

SPINE AND HEART PROGRAM

SINCE 2006



DESPITE COVID-19, DESPITE CIVIL WAR, OUR PATIENTS ARE STILL TRAVELING FOR LIFE-SAVING SURGERY!

WWW.RICKHODES.ORG



Dear friends and supporters:

2020 has been a very tough year for all of us. In Ethiopia, we had the dual disasters of COVID-19, combined with a civil war and movement of refugees to Sudan. While I am in America awaiting vaccination, staff members Anteneh and Lemma are still working full-time, seeing any patient who needs us and planning for the future.

This month we sent 18 kids to Ghana for a new round of traction and surgery. Plus an Ethiopian neurosurgeon for training. Due to the war, we were unable to contact everyone we want to send, and had to rearrange patients based on availability. There is still so much work to do! We look forward to restarting our work in a better world in 2021.

We aim to raise \$26,000 per patient. Here's your chance to meet them.

We wish you all strength and blessings for a good year!

With appreciation,

Rick Hodes, MD, MACP and the JDC-Ethiopia Spine and Heart team

Recent online presentation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xuqf2lbMOal&feature=youtu.be

OUR PATIENTS:











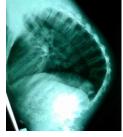


Mikias, 15, lives with his siblings and grandfather in Addis Ababa. His parents are unemployed, 60 miles away, in DebreTsige. Mikias is in 11th grade and hopes to become an engineer. Relatives noticed that he has a bad back while he was young. One day, while he walking on the street, a patient from Mother Teresa's Mission that knows Dr. Rick, stopped him and said "I know a foreign doctor who can help you." This month he flew to Ghana for surgery. Diagnosis: severe right-sided scoliosis.

Bamalak, 16, was born in Wonji, 70 miles from Addis Ababa. She lives with her parents and sister. Her father works in a government office, and her mother is a housewife. Four years ago, her mother noticed her deformity while showering her. She took her to government clinics in Adama, where doctors advised that this cannot be treated locally - she needs to travel abroad for surgery. Soon after, they saw Dr. Rick on TV. The improvement they viewed after surgery inspired the family to rush her to Dr. Rick's clinic to have her own surgery. Diagnosis: right-sided scoliosis.







Asma, is a 15 year old girl from Lemi, 375 miles away from Addis Ababa. She lives with her farmer parents and 6 siblings - 2 brothers and 4 sisters, in a 2-room mud house. Asma is in 8th grade and wants to be a doctor, "just like Dr Rick." When her spine was deforming, her parents took her to government clinics in Dessie and they started her on TB medication. They could do nothing about her deformity. They referred her to Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa. Black Lion doctors said "This is the university hospital, but we cannot help you. Dr. Rick and the JDC spine program can help." Diagnosis: congenital kyphosis.







Abdulshikur, 23 is from Amfar, 175 miles away from the capital. He is currently living in Addis Ababa with his married sister. He stopped school at 4th grade and started working. He runs his family 'chat bet', selling a local leaf which people chew for stimulation. One day a patient's parent saw his back and told him about Dr. Rick. Abdulshikur came to the clinic the following day. Diagnosis: severe right-sided scoliosis.







Eyerus, 15, was born in Addis Ababa. She lives with her parents, 2 sisters and a brother. Her father is a driver and her mother is a housewife. 8 years ago, her spine started deforming and they took her to a local clinic. They referred her to Dr. Rick at AaBET hospital. Eyerus and her family said "there is no doctor in Ethiopia like Dr. Rick who is humble and caring and so nice to his patients". She is in 8th grade now and waiting to get her surgery she wants to become a lawyer. Diagnosis: scoliosis with neurofibromatosis.



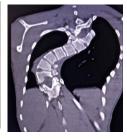




Biruk, 18, is a local boy from Addis Ababa, now in 12th grade. He lives with his family in a 2-room mud house. His father is security agent for the government, his mother is a cleaner at a clinic. He is #2 out of 5 boys. His mom noticed his spine deformity while giving him a shower and took him to Amen Hospital and they referred them to our program at AaBET. Dr. Rick examined, took photos and gave them "good hope." Biruk is very excited to have a straight spine and continue his school. He wants to become a professional photographer. Diagnosis: severe scoliosis.







Abenezer, 18, was born and raised in Assela. He is currently living with an aunt in Addis Ababa. He is studying Information Technology at TVET College. When he was 10 years old, a friend noticed that he has a twisted spine and advised him to seek care. When it worsened, he needed to see a doctor. He came to Cure Hospital and was properly diagnosed and entered our care. He is now preparing for surgery and wants to continue his school when he returns to become an IT expert. Diagnosis: severe scoliosis.







Zeyneba, 19, is a 10th grade student, born in Fenta in South Wollo - 360 miles from Addis Ababa. In order to be closer to the clinic, she moved to Addis Ababa with her uncle. Both parents are farmers. When they noticed that she has a bad back, they took her to a health center nearby. They referred her to Black Lion Hospital. Black Lion doctors said "there is only 1 doctor in the country who can help you, and they referred her to our program. She wants to become a doctor. Diagnosis: severe scoliosis.







Bitania is 13-year old from Dire Dawa, 280 miles east of Addis Ababa. She lives with her parents and two younger brothers. She is in 8th grade and wants to become a professional designer. Her father works at Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, her mother is a housewife. 2 years ago, her parents noted that she bends when she walks. They thought it was due to her school bag. When it progressed, they took her to a clinic, and she was referred to Addis Ababa. She had multiple appointments at St Gabriel hospital. One day, they saw Dr. Rick on Fana TV, so they brought her to our clinic the next day. Diagnosis: scoliosis with spinal cord anomaly (diastomatomyelia).







Abdulmejid, 18, is also an Addis Ababa local boy. He lives with his family of 3 brothers and 2 sisters. 3 years ago, they took him to Black Lion Hospital for his spine deformity. Black lion referred them to Dr. Rick at AaBET. He is in 11th grade and wants to become a lawyer. Diagnosis: scoliosis.





Dr. Rick Hodes is JDC's medical director in Ethiopia. He is an American internal medicine specialist who has lived and worked in Ethiopia for 33 years. Working in the basement of a bustling Addis Ababa city hospital, he specializes in spinal deformities, cardiac disease (congenital and rheumatic) as well as rare diseases and tumors. He is a graduate of Middlebury College, University of Rochester Medical School, and trained in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins University. He was a CNN hero, holds 5 honorary doctorates, and is the subject of a book <u>This is a Soul: the Mission of Rick Hodes</u>, and several films, including "Zemene" and "Making the Crooked Straight". In normal times, he lives in Addis Ababa with his Ethiopian family.

www.Rickhodes.org



Our spine deformity project began in 2006 at Mother Teresa's Mission in Addis Ababa. That year we got 20 new spine patients, and did 11 surgeries with FOCOS (Foundation for Orthopedics and Complex Spines) in Ghana. In non-COVID times, we are getting ~500 new deformities/year, and aim to do over 75 surgeries/year in Ethiopia and Ghana, where we partner with Dr. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei and FOCOS. We have 100 youths in "growing rods,"(GR), probably the largest GR group in the world. Our patients were the first in Africa to get magnetic GR. We have done about 1000 surgeries in FOCOS-Ghana and Ethiopia. We recently identified and published several new complex deformities, named alpha, omega, and gamma, never reported before. Half of the patients in the international FOX study of the most difficult spine surgeries in the world are ours. India's top deformity surgeon stated: "Dr. Rick has the largest collection of the worst deformities in the world." Our work is totally nonsectarian.



JDC is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization, impacting millions of lives in more than 70 countries today. JDC leverages over a century of experience confronting poverty and crisis around the world. JDC sponsors all our medical work, for which we raise the funds.

www.JDC.org

We seek to raise \$26,000 per patient

Please help us! Money is our limiting factor in saving lives.

Gifts are tax-deductible. Contact us about wire transfers, planned giving, bequests, stock transfer and corporate matching gifts. JDC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization for tax purposes.

Online donations: www.RickHodes.org

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220 E 42nd St. #400, NY, NY 10017

Must be marked "Ethiopia Medical" to get to us.

Contact us: info@rickhodes.org

Thank you for considering this request and for all you do to create a better world.

Rick Hodes, MD, MACP and the JDC-Ethiopia Medical Team www.RickHodes.org

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