

My Hero Is My Mother

by Genet Asres

Genet came to the United States in 2004 from Ethiopia. She is a single parent of a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter. She has been with Partners In Reading for about a year. Her hobbies are gardening and helping people. She works as a nursing aide for in-home care.

She lived in Ethiopia her whole life. She is my hero because she did many good things for others.

Life was hard for her because she was a single mother, who was married at 13 years of age, and a grandmother. When I was growing up she took care of her four children and her four grandchildren. At the same time she worked outside of the house, she took care of eight children and a sister-in-law.

She got up at four in the morning. For all of us she made breakfast. She woke us up and she got us dressed and she gave us breakfast.

After that she took us halfway to school and she watched us until we disappeared from sight. Sometimes she went with us to the school gate. When we got to school she went back to the other children. Then she washed them and fed them.

Next she cleaned the house and washed dishes. After she did this she walked to work at another house that was 4 or 5 miles away. After that she

went shopping for food for ten people and she carried it for 5 miles home.

When she got home she couldn't sit and rest because she had to cook for us before we came home from school.

Sometimes there was no water left so she would go down the hill to the river to get it. She would carry the water up the hill in a 5-gallon bucket on her head. The hill was steep and the hard work made her sweat a lot. Her face would be all wet.

Even when she was busy with her family and her work, she helped the community. If someone was sick, she would visit them right away. If someone needed help, she would listen to their problems and help them to feel better.

Even though her life was hard, she was happy and always smiled and always told us everything would be fine.

