

# Tufah's Story



“Being in the after school program really helped me. I made friends with many different kinds of people and it helped me understand how school works.”

**W**hen Tufah came to Minnesota from Ethiopia, she could not speak English. New to the 6th grade, making friends was difficult and understanding her new school seemed impossible. She wanted to continue the success she started in Africa, but wasn't sure how. When Tufah joined her school's after school program everything changed.

“There were a lot of people trying to help me,” recalls Tufah. “We played games and did activities that were familiar to everyone else, but were totally new to me.”

“Tufah was adorably enthusiastic back then and is equally poised today. I'll never forget the ingredients she listed for the cookies she prepared in her 7th grade foods class,” remembers Carolyn Treadway, the program's director at the time. “Cheese, eggs and sugar brown. Her favorite part was sugar brown.”

With support from the program leaders and her school, Tufah worked tirelessly to prepare herself for regular education classes. Today Tufah is a student leader at her high school, doing well academically and on her

way to becoming the strong and capable woman she intends to be.

“The leaders in the after school program were role models for me and talked a lot about service and giving back to the community. I didn't understand the importance of my GPA and I didn't realize how all of these experiences I was having would prepare me for a college education.”

Today Tufah enjoys volunteering in the classrooms of newcomer students and serves as a role model to them. She looks forward to graduating from high school and pursuing a career as a surgeon.

Tufah's story is a common one. In Faribault 82% of students are eager to do well\*, but like Tufah many of them have difficult obstacles to overcome. Going to school and receiving an education is pivotal to the success of all young people. Without a strong commitment to learning, young people are at risk for academic failure which can negatively impact their future dreams and goals.

## Supporting Faribault students' commitment to learning!



\*Data gathered by Faribault area schools and the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition via the 2016 Developmental Asset Profile.