



December 29, 2023

The Board of Directors
Yemi Getachew Foundation

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

Thank you for the invitation to submit information about Ethiopia Education Initiatives, Inc. (EEI), and its flagship project, Haile-Manas Academy, in connection with a possible grant from the Yemi Getachew Foundation. I had the privilege of knowing and admiring Yemi, and on behalf of our organization wish to express that we are deeply honored by this opportunity.

EEI's intentionally ambitious goal is to transform Ethiopia by offering dramatically better educational options for its talented young people, who are, for the most part, trapped in schools that follow outdated "chalk and talk" rote memorization models that in no way prepare them or Ethiopia for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. We aspire to provide such transformative opportunities to students of promise – Ethiopia's future leaders - without regard to their financial circumstances.

Haile-Manas Academy (HMA), EEI's flagship project, is a co-ed secondary boarding school for 400 students of promise recruited from across Ethiopia. Through collaborative, project-based learning and by making full use of the advantages of a residential setting, an HMA education enables students to reach their highest potential as critical thinkers, enterprising young problem solvers, and purposeful, community-minded individuals.

HMA's central location in Debre Birhan aligns with our goal of recruiting students from every region of Ethiopia. Our beautiful eight-hectare campus boasts state-of-the-art classrooms, a dining hall and student center, a library, comfortable student dormitories and faculty residences, sports and recreational facilities—all built on budget, and in under 4 years.

HMA welcomed its pioneering first cohort of 9th graders in January 2021, and its fourth cohort in September 2023. We now have a total of 174 students, with students in each of the four grades. In coming years HMA will work up to an intended 100 students per grade resulting in 400 students across 4 grades at full enrollment. HMA's first class will celebrate its graduation in spring 2024.

In our now three and a half years of operating HMA, during a period that has been defined by the extraordinary challenges of the pandemic and civil war, I feel confident in stating that we have delivered on our ambitious mission. We have assembled strong leadership – please see attached leadership bios. We have recruited students from across the country, with student hometowns that include Adama, Addis Ababa, Arba Minch, Bahr Dar, Debark, Debre Birhan, Dire Dawa, Hawassa, Mekelle, Shewa Robit, Yirgalem and many more. We have instituted rigorous academics delivered via forward-looking pedagogy and provided our students and faculty access to advantageous technology, and we have made full use of the residential setting, offering co-curricular activities that promote key values of community, leadership, and service. And just this month, as our seniors apply to college for the first time, we had four students



admitted to selective international universities with generous financial aid packages, strong validation of our mission and hard work.

Please [click here](#) for a 5-minute introductory video about the school. More information is available on our two websites: www.ethiopiaed.org and www.hmacademy.org

Currently, nearly every one of our students receives significant financial aid. In the long term, our intent is to have about half of our students pay full fees, currently set at USD\$10,000 for tuition, room and board, which compares very favorably to the fees at competitive day schools in Addis. We are committed to providing full financial aid for the other 50% (or partial financial aid for a larger number of students) the cost of which we will meet with fundraising.

Were YGF to support EEI/HMA with a grant, every dollar would go to student financial aid. In particular, we would be delighted if YGF would consider joining the Founders' Circle, which is comprised of donors who have given or pledged to give \$50,000 over five years, in installments of \$10,000 per year, essentially the cost of supporting one student over his or her time at HMA plus associated overhead. While we will continue to fundraise at all levels, this founding group, who will have joined with us from the start of this ambitious endeavor, will have a special place in the history of the school. We will close Founders' Circle membership in 2024, after our first seniors graduate, and commemorate members in a permanent way on campus.

In closing, let me confirm that EEI is a US 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, with EIN 81-5480515. Form 990s for all years of operation through FY2023 have been timely filed and are publicly available. Our financial statements and records are audited annually in Ethiopia and in the US by outside auditors.

Thank you very much for your consideration of EEI as a potential grant recipient. Should you need more information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Haile".

Rebecca Haile
Executive Director, Ethiopia Education Initiatives

Appendix

1. Leadership bios
2. Selected photos