



Dear Friend:

Considering the recent scandal involving our elected city council officials, we wish to begin by first condemning racial injustice and hate in all its forms. ECLA is committed to celebrating racial diversity and aspires to be inclusive in all its endeavors.

As ECLA wraps up another year we are forever grateful for your commitment to our organization. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we want to thank our donors who continue to make our programs and services possible.

We wish to thank the many people that came together to make our recent fundraising event on October 29<sup>th</sup> a resounding success. First, we wish to thank Father Nebil, the head of St.Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral, who decided to support our nonprofit's fundraising effort by providing the beautiful Heritage Ballroom venue free of charge, thus making it possible for us to afford and accommodate the large turnout. Many of our community members followed suite by offering their services for free: Photo Dawit, Photo Fikre, and Video Abey, thank you. Emma Restaurant for the delicious food and discount they gave us, and the Kirubel and Kibra Negast Project Ethio Jazz Band for the discount and beautiful music they provided for the evening. Flower centerpieces were arranged by Eleni and Selome Haileleoul who came down to support us all the way from Oakland. It is important to note that most of the tickets were sold by our ECLA champions Elias Negash, Belete Woldeyohannes, Mekonnen Girma, Kabew Kassew, and former board members Maki Negussie and Getahun Asfaw. Finally, we acknowledge and are thankful for the sponsor check of \$2500 we received from Senait Admassu of the African Coalition, and the many people who paid double the ticket price to help us achieve our goal. We are indeed grateful to the community that sustains us.

Not only did we raise much needed funds, but we also gained many more new members. Thank you for participating in our auction, taking our survey, purchasing tee shirts, and making written pledges for future donations. We were truly humbled. We raised close to 30K from the event, with pledge donations still flowing in. Our goal is to raise 50K by the close of this year which will allow us to meet an important federal grant writing criterion. Seeing how close we are to meeting our goal an anonymous donor has asked us to challenge our community to match his incredibly generous 5 thousand dollars offer for Giving Tuesday on November 29<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful you will take us to the finish line. We will be sending out a flyer soon to launch the Giving Tuesday campaign.

We are halfway through our fall Youth Soccer program, and we recently received \$500 towards our Parks and Recreation core program fee from one of our soccer parents, Ato Tesfaye Zeleke. We are grateful. Last week, cleats were donated to the kids by board member Jhaila Brown,

who is also in the process of buying the kids some shin guards. The soccer program is free, and you can bring your kids to the Alondra Park field on Saturdays 1:00pm-2:30pm. Check out our soccer flyer on our website for the exact dates. Coach Meiraff is with the Street Soccer Non-profit and his services are free every Saturday. We are in the process of forming a partnership with Street Soccer nonprofit and they have promised to train and supply us with more soccer coaches.

We have signed up 31 students to our zoom Amharic Class and our instructors are in the process of working out technology needs to begin teaching. Math tutoring has kicked off with Grades 6-9 students, and our second group of Grades 2-5 will begin today. Please contact us if you can help with Math tutoring groups. We have a wide span of grades for Math tutoring, and we are recruiting more volunteers. We have room for more students in Chemistry so please contact us if you need tutoring.

Our Seniors' Team is holding workshop hours at the Inglewood Senior Center every Tuesday between 10:30am and 11:30am for seniors above the age of fifty. The workshop is located on the second floor of 111 N. Locust Street in Inglewood. You may bring any paperwork you need help with and share with us some of the issues you are facing in your lives. We make phone calls, translations, and help with issues you are having with insurance, transportation, immigration, and work-related applications.

We wish you and your families a joyful Thanksgiving week.

With Gratitude,

Hirut Dagnew

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