



Girls Gotta Run

The Girls Gotta Run Foundation (GGRF) is a 501c3 all volunteer charitable organization founded in 2006 to raise funds to support impoverished Ethiopian girls who are training to be professional runners. Running is more than a sport for women and girls in Ethiopia. It empowers them to stay in school, avoid early marriage and childbirth, and gain economic self-sufficiency. By providing support for these aspiring athletes, GGRF helps them to improve not only their lives but the lives of their families and communities.

The Need

In Ethiopia, girls' enrollment in education is among the lowest in the world, and women and girls are more likely to die in childbirth than reach sixth grade. Additionally, Ethiopia has one of the largest caseloads of AIDS, forcing many girls to quit school to care for sick and widowed relatives. However, today, because seven of the 10 top-earning athletes in Ethiopia are women, girls and parents have begun to see careers as professional runners as viable options. GGRF was founded to assist them.

Our Answer: The Teams

To date, GGRF has provided support for girls on four teams which were created dependent on GGRF support: Team Tesfa, the Simien Girl Runners, Team Naftech and Running Across Borders. Funds are provided for training-related needs such as running shoes, athletic clothing, additional food ("calorie money"), transportation, and so forth. Besides training hard, the girls are also finishing school or post high school education, so their options are open. And they are committed to "paying it forward" in the future.



Team Tesfa in new clothes and running shoes



Simien Girl Runners at 2010 Great Ethiopian Run

For more information and to help, please visit our website at www.girlsgottarun.org/