

# **Kind Hearts Child Aid Development Organization (KCADO)**

## **Newsletter March 2010**

### **About Kind Hearts Orphanage**

Kind Hearts Sebeta orphanage was established by Pastor Gabremichael Felema, his wife, an American registered Nurse, Sister Ethiopia Tadesse, and their three children, in the year 1988. Pastor Gabremichael and his family were initiated to find the organization's orphanage by their deep spiritual motives to support the disadvantaged groups of the society, i.e Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC), women & youth. They started sponsoring 26 OVCs sheltering in their own home in Addis Ababa. They provided the children with food, shelter, clothing, medical care, educational supplies, spiritual mentoring and counseling services. The initial child sponsorship program was funded by volunteer men & women, mostly friends of Pastor Gabremichael from USA & Canada.

Kind Hearts Child Aid Development Organization (KCADO) envisioned to make needy children productive & responsible citizens by satisfying their needs & protecting their basic rights so that they can become self supportive & contribute their shares in the society. Kind Hearts is aimed at supporting disadvantage children who have educational, health & nutritional problem & improving the living conditions of their families. Kind Hearts orphan and vulnerable children sponsorship program at Sebeta, Ethiopia has been carried out with the support of volunteer sponsors from abroad. Recently the sponsorship program that includes the provision of food, pre-school education, psycho-social and spiritual counseling, has been facilitated by Children's HopeChest. Kind Hearts currently has eight staff members including an Executive Director, Finance Officer, Orphanage Coordinator, two Teachers, a Store Keeper and two Guards.



*Kids and their teachers at Kind Hearts*

### **Kind Hearts Pre-school News**

Kind Hearts provides pre-school education to 56 orphan and vulnerable children with the help of two trained teachers. All children at both KG<sub>1</sub> & KG<sub>2</sub> level took the first semester final examination in mid January. The examination types were both subjective and objective questions. Teachers gave tutorial class to low performers on weekends for two months before the examination. After two weeks of school brake, all children returned to their schooling. Students who stood in top ten of both classes were identified and encouraged by teachers and parents/guardians. In general, the academic performance of the children was relatively better than before. Those who will complete KG<sub>2</sub> in this academic year will join formal schools in close proximity to the Sebeta town, depending on their parents/guardians financial capability to supply them with the necessary

educational materials. Putting this in to consideration, KCADO's new board is planning to up-grade the Sebeta School to grade level in collaboration with the City Administration & other stakeholders. Alongside the academic courses as per the government curricular materials for KG<sub>1</sub> & KG<sub>2</sub>, the children participate in activities like



*Children in Classroom*

sports, music and peer discussion groups for traditional plays. These activities created positive impacts on the children specially on their physical strength, healthy mental development, emotional well-being character and cultural values building, etc. These were promoted after visitors from children's HopeChest brought the children some play materials and due to the counselors' technical support.

## **Meal Provision**

We provide lunch for the children everyday during the weekdays. We serve different varieties of food like pasta, spaghetti, and rice with bread, tea & *injera* with different types of sauces and vegetables, depending on our weekly schedule. We noticed that since the meal provision began, the children became more active in classrooms and interested to attend their education attentively. The meal provision has also decreased children's absenteeism from school. The parents and guardians of the children were very happy and grateful for the meal their children receive at the orphanage. After we began providing meal, most children's mental & emotional strength improved. Some children's physical strength also bettered coupled with sports & plays. We would like to thank Children's HopeChest for supporting us financially to make this intervention possible.



*Children eating lunch*

## **Celebrating Ethiopian Christmas, 2002**

The children, orphanage coordinator, teachers, other staff members and four guests from Children's HopeChest national staff celebrated Christmas at the orphanage's compound on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

The children began gathering at the compound early in the morning and played with the balloons the teachers gave them, as they waited for the festive meal that was being prepared. Guests from Children's HopeChest national staff arrived around noon and arranged seats for the children around where the barbecue was being prepared. It was a beautiful day to be outside and the scenery was great. A delicious festive meal was then served and the children began enjoying their meal right after their teacher blessed the food for them. It was great to see the children enjoy the meal as much as they did as meals like that aren't served very often for them.



*Children enjoying festive meal*



*Sweets, cookies and banana*

Afterwards, the guests helped distribute a bag containing different kinds of sweets, cookies and a banana for each child. The children were very happy and grateful for the meal and sweets. Again, our gratitude goes to Children's HopeChest for helping us throw a wonderful Christmas party for the children.

## **From the Disciplers**

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27

Spending time with the kids at Kind Hearts is an opportunity for us to really serve God and live His words. They are the sweetest and most disciplined kids that we can't help but love them. They long for closeness and affection. Our weekly visit with the kids is one that we cherish most and dear to our hearts.

We began teaching them from Genesis. We explained how God created the heavens and the earth at the beginning and every thing in it. We told them that God created every living creature on land and in the oceans. We gave them a few examples of the things that God created and asked them to name things that they think God created. It was interesting to hear their answers.



*Teaching the kids*



We then went on explaining how God created Adam and then Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden to rule over everything that He had created. We told the kids how Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating from the fruit He had told them not to and that God removed them from the Garden of Eden so they live by the fruits of their labor and not by the abundant provision of God. We stressed on the point that we should always be obedient to God. We also told them that they should always obey their parents, teachers, and all of their elders as that was what pleased God most. By explaining the lives of Noah and Abraham, we tried to show the kids how God loved and remained faithful to those who obeyed Him. The kids were following each lesson attentively from week to week. At the end of each class we teach them new songs and their favorite one so far is a song called “God is so God”. We love singing this song with them and tell them that God really loves them more than anything else in the whole world.

Receiving letters from sponsors was one of the things that created unspeakable joy to the children that anyone can tell by just looking at their faces. Seeing the pictures of their new families and friends made them all laughs and giggles. They loved hearing the letters being read to them. Phrases like “I love you”, “You are beautiful”, “You can make it” and “I’m praying for you” are not things they hear a lot. Knowing that they are loved and thought about made them feel very special. The smaller kids also colored a page that says “Thank You Family” and sent to their sponsors while many of the older ones wrote reply letters. We reminded the rest of the children that their families and friends in the US are praying for them everyday and that they love them very much. We really want to thank you for taking the time to write the children and remind them how precious they are before the sight of God.



## Visitors and Donations

A team led by Tom Davis, CEO of Children’s HopeChest, came to visit the orphanage on Monday December 7, 2009. The KACDO Executive director met the team and explained the activities of the organization and Kind Hearts Sebeta orphanage in particular. He also gave the team a tour within the compound of the orphanage after team members visited the children in their classrooms. The team saw the past achievements, challenges and opportunities of KCADO and the future intentions for the orphanage.



*Ato. Wendimagegnehu and the team*

During recess time, the team played different kinds of games with the children and gave out sweets which pleased them very much. The team also brought clothing for the children. Some members of the team went to visit a river found nearby the school which was filthy from the unrefined factory waste that passed through it. The Executive director explained to the visitors about the health problem people in the community face especially during the rainy season as there is no bridge.



*Children playing with team member*

Another team led by Mrs. Joey Austin, visited the orphanage on March 17, 2010. The Executive Director met the team and explained the activities carried out at the orphanage as he showed them the different facilities in the orphanage compound. The possibility of constructing a water well in the orphanage compound was discussed. The team brought the children different supplies like note pad, pen, pencil, crayons, scarf and some crackers. Team members distributed a bag containing the supplies to each child which pleased the children very much. We want to thank the team for taking the time to come and visit the children.



*Team members with supplies they brought*

## About the Executive Director



Ato. Wendimagegnehu Mecha has been married to his wife, Meskerem Zerihun, for over three years. He has earned a BA degree in Education Planning & Management, from Addis Ababa University and a Diploma in Physics from *Bahir Dar* Pedagogical Science College. Wendimagegnehu loves reading, writing, visiting churches, helping the poor, appreciating environment and researching.

Regarding the support the orphanage has received from Children's HopeChest, Wendimagegnehu said, "Children's HopeChest is a guide in a time of crisis and a gift from God. Our hope flourishes through this organization. We are grateful for your support and we require further assistance to ensure the proper survival and holistic development of the children. Thank you."

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