

## VHC Places Its First Volunteers in Ethiopia

This September, the Volunteer Healthcare Corps—a component of the Twinning Center that matches skilled professionals from the United States with volunteer opportunities at partner institutions or other PEPFAR-funded organizations in target countries—facilitated placement of its first volunteers in Ethiopia.

Dr. Dejene Abebe, a board-certified psychiatrist from Tallahassee, Florida, and Yohannes Getachew, an information technology specialist from Alexandria, Virginia, were recruited by Visions for Development, Inc., a Washington, DC-based nonprofit working with the Twinning Center to recruit members of the Ethiopian Diaspora.



Dejene Abebe is in the middle of a six-month volunteer assignment as a mental health trainer working with staff at ARV clinics throughout Ethiopia.

Visions promotes the social and economic wellbeing of ethnic and linguistic minorities in the United States and implements capacity development projects in developing countries around the globe.

Abebe, who specializes in adult and child psychiatry, is serving as a mental health trainer for ARV clinics throughout Ethiopia. He is working with staff from Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, I-TECH, and the University of California-San Diego who are involved with PEPFAR-funded

HIV treatment programs in the country.

Getachew is working with professionals from the Ethiopian Public Health Association to develop the organization's Web site. He also serves as a data systems advisor at ALERT Clinic, an ARV treatment facility in Addis Ababa. There, he collaborates with clinic staff and partners from Johns Hopkins University to enhance the clinic's capacity to collect and analyze patient data.



Yohannes Getachew's six-month assignment is helping the Ethiopian Public Health Association develop a Web site and serving as a data systems advisor at ALERT clinic in Addis Ababa.

Currently, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center has other

opportunities in Ethiopia and Tanzania through the Volunteer Healthcare Corps.  
Please visit [www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org](http://www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org) to learn how you can get involved in the  
global fight against HIV/AIDS.