



THE FANOS LIGHT EDUCATION AND VIRTUES INC.



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The Fanos Light Education and Virtues Inc.

The Fanos Light Education and Virtues is a charitable organization founded in Feb 2019 in Winnipeg, Canada under the name The Fanos Light Children Support Inc. This organization was designed with the purpose of supporting children and youth education in Canada, Ethiopia and beyond.

At The Fanos Light, we believe in the power of education to change and transform learners and their futures. Children and youth need access to education, educational aid materials, resources, and support systems to succeed in their studies and personal lives. The Fanos Light has designed several programs aimed at mobilizing knowledge, experiences, and resources to improve access to education and educational outcomes. We utilize theories and principles of teaching and learning that will meaningfully engage and impact children and youth development, learning, motivation, and aspiration. Additionally, we focus on raising awareness regarding access to education, resources and support systems and mobilizing those who believe in the power of education to make a difference in the sector.

The Vision

“Our vision is to see a generation that is equipped with proper training, knowledge and virtues.”

The Mission

To provide children and youth access to resources, tools, supports and opportunities to help them succeed as students and individuals | To educate and inspire positive change through teaching and engagements | To create learning environments that facilitate learning, growth, and development | To encourage, engage and equip children and youth to believe in their potential, and the endless possibilities ahead of them.

Our Values

Belief | Compassion | Sacrifice (perseverance) | Dedication | Responsibility | Diligence
Effort | Learning | Honesty | Creativity

Approach

Education is vital for individual growth and development. Education is the 4th Sustainable Development Goal identified by the United Nations with the ultimate aim to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. At The Fanos Light we align and work towards making progress on this goal through all our activities.

Education in general is defined as a process of facilitating learning and the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits through various levels. We know that education is a broad concept that involves many components. At The Fanos Light we look at education holistically. Each of our programs looks at the various intersecting components of education and targets improvements and opportunities with the goal of improving the support system for the benefit of the learner. Some of our targeted results look at:

1. The education system that is in place or the approaches of education in general.
2. The actual process of teaching and learning that is taking place in a classroom.
3. The theories and principles of teaching and learning.
4. The five main components that play a role in education; learners, teachers, school administration, other professionals working in schools and the parents.
5. Various levels of education including early childhood education, elementary, junior, high school, colleges, universities, and other forms of higher education.

At The Fanos Light Education we work to ensure all children and youth who are in need here in Canada, Ethiopia and beyond have access to educational aid materials, resources, tools, learning opportunities, and the supports they need to succeed.

Projects and Results

“Building the Fanos Light in Sedika”

Duration: Between 2019 -2021

Location: Sedika, Ethiopia

Ultimate Result

We build a multi purpose learning center within Sedika Elementary School that would provide support to all students and the community.

Projects beneficiaries

Sedika Elementary School students, teachers, parents, and the community.

Objective of the project: The main objective of this project is to build a strong and meaningful support system that would provide extensive support to all students and teachers. The learning center will have all the resources in needs, the book, the computers, other educational materials, and other tools.

The Fanos Light is grateful for all the support we received from Ethiopian and Eritrean community. We want to acknowledge Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) for their support through the Community Solidarity Fund. We are very grateful for the support we received during the process of building this learning center.

Context

Sedika is a rural town located in the Arsi Zone of Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia. It is located about 233 km from the capital city, Addis Ababa. As of 2005, Sedika had a population of 2,604 (1,206 men, 1398 women). With only one secondary school that provides education to students up to the 10th grade, many students do not see opportunity in education and instead drop out to support their family in farming.

Farming is the main livelihood of the Sedika community. This is also the case in the rest of Ethiopia as 70% of the population of Ethiopia lives in rural areas. Often rural areas do not have schools, classrooms, or necessary materials to conduct the process of teaching and learning. In Sedika, access to education is so limited that students often do not have any prior learning experience or early learning experience before they come to secondary school. This even includes literacy which makes it difficult for teachers as well as the students. Due to high poverty rates, most families prefer their children stay home and help with farming and other income generating activities. When children do not have early learning experience, they often find school difficult and may be forced to drop out of school earlier.

Girls in most rural communities in Ethiopia, including Sedika experience gender barriers and do not have equal opportunity to go to school. There is a traditional belief that girls should stay home and learn basic skills from their mothers and support the family in homework. As a result, they do not get equal opportunities like boys in rural communities.

The Executive Director of The Fanos Light, Samson Tadese, has worked extensively in the Sedika community. Through community and school qualitative feedback, it was found that early education was a gap in education which was setting up children for academic failure. That is why this project was designed together with another project after the completion of this project.

We have been working with Sedika community as indicated above and had so many conversations with the school administration, teachers and parent teachers committee. We have learned the school children come to school without any prior learning experience. Therefore, once the building of the kindergarten was complete, we launched another project, The Palm Tree seed project/ the bright light project was designed and launched. The project was designed to provide early childhood education for Sedika children and the community. This project is set to improve the quality of education as well as increasing success to early childhood education.

Results

We build and hand a multi-purpose learning center that would serve all Sedika students and the community also. resources that would help the center become a resource centre for the entire community.

Below are some pictures taken in various stages of the project.







Projects and Results

“The Fanos Light After School Program”

Duration: 202/23 School Year

Location: Winnipeg, Canada

Ultimate Result

To provide a safe space for children and youth; provide basic school supplies and other educational aid material, resources, tools, learning opportunities; tutoring and mentoring, and programs related to student’s interest.

Projects beneficiaries

This project benefits children and youth from the circle of life, children, and youth from immigrants' community.

The Fanos Light After School Program was officially launched in December 2021 and have been working since. This project was designed with the purpose of providing children and youth access to safe space where they can come to relax, study and research. Through this program The Fanos Light provided access to computers, books, other educational aid materials, resources, and programs like tutoring, mentoring and programs related to their interest and passion.

Though we had capacity limitations as an organization we are so grateful of the accomplishments of this program. We had around 21 students access the program through the 2021/22 school year. These students have been coming to the program with some excitement, and motivation to learn, to have some time to play. The program offers 5 key areas of learning: reading, writing, art, design it science and mentorship.

Reading.

To support and improve literacy, the activity provides various levels of books. The main objective is to help children develop their reading skills and reading stamina. During this activity, we have learned some children love to share their reading. So, we created an environment where we all come together after the reading session to share what we read about and ask questions for explanation. If it's a fiction book, we would often talk about some literary devises the writer uses, characters in the book or the story, and other important elements of writing. We give some children an option to share their reading through writing and art. We have learned there are some students who love reading, and some are working on their reading skills.

Writing.

The main purpose of this activity is to support and improve writing skills. This is done through teaching children to learn to write using their own words, style, and tone. We often give a topic for our writing, then write about our feelings, thoughts, or what we have learned/observed. We

would tell children that writing help us organize our thoughts and ideas. Writing is one aspect of literacy and its equally important as other skills.

Art.

Each student has unique talents and interests. Art expands minds and helps students think differently, to be creative, think outside the box, to expand their imagination. The art activity is designed to help students be creative, to expand their thinking using art as a means. We provide art materials and equipment and let the children do their own artwork, painting, drawing, and designing using various materials. Many children who come to our program love painting, drawing and other forms of art.

Design It Science.

This activity is designed to help children design, create, and build things by understanding simple design and scientific concepts. We provide children with some basic science concepts, and then we provide them construction paper, pencils, and other tools to design the things they would build on paper first, before they actually build it. We would often tell them and remind them the importance of design, planning, and thinking before building. Then we provide tools and materials they would use to design and build the physical concept. We have seen some great designing and building activities during our program. We believe children learn better by being engaged and through hands-on activities. Therefore, this activity has huge potential to grow, and become successful. It can help children to think, rethink, design, plan, work together, interact, fail, create, problem solve, and develop communication skills and other skills.

Mentorship.

This activity was designed to help children understand the importance of values in their growth and development and eventually success in their studies and life. This activity brings learners, and teachers together to share their views, opinions, experiences, knowledge and feelings with the purpose of learning from each other. During this activity we all sit around the table and discuss various topics, often about values and characteristics we want to develop as individuals and as a group that would help us succeed. This activity is very vital because it gives students

the space to share their thoughts, feelings, aspirations, values, things that challenge them, things they need to work on. We often talk about our strengths, and areas we need to work on.

We want to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to all the people who supported our work, we want to thank all the students and the parents who intrusted us with these children. We want to thank all our wonderful volunteers, and a special thanks to Dinu and Sheila. We also want to thank the Government of Canada for providing funding through the Supporting Black Canadian program. We are grateful because of this fund we were able to buy computers, tablets, tools, and equipment needed to run the after-school program. Below are pictures captured in various times during the program.

Attached is the pictures of the Fanos Light Afterschool Program team members and the afterschool program participants during the program













Projects and Results

“The Palm Tree Seed/The Bright Light Project”

Duration: 2022-2025

Location: Sedika, Ethiopia

Ultimate Result

To build the first Kindergarten in Sedika, a Community Centre and a Guest House.

Projects beneficiaries

This project benefits children, their families, and the community.

Funding Needs:

Phase 1- Kindergarten

The Fanos Light has been working within the Sedika community for the last 5 years. During these times we have built a strong and meaningful relationships with Sedika community members, school administrators, teachers, and teacher parent committees. Throughout these years we heard from the teachers, the school admins, and the parents’ committees about the lack of access to per-school in Sedika. We were informed about the challenges and the difficulties these teachers and the school admins faced to teach these children who come to school at later grades. We have learned that most of these children come to start grade one without proper preparation. We learned these children often have difficulties acquiring the required skills in literacy, mathematics, and other areas because they did not have any pre-school experience. As a result, teachers find teaching these children difficult. We know that formative years or the early years are very vital in the overall growth and development of children as they provide foundational skills needed to develop motor, communication, language, social, emotional, and other skills before children are actually exposed to literacy.

Listening to all these stories and seeing the challenges of these teachers, The Fanos Light decided to take the challenge of supporting the community to build the very first kindergarten, which we believe will provide so many children a good start in their academic and life pursuits.

Phase 2- Community Centre

The second phase of this project is to build a community center that will provide services to the entire Sedika community, particularly to girls and women. The community center will have various classrooms, auditorium, hall, workshops, and other facilities that will enhance community development. This center will have a place where community members could come to receive training and workshops that will enhance skills, and productivity and livelihood opportunities.

Phase 3- Guest House

The third phase is the building of a guest house that will provide services to the Sedika community and to people who comes to Sedika. The guest house will also provide space for volunteers or others who wish the program in Sedika. There is an opportunity to create an income generating activity from this guesthouse as well. This phase will be designed once phase 1 and 2 are completed.



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