

## AIHA, Debre Berhan Hospital Celebrate Official Launch of the Dr. Joseph R. Masci Legacy Project in Ethiopia

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AIHA marked the official launch of the Dr. Joseph R. Masci Legacy Project in Ethiopia on Nov. 25, 2024, during the first patient safety training session conducted by our partners at Debre Berhan Comprehensive Specialized Hospital (DBCSH).

The event was attended by Mrs. Tsedale Semengus, Head of North Shoa Health Bureau; Mr. Bekele Gebere, Head of Debre Berhan City Health Bureau; Mr. Asmare Samuel, DBCHS CEO; Prof. Abiy Yimer, DBCHS Board of Directors; and Ms. Kidest Hailu, AIHA Country Director for Ethiopia, along with some 30 DBCHS staff and interested parties.

From 2007 to 2014, AIHA managed a twinning partnership linking DBCHS with Elmhurst Hospital Center, where Dr. Masci served as Director of the Department of Medicine ([Click here](#) to read about the many successes of this seven-year collaboration). This long-standing relationship was one of the reasons AIHA and the Masci family selected DBCHS for the project.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Asmare expressed his appreciation for AIHA's dedication to continuing to support DBCHS, as well as the commitment of the Masci family to keep Dr. Masci's memory alive and continue the support he had been providing for many years. He also noted that the Continuing Professional Development Center that will be upgraded with support of the Legacy Fund will bear Dr. Masci's name for the next 10 years.



*DBCCHS CEO Mr. Asmare Samuel*

AIHA also recognized Dr. Fesseha Tadesse, the former DBCHS Medical Director who led the hospital's twinning partnership on the Ethiopian side, for his ongoing guidance, leadership and dedication.

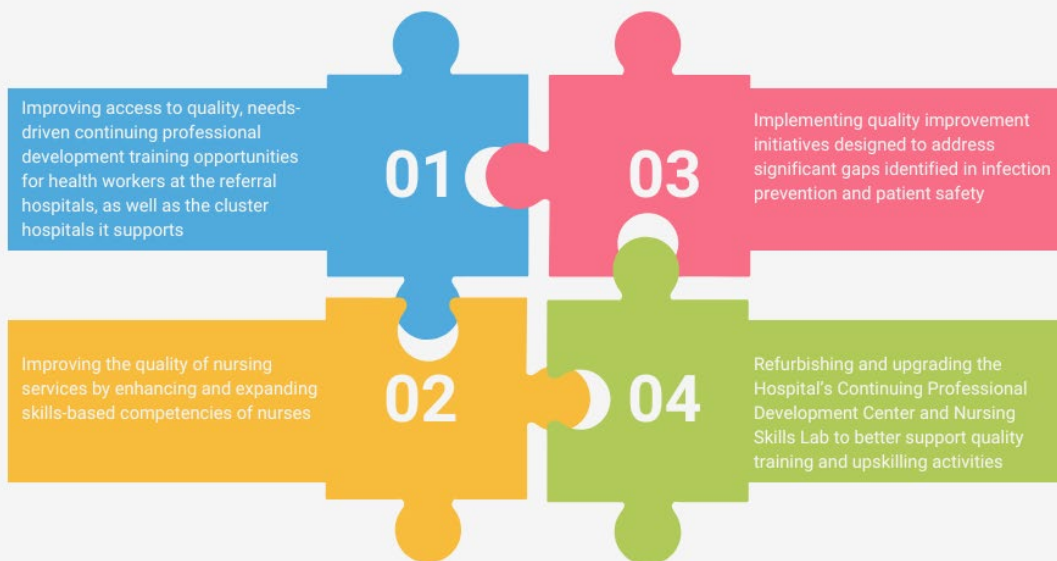
"I am very driven and appreciate Dr. Masci's contributions to this planet, particularly our hospital," Dr. Fesseha said.

"Previously, we had a wonderful time with Dr. Masci and his team, and his contribution lives on to this day. I believe this current project will be a continuation of our partnership," he continued noting that the collaboration between DBCSH and Elmhurst Hospital is not new.

"Our partners was memorable and continues to be supportive, so we are not starting from scratch," Dr. Fesseha stressed, "and we have expertise in preserving and nurturing relationships."

Through the Dr. Joseph R. Masci Legacy Project, AIHA is working hand-in-hand with the DBCCHS partners on the following priority areas:

## Priorities for the Project in Ethiopia



In September 2024 with support from his family, AIHA launched the [Dr. Joseph R. Masci Legacy Project](#), a new two-year endeavor to strengthen institutional and human resource capacity at two international hospitals – [Debre Berhan Comprehensive Specialized Hospital](#) in Ethiopia and [Philippine General Hospital](#) in Manila, Philippines.

Dr. Joseph R. Masci was an infectious disease specialist and public health leader who spent more than 40 years working to improve the lives of patients in New York City and around the world. He was also a highly valued AIHA partner who spearheaded multi-year twinning partnerships to improve HIV/AIDS care in Ethiopia and Russia. [Click here](#) to read more about Dr. Masci.



*During the launch, AIHA Country Director for Ethiopia Kidest Hailu (right) honored the contributions of former DBCHS Medical Director Dr. Tadesse Fesseha. Dr. Fesseha worked hand-in-hand with Dr. Masci throughout the course of the seven-year AIHA twinning partnership between their respective hospitals.*