



DECEMBER 2019

<b>42,600+</b> lives impacted	<b>4,199</b> leadership students & teachers trained	<b>196</b> scholarships awarded	<b>3,478</b> students attended after-school programs	<b>175+</b> leadership & teacher trainings conducted	<b>265</b> international volunteers traveled abroad	<b>\$6.7M+</b> invested in education programs	<b>5,173</b> students trained thru e-learning programs

## Thank You & End-of-Year Matching Gift Appeal!

Dear Friends,

As we find ourselves at the end of another year, we would like to briefly reflect on what we were able to accomplish in 2019 with you behind us and to appeal to you for your continued support.

What a year it has been for Visions and for the thousands of youth we are committed to serving globally! Our reach continues to grow across all 4 countries where we operate, and even here in the U.S. where we recently welcomed 2 new full-time staff members to the team and have taken major steps toward developing an open-source digital learning platform called TabSchool (*which has the potential to transform education for millions of youth worldwide who are left out of formal education and never develop literacy skills*).

We have highlighted below just a few of the many accomplishments of our global education efforts over the past year - all of which is possible only through the generosity and

E-Newsletter #39

December 2019 Edition

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**Today is your final chance to make a tax-deductible contribution for 2019!**

**DONATE NOW**

compassion of people like you! **As today is the final day to make a tax-deductible contribution for 2019, please visit our website ([www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org/donate](http://www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org/donate))** for details on how to give. We also have a new **\$1,500 matching gift opportunity** from our Visions Board of Directors, so please help us to unlock it!

As always, thank you for your continued belief in us and in the transformative power of education. Together we are making a difference.

With gratitude,  
Greg & Meera  
*Visions Co-Founders*

## ETHIOPIA



After focusing on developing and providing a holistic set of services for Deaf youth & young adults in the city of Bahir Dar over the past 7 years, we saw the impact of our efforts and witnessed incredible transformations. Drawing upon all we have learned, we decided to expand our reach this year to 2 new locations - **Hawassa** (capital of the Southern Nations Region) and **Addis Ababa** (the national capital). We now have Deaf educators and Interpreters in all 3 locations, as we strive in particular to promote **sign language development** for early learners and **educational support for Deaf youth** in general. For the 5th year running, we also continued our university service-learning partnerships with Nazareth College (Rochester, NY) and State University of New York - New Paltz. More than 140 international volunteers have now joined us in Ethiopia, and what a difference they have made!

## Get Connected!

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<http://www.guidestar.org/organizations/26-3386678/visions-global-empowerment.aspx>

## OUR URGENT SPONSORSHIP NEEDS

**1. University Scholar (India): \$30/month**

We have just **one remaining university student** in India (out of 21 total) who is currently without a sponsor. For just \$30/month, you

# SRI LANKA

In June, we welcomed our main partner from Sri Lanka - Dr. Darshan Ambalavanar of the [Church of the American Ceylon Mission \(CACM\)](#) - to California, where we hosted a few events to discuss Visions' partnership with CACM over the last 8 years, CACM's work in general, and the details of a new initiative called "Ezhuvazh". Currently underway, "Ezhuvazh" (Tamil for "She Will Rise") is a **10-month intensive training program for vulnerable young women** in Sri Lanka that includes 6 months of **English** instruction in Jaffna and 4 months of a **residential leadership** development course in Batticaloa. Visions was able to support an initial batch of 15 young women to participate in this life-changing opportunity. CACM is also busy working with each participant to chart out their next move once the program is completed in mid-2020, be it to pursue university studies or professional development.



Aside from this initiative, Visions also facilitated scholarships for several Sri Lankan youth studying in both Sri Lanka and India over the past year, and continues to partner with and support the valuable work of other global diaspora-driven nonprofits like the [Noolaham Foundation](#), [Care for Education](#), [Vetri Holdings](#), [ITEE Foundation](#), [comdu.it](#) and [Palmera](#)

# INDIA

This past fall, [Visions India](#) celebrated 3 years as an independent NGO. Over that time, the organization has grown in reach and in the quality of educational support provided to youth & communities facing hardship and marginalization. Our tablet-

can make a huge difference in his life.

## **2. After-School Center ( India):** **\$100/month**

We are currently looking for sponsors to support all **14** of our Visions after-school Learning & Empowerment Centers in rural communities across Tamil Nadu.

These centers are having a major impact on the overall development and academic trajectory of the more than **400** youth they collectively serve.

## **3. Deaf Student Transportation (Ethiopia):** **\$1,200/city**

In Ethiopia, we have identified a number of Deaf children who would attend school and our educational support programs, but who simply live too far away. By providing transportation support, we can bring into our fold on average an additional **10-15** students per city (in



based **e-Learning Program** continues to operate with great success and enthusiasm in 5 schools in Tamil Nadu. We continue to layer in services for the rural youth attending our 14 after-school Learning & Empowerment Centers, including introducing a **library books initiative, health & hygiene curriculum, and multimedia learning**. This year we also saw our first 2 university scholarship youth **graduate and find employment**, while another 3 graduates decided to continue their education and pursue advanced degrees (with Visions' support).



each of our 3 locations of Addis Ababa, Awassa and Bahir Dar) at a cost of roughly \$1,200/year per city.

*To become a sponsor for any of these efforts and help support these vital educational opportunities for the youth we serve, please [CLICK HERE](#)*

## NICARAGUA



At the beginning of 2019, we broke ground on the construction of our **nonprofit girls boarding school** in the coffee highlands of Matagalpa, Nicaragua. Since then, the work has moved forward at an incredible pace, with completion of the school expected this coming May 2020. Concurrently, other efforts have been underway to prepare ourselves for the launch of this major new

undertaking, including developing self-sustaining systems for water, energy, food production and waste management, and income-generating streams to create financial sustainability as well. We are following green-building guidelines and hope to be the first LEED-certified project in the country!

This project has also provided more than 300 local jobs to many who find themselves living through a difficult economic period for the country, especially for those working in the declining coffee industry. Our inaugural class of 45 girls (starting with Grades 5-7) are expected to start classes in February 2021 when we plan to officially open the doors of **Escuela Vera Angelita**. After 5 years of planning and developing, we are so looking forward to welcoming our first batch of students, and we look forward to hosting volunteers & visiting guests throughout the year too. So please do consider joining us in the near future!

## PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION:

*Invest in deserving and marginalized youth.  
Invest in the leaders of tomorrow. Invest in Visions.*

## DONATE HERE

*Our work is only possible with the support of people like you!*

You can donate online or send a check made out to "Visions" to the address below. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law [tax ID#26-3386678].

1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA, 90025  
visionseducation@gmail.com

[www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org](http://www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org)

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