when I walk there for lunch, I miss school because I'm not able to get back to school on time after walking. Now I can eat lunch during school days. Thank you!" - Athletic Scholar Merawit.





FAMILY VISIT MONITORING & COMMUNITY BUILDING

The GGRF team and local partners meet with the families of all of our Athletic Scholars to discuss the GGRF Program and how we can work together to make this program as effective as possible. During one of the family visits, GGRF Athletic Scholar Tirsit's mother had the following to say about her daughter's education and involvement in the GGRF program:

"I feel like education is above many things. It is incomparable in importance. There is no substitution for education. Everything else (prosperity, wealth, etc.) can disappear, but education stays with someone until they die.

This [GGRF Athletic Scholarship] program can benefit Ethiopia. I hope my daughter will do something great in the future and for the country. The country can have a big and great reputation as a result of her."

– GGRF Athletic Scholar Tirsit's mother.

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SODO, ETHIOPIA

Initiating a New Class of Athletic Scholars: After a rigorous interview process, we selected 20 more girls to join our Athletic Scholarship team in Sodo, Ethiopia. GGRF now supports 35 Athletic Scholars at the Abba Pascal Girls School in Sodo. We were very excited to invite these students to join our program and look forward to watching them thrive.

The Girl Power Gym: GGRF partnered with the Swedish startup, Karma Coffee, to build an outdoor gym at the Abba Pascal Girls School in Sodo, Ethiopia. The gym design was reviewed by urban planners in Stockholm to ensure it was safe for young girls to use.

Getty Images and Lean In Creative Grant: In 2015 we were the recipient of the first Getty Images and Lean In Creative Grant supporting innovative programs serving girls internationally. With the support of this grant we worked with the Inspired Storytellers Collective and the photographer Joshua Kristal to tell the story of the girls with whom we work through video and photography. The finished products of this trip will be showcased online in 2016.



ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BEKOJI, ETHIOPIA

Launching the Bekoji Athletic Scholarship Program: We are proud to announce that we launched the GGRF Athletic Scholarship Program in Bekoji, Ethiopia this year. We have invited 20 girls to be part of our Athletic Scholarship Program that also includes savings and entrepreneurship training for their families. We look forward to the growth of the GGRF Athletic Scholarship Program in Bekoji in the coming years.

Women's Savings and Entrepreneurship Group: We launched our first pilot program of the GGRF Women's Savings and Entrepreneurship Group with the mothers of the GGRF Athletic Scholars. The launch included meetings with local stakeholders, a presentation to the Bekoji community about the GGRF Program model and a 5 day entrepreneurship training for the women involved in this group. The women's savings group now meets once a week to make decisions on how to manage, grow and implement the group's collective savings.

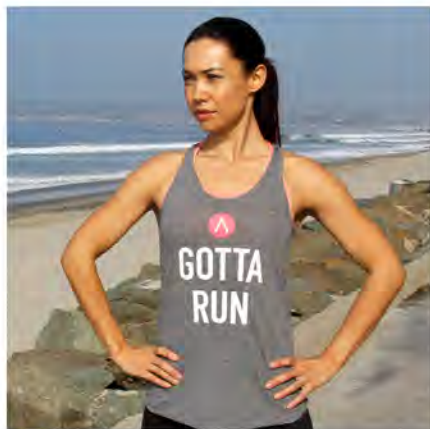
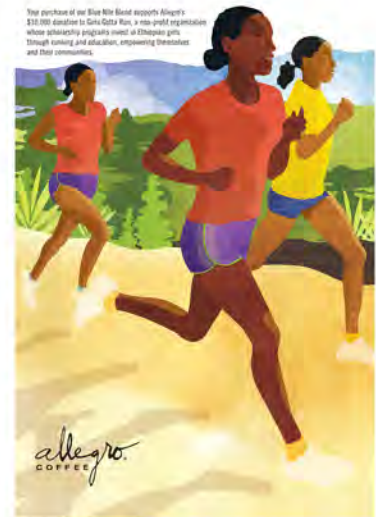


ACTIVISM & OUTREACH



International Day of the Girl 5K Pop-Up Run: On Sunday, October 11th, GGRF organized the first Annual Global IDG Pop-Up 5K Run in collaboration with Oiselle Running Company to celebrate the International Day of the Girl and raise funds for girls who are empowering themselves and their communities through running and education in Ethiopia.

African Summer with Allegro Coffee at Whole Foods Market: Allegro Coffee featured GGRF alongside three other NGOs working in Africa in a series of coffees supporting “like minded organizations cultivating change” which were sold in Whole Foods Markets nationwide.



Activyst “Gotta Run” T-Shirt: In 2015 we continued our partnership with Activyst and introduced the “Gotta Run” tank top which provides a week’s worth of meals for our Athletic Scholars with every purchase.

GRANTS & AWARDS



GGRF was proud to be the recipient of the following grants and awards this year: Java Jog for a Cause Grant, Allegro Coffee Origin Grant, Getty Images Lean In Grant, Good for Girls Foundation Grant, Riverstyx Foundation Grant, and the Gorlitz Foundation Grant.



LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors | Ashley Kollme, M.A., Chair; James Scott, M.B.A., Treasurer; Patricia E. Ortman, Ph.D., Founder and Secretary; Kayla Nolan, E.D.; Sheena Dahlke, M.A.; Ann Maier, M.S.; Allyson Senie, J.D.

Executive Director | Kayla Nolan

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

GGRF solicits funds from private donations, local groups, businesses, and supporters based in Canada, Europe, Australia, Ethiopia, and the United States of America. In 2015, we raised \$70,359 and expended \$49,864 with \$20,495 committed for 2016 scholarships and operations.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the businesses, organizations, foundations, individual donors and athletic scholarship sponsors that have supported our work in Ethiopia: Allegro Coffee, Falcon Coffees, Falcon Specialties Coffees, Addis Exporter, Sweet Maria's Coffee, Karma Coffee, Java Jog for a Cause, Riverstyx Foundation, Gorlitz Foundation, Good for Girls Foundation, Whole Foods Markets, Activyst, Oiselle, B'Uniqu, MGK Design, Getty Images and Lean In, Center for Creative Leadership, Siquee Women's Foundation, Abba Pascal Girls School, Bekoji Athletics Office, and the Bekoji Women's and Children's Office.

GIRLS GOTTA RUN[®]

FOUNDATION

