

## Rotary is Saving Babies Lives in Ethiopia

Saving Babies Lives in Ethiopia, a Rotary global grant in Gondar, Ethiopia and supported by Rotary Clubs of Del Mar, Gondar Fasiledes, Blythe, Valley Center, La Jolla Golden Triangle and Japan Rotary District 2770 was completed in 2017. We are very grateful for their support and would like to share the remarkable success their contribution made possible.

Gondar Fasiledes Rotary Club joined with the Rotary Club of Del Mar and the University of Gondar College of Medicine and Health Sciences to develop a training program for nurses, doctors and midwives in life-saving neonatal care. In four visits over 2 years a Vocational Training Team from San Diego, California traveled to Gondar, Ethiopia to train a group of instructors to teach skills that save babies lives at birth.



**Newly Trained Instructors**



**Instructors Teaching Lifesaving Skills**

The Training of Trainers Program taught instructors how to teach methods to provide intensive care for these vulnerable infants after birth. Under the guidance of Course Coordinator Dr. Kassahun Belachew, these new instructors in turn taught over 800 of their medical, nursing and midwife colleagues and students how to perform these life-saving skills.

Using their new knowledge, the Gondar Team developed a preterm intensive care nursery that has dramatically improved their ability to care for seriously ill infants.

The impact of this project has far exceeded expectations. Gondar University Hospital now has the lowest newborn mortality rate of all the hospitals in the Amhara Region—fully one half of the regional average. Rotarian Dr. Abebaw Gebeyehu, Director of the



**Mother and Infant in the New Preterm Intensive Care Nursery**

Amhara Regional Health Bureau, credits the training program in resuscitation and intensive care of infants for these amazing results.

Recognizing the significance of the project, the University of Gondar awarded Gondar Fasiledes Rotary Club Outstanding Community Partner of the Year and named Past President Abiyot Admassu Outstanding Individual Community Partner for 2016.

Although this project has been completed, Gondar Fasiledes Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Del Mar continue to support further training with a new global grant: "Supporting Medical Education in Life-Saving Neonatal Care". Our goal is to sustain the current progress by ensuring that the teaching program is adopted into the University of Gondar curriculum. In addition, the current instructors will now train instructors in health centers and district hospitals in the North Gondar Zone to teach these life-saving skills.

Thank you, Rotary. You are truly making a difference and are saving babies lives in Ethiopia!



**Dr. Kassahun Belechew and Rotarian Abiyot Admassu accept awards from The University of Gondar on Behalf of the Project**