

# ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION (ECMAA)

## Fact Sheet

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The Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association (ECMAA) is an apolitical, non-denominational non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status for Ethiopians living in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. It was created in 1981 to serve Ethiopian and other immigrant and refugee populations in New York, although independent chapters of ECMAA exist in other cities (Boston, DC, Dallas, etc.). After a brief discontinuation, ECMAA was revived in 2013 and has since executed a series of social and educational programs that have included picnics, health awareness events, book reviews, film screenings and remembrance days.

**Our mission:** ECMAA aims to coordinate resources and activities in the region to provide assistance where needed. These resources are in support of existing work in the community and are not an alternative. ECMAA also hopes to create strong community partnerships with organizations affiliated with the Ethiopian Community in the tristate area by organizing the existing resources, skills, knowledge and experience in the community. It will leverage its formal non-profit, NY Dept. of State licensed status to raise funds and provide an infrastructure for sharing resources with those who'd most benefit from them.

**ECMAA is looking to build resources and a network of partnerships in areas like:**

<b>Education</b>	Share resources and plan events to be valuable mutual resources for pre-school, secondary school (private and public), undergraduate, and graduate school. Share resources related to admission, financial aid and overall success.
<b>Networking &amp; Employment</b>	Share internship, mentorship, and employment opportunities. Make connections between those experienced in their respective fields and those just starting.
<b>Culture</b>	Share language, history, song, and dance resources. Plan events that show Ethiopia's rich culture and allow our community to enjoy what binds us.
<b>Sport</b>	Create opportunities for kids and adults to be active together through soccer practice and other sports.
<b>Information Sharing</b>	Develop resources on topics most needed by those looking to grow or experiencing crisis, including resettlement, legal assistance, translation services.
<b>Giving Back</b>	Find ways to give back to Ethiopia when opportunities present themselves. This can be in skill, experience, or financially.

**Your Part:** Help ECMAA be an effective resource for the community and help maintain its independent status. We look forward to your presence at events, your emails with suggestions, commitment to expand what's available, and to increase our collective voice as tristate area residents. Your contributions matter as either an established person who can support the younger generation, or a newly arrived person who is struggling and needs connections to manage the challenges of the city. Attending events that help us connect with other Ethiopians in song, dance, sport, history, art or language are key contributions as well.

**To Join:** Go to <https://goo.gl/forms/wTmALMyY3IGzdgJs1>. You can contact us at [ecmaany@gmail.com](mailto:ecmaany@gmail.com), and visit our website at <http://www.ecmaany.org/>. There is a suggested \$30 annual membership contribution. Those who can contribute more can fund the membership of others.