

# ISSUE

06

May 2023

# Ethio-KW Newsletter



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### New Staff

The Ethiopian Association KW welcomed Sara Wolle as an Events Coordinator/Administrative Assistant to the board in April.

Sara has been a resident of Waterloo Region for 15 years and has been an active member of the Ethiopian Association KW for the past five years participating and volunteering for various activities. She is passionate about community, Ethiopian culture, and helping people. She is excited to join as the first –time full-time contract employee of the association as part of the upstream capacity-building fund

the association received from the Region of Waterloo. She looks forward to serving the community and planning fun and relevant events and programs to bring members of the community together. She will also be maintaining a list of members, volunteers and member needs.

Sara is working Mondays to Thursdays 8 am to 4 pm and can be reached at 519-781-8288 or email [events.ethiokw@gmail.com](mailto:events.ethiokw@gmail.com).

# Community Capacity Building Updates

It is hard to believe it is already May! We hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of spring and warmer weather! It has been a busy few months for our community association.

In January, we received the first Waterloo Region Capacity Building Fund payment under the upstream initiative. We also held board planning sessions and community consultation listening circles to hear from community members about the needs and priorities for the next two years.

March 4, 2023, we celebrated the 127 Adwa Victory commemoration at Stanley Park Community Centre with a free dinner and enjoyed a historical theatre.

Between January and April, the association held indoor soccer and basketball drop-in/practices for children at the Family Centre Community Hub. We had over eighty children participate in the ten-week program.

During March break, we organized a science camp in partnership with the University of Waterloo Engineering outreach team (ESQ) and over thirty children from the community participated. As a result of the success of this partnership, the ESQ team has offered a one-week STEM Camp for our community in the summer for free. Several parents have registered their children, and registration is now full, with a waiting list available.

In April, using the capacity building fund we received from the region of Waterloo, we advertised a new events coordinator/administrative assistant position and filled the position successfully. We thank all the applicants and are overjoyed to see the interest in serving our community.

On May 8, 2023, Sara attended a community roundtable discussion with educators from the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), community, and parent groups. The discussion emphasized the importance of prioritizing the well-being and experiences of children in the community. Suggestions from the community included the importance of active listening and following up with appropriate action, bridging the communication gap and the need to exchange contact information.

Sara has started receiving calls and supporting the community as needed.

We continue to participate in various regional meetings and discussions, representing our community, communicating its needs and challenges, and looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations and share knowledge and information to strengthen communities.

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## School Tips for Parents

Parent involvement is essential for a child's well-being and academic success. Parents can participate in their child's learning by getting involved in their child's school work, speaking with children about their school and listening to children and encouraging them. In addition, parents can communicate with teachers or volunteer at their child's school by joining a school council or by talking to the school staff about available opportunities for parents to get involved. If communication and language are barriers, please request a translator or contact your community for help.

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# Activities Last Quarter

1



## Community listening circle

February 4, 2023, we held a listening circle. Emergent themes include: the importance of maintaining and celebrating cultural identity. Support for community members and newcomers, building connections with other communities, and permanent meeting space.

2



## 127<sup>th</sup> Adwa victory commemoration

Over 100 community members attended this year's Adwa celebration with free dinner, kids performance and theatre by Andenet Drama Club.

3



## March break science camp @ UW

In partnership with the UW Engineering Outreach a group of 30 young minds from our community participated in an ESQ STEM camp on the UW campus. The kids enjoyed the activities. Few parents also volunteered.

4



## Winter indoor soccer/basketball weekly drop-in sessions

Over 80 children registered for the weekly indoor soccer and basketball sessions in the winter

# Upcoming Events



## 2023 Events in Planning

**May 13, 2023**

Meet & Greet, Mother's Day Celebration

**June 17, 2023 to September 2, 2023**

Kids Outdoor Soccer Practice (Saturdays)

**June 10, 2023**

Hiking Trip, Father's Day Celebration

**July 22, 2023**

Basketball Tournament

**August 2, 2023**

Hiking & Picnic Trip

**September 9, 2023**

Enkutatah Dinner (Ethiopian New Year Celebration)

**Fall Programs**

Tutoring for kids, indoor soccer, indoor basketball, regular community meeting space

# Upcoming Events



Kids Soccer Practice  
Every Saturday 5:00 to 6:30 PM  
Forest Heights Soccer Fields

## Save the Date

### Enkutataash

Saturday,

September 9, 2023

Please contact Sara if you would like to volunteer as part of the planning committee.

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## 2021 - 2023 Board Members

**Chair:** Deneke Aschenaki

**Treasurer:** Admas Mekuria

**Community Capacity Building Fund Lead:** Betty Daniel

**Member at Large:** Dawit Debssou, Elam Hailu, Hiyab Tafere, Zinash Admasu, Zerihun Addisu

**Staff:** Sara Wolle, Events Coordinator/Administrative Assistant

## Volunteer with us!

We are looking for committed volunteers to help with events, programs, website design, social media and communications to strengthen our association. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us via email at [info@ethiokw.com](mailto:info@ethiokw.com).

### Contact Us via Email

[info@ethiokw.com](mailto:info@ethiokw.com)

Get in  
touch

If you have a story to share, we would love to hear from you!

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