

Who is Helmut Kutin award winner Aunt Abebech Kibret??



Aunt Abebech Kibret, 51, began working in SOS CV Addis Ababa as a cook. When she was recruited as a cook, she was preparing food for the girls in the girls' home, the staff of Addis Ababa CV and the trainees of Kindergarten Education. In those days there was a big canteen which was giving meal service. She was serving the youth and the staff together with her assistants for four years, 1986-1989. Then, she was given the responsibility of the cook for the girls in the girls' home and she served for 13 years.



While working as a cook for the girls, Abebech has never been limited to cooking. She was helping the girls in different ways. She was even taking the responsibility of girls' home leader whenever the place is vacant.

Children have a way of knowing the aunt who will be in their home when their mothers are either on their annual leave or day offs. Abebech is their most favorite SOS Aunt and if they come to realize that Aunt Abebech is the one who replaces their SOS mother, they never hide their true emotions saying like "YES! YES! YES! Aunt Abebech is to be with us"

Children like Abebech most for she understands, listens and has time to play with them. The smiling aunt who has a welcoming face to all the children is also well known for her skill in preparing delicious food. Abebech enjoys cooking additional meal on the daily menu which really pleases the children.

During study hours and tutorial classes, she brings the little children around and plays with them, teaches them good manners and tells stories. This helps both the little children and those who are studying. The little children spend their time having fun with their aunt while the elder ones study.

The little children usually cry when they come to sense that their mothers are leaving the house for whatever reason. Some of them cry even for some extended minutes saying, "Mummy! ,Mummy!" However as they see aunt Abebech coming closer, they smile even if their eyes are filled with tears.

Abebech is good very good at getting information on how the children spent their time in the school. The children tell her honestly and freely. This approach is really helpful for the children for it touches their lives and let them think positively. Her life principle is to do the *best* she can do for the children and youth and to be *good* enough for them. *Her ceaselessly sweet gestures made the children and youth feel cared and protected. Almost all the children and youth call their SOS aunts by saying aunt..... but when we it came to Abebech they call her 'Abi' which explains their heartfelt love.*

For her SOS is her prime family and doesn't discriminate her own biological children from the SOS grown-ups, for she has served long in the girl's home the relation and attachment she has with the youth and SOS grown-ups is totally a family tie. Many SOS grown up youth who are now leading independent life, such as Habibo, Sintayehu, Saba, Seble, Menbere witness their close relations with Aunt Abebech. She is their closest person; they used to share their personal matters. During weekends and on holydays, these and other youth visit Abebech's home: and when asked "why?" they say, "she is a real mother who has taken the place of our biological mother."