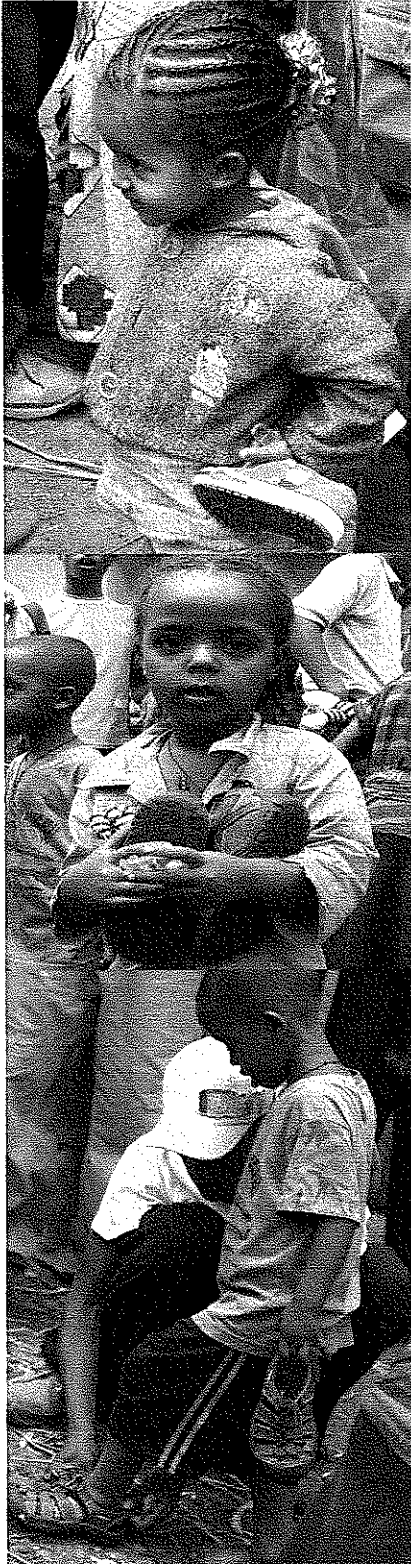
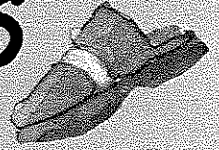


Doctors Giving Back



Shoes News From Ethiopia

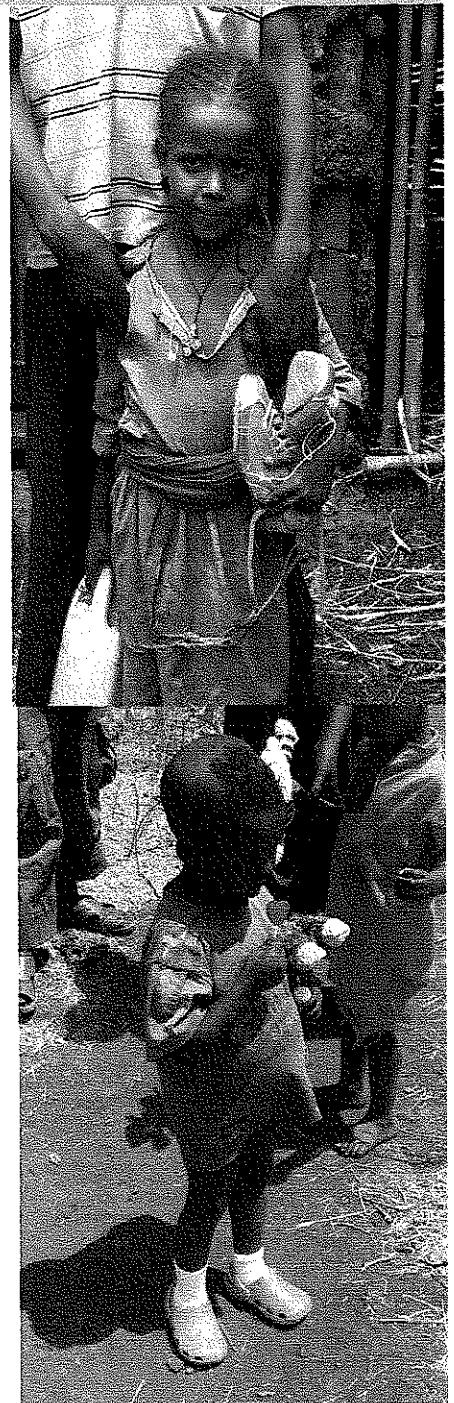


Dear Parents & Children -
We return from Africa with our hearts full of *amazing* and *wonderful* stories, but none more heartwarming than the overwhelming gratitude of the parents and children who received the shoes you gave to them. It was hard to hold back tears as we watched the children, and many adults, receive shoes for the first time in their entire life...

Ethiopians are kind, compassionate, loving people who never seem to be afraid, like we are sometimes in America, to show their emotions in a *grand*, but heartwarming way! We cannot begin to describe in mere words what it meant to these children to have their "very own" pair of shoes! It was as if we had given them life!! They danced, giggled and cried, and then danced some more...(with us and their new shoes on!!)

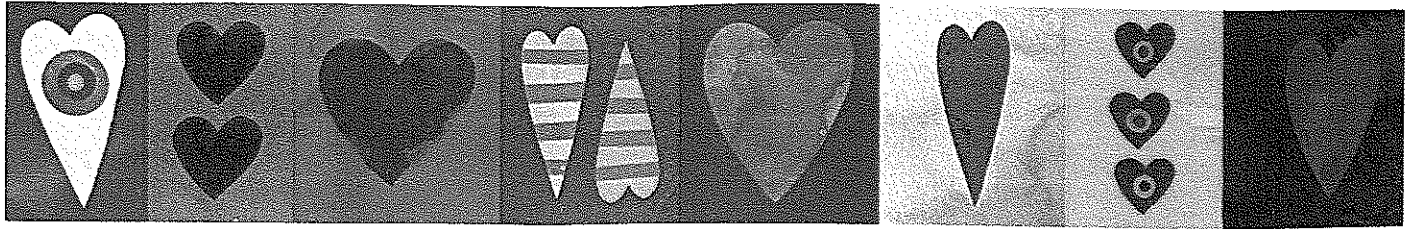
They asked us to share with you their most sincere *thanks* and *gratitude* for the very *precious* gift you have given them...You will forever be in their thoughts and prayers...

May God richly bless you for putting smiles on the faces of people you've never met halfway around the world, but cared enough to help anyway. This is truly a wonderful thing you have done... and we too,
THANK YOU!



For more information and pictures from our recent trip go to doctorsgivingback.org

Mrs. Jody (11)



Hello Children...

My name is Manabe, which in Amharic, my native language, means "long life"...I guess that my mother named me wisely as I have lived to be 70 years old which in Ethiopia is a very long time. Someone is considered "old" in my country if they are your mommy and daddy's age, like in their 30's and 40's. God has blessed me with good health and I am very thankful for that.

I have asked Calli's mommy, Jana, to write this letter to you dear children, with the help of an interpreter, to tell you how very touched I was by you giving your very own shoes to the boys and girls in my village. You will never fully understand what a wonderful thing you have done by sending us your shoes... they were so happy when they got them that they danced and cried! The children in my village could never dream of having their VERY OWN PAIR OF SHOES...that just isn't possible here as shoes are not available and even if they were no one could afford to buy them. There is very little money and it must be used to buy food. This is why your gift of shoes was so very SPECIAL to us.

I wanted to make you something as a very special "thank you gift" and so I asked Calli's mommy if she would bring these back to you when she went home. When I was a young boy, I loved to draw and color and I learned how to draw animals on pieces of leather and then paint them to make bookmarks.

Now when I paint the bookmarks someone in our village takes them to the big city of Addis Ababa so that visitors can buy them and take them home as something made in Ethiopia. The people in my village must travel for many many days to get to the City. I have never been there and it is much too far for me to go now, but I am glad they take them for me. If people buy my bookmarks then I can afford to buy food for my family. I earn about 80 Burr per month which is about 8 pennies per month in your country.

I have made two animal bookmarks as a gift for each of you. I don't know much about where you live, as I have never travelled away from my village but Calli's mommy told us that you live half way around the world and when it is day for us, it is night for you. She also told us that you read lots of books so I hope you will think of us each time you see these bookmarks that I have made for you, and we will be reminded of you and your kindness each day when we wear the special shoes you gave us. You have changed our lives children, because of your love and kindness... Thank you again, and May God Bless you, your Mommies, Daddys and families...you will be in our hearts and prayers each day...

Your humble friend,

Manabe

