



Dear Friends of Pathways to Children,

I hope this note finds you well. It has been a while and I wanted to reach out and give you the latest updates on our progress here at Pathways.

The last couple of years have been productive! The big news (and our largest accomplishment this year) is the development of our new partnership with the University of Minnesota's « Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility » ([CGHSR](#)).

Through CGHSR, Pathways sponsors medical students, graduate nursing and public health students to embed a “hands-on” international research experience into their advanced degrees, thus training the next generation of global health leaders.

The recent pandemic, as well as the increase in undocumented immigrants crossing the border without being checked for contagious diseases, has brought to light the need for more global health providers and officials with international experience and training.

In keeping with Pathways' mission to provide hands-on volunteer experiences, Pathways' friends may volunteer alongside these U of MN students at their international embedded program locations. You can refer to the Pathways [website](#) for information about a May 2024 mission to Ecuador as well as review an evaluation from students from a recent program in India.

With the Pathways/CGHSR partnership, we welcome to our Board of Directors Kathleen Griffin. Kathleen (Katy) serves as the Chief Development Officer of Global Health & Social Responsibility. We will be working closely with Katy to develop future courses including Ethiopia where Pathways has ongoing historical relationships.

If you have [followed](#) Pathways, you will recall the school Pathways built in Belessa, Ethiopia for a little girl Zemene, whose life was saved by our friend Dr. Rick Hodes. You may also recall the documentary film "[Zemene](#)". It was Zemene's desire to get an education in her village, one that never had a school. With your generous donations, Pathways completed the school. We are now working on its second addition! Please see the letter of gratitude Zemene recently sent to us as well as photo updates on the backside of this letter. This spring, Zemene will graduate with a master's degree in business administration from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma. What an amazing story!

Like many nonprofits, Pathways had to reinvent itself after the pandemic. We are confident we have chosen a strategy and partner who can make significant contributions to the betterment of many lives. We invite you to continue to be a part of our journey.

We want to thank all our donors and supporters who made and continue to make it possible for Pathways to make a positive impact in the world.

With gratitude,

Grace Strangis
Executive Director and Founder
Pathways to Children

Board of Directors - Kathleen Griffin, Gopal Khanna, Dr. Beth Virnig, Robert York

Letter from Zemene

August 23, 2023

Dear Grace and all pathways committee,
I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for everything you've done for our village. Your hard work and dedication in building the school have had a lasting impact that we will always cherish. Although I couldn't be there during the celebration due to my visa situation, please know that my heart was with you every step of the way. I hope to visit soon to witness the incredible transformation your contribution has brought to our community.

The school you built means so much more than just a building; it represents hope and opportunities for the children of our village. The gift of education is priceless, and I can only imagine the positive impact it will have on their lives for generations to come.

Your selflessness and generosity have touched everyone in the village, and we are forever grateful to you for making this dream a reality. Your actions have inspired us to strive for a brighter future, and we will continue to cherish and care for the school as a symbol of progress and growth.

Once again, I extend my deepest thanks for your invaluable contribution and dedication. You have truly made a difference in the lives of countless people, and I am eagerly awaiting the day when I can express my gratitude in person.

Thank you!
Zemenetwork Adebabay

Pictures: Inside of school Pathways built in Ethiopia in 2015 for Zemene and her community

Local villagers working on second addition in December 2023

Pathways



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