# SALTERGATE CHILDREN'S HOME, ETHIOPIA

England & Wales · Charity number 1175880

## Details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Status** | Registered |
| **Legal form** | Other |
| **Registered** | 2017-11-22 |
| **Register** | View on the Charity Commission register |

## Contact

| | |
|---|---|
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## Activities

**Objects:** (I) THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND SICKNESS(II) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION ...OF HOMELESS CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA

**Activities:** The purposes of the charity are to relieve poverty and sickness and advance the education of homeless, disadvantaged and needy children in Ethiopia.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Ethiopia

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## Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025-03-31 | £46,986 | £34,167 | - | - |
| 2024-03-31 | £43,308 | £28,375 | - | - |
| 2023-03-31 | £31,786 | £24,833 | - | - |
| 2022-03-31 | £34,222 | £16,919 | - | - |
| 2021-03-31 | £24,689 | £16,693 | - | - |

## Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| **KEVIN MORLEY** | Chair | 2015-06-21 |
| DAVID LEVICK | | 2015-06-21 |
| GENET MORLEY | | 2018-09-14 |
| MICHELLE MARIE GUTHRIE | | 2015-06-21 |
| REBECCA GURR | | 2021-01-30 |

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**SALTERGATE CHILDREN'S HOME, ETHIOPIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1175880

# Accounts

# Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia


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Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – *giving hope, transforming lives*

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Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1175880

# Trustees' Annual Report - 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

## 1. Introduction – 10th Anniversary Report

When Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia was founded ten years ago Ethiopia was wrestling with conflict, famine, drought, locusts and debt default. Today Ethiopia is wrestling with conflict, famine, drought, locusts and debt default – no point helping really as nothing changes does it? Except, for the 190 girls and boys we care for the world has transformed. With food in their bellies, clothes on their backs, a roof over their heads a desk in a classroom and access to healthcare when sick the nuts and bolts are in place and every one of these children is seizing the opportunity they have been given with both hands. We now have university and college graduates, trained professionals and independent families in safe and secure homes looking to the future with hope – the days spent begging in the street a distant memory.

This report covers just some of these success stories and with a view to building on the experience of our first ten years we are keen to progress the initiatives that will move our work to the next level. During 2024/25 Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has assessed and delivered several community-wide projects. However, expanding our remit in this way will never be at the expense of care for the child. The aim will always be to a) provide further security for the girls and boys we currently help and b) enable us to take more children off the streets. Ultimately the challenge is to be prepared for a tomorrow that can bring whatever it wants and for Jitu, Bereket, Yohannes and all the children we care for to be ready and able to not just react to but determine the outcome of the day.

As trustees we manage the operation and oversee the delivery of the work in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. **Critically we ensure that every penny donated goes to support the girls and boys we care for.** In essence the strength and integrity of our partnership with families, volunteers and donors is paramount and this is evidenced by the progress to independence of children who were once begging on the street and the long-term support of donors who have underpinned our work since 2015. Examples of this being played out are covered in the pages of this report.

In summary the progress of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia and, more importantly, the livelihoods of the families we care for is built on the loyalty of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers in Ethiopia. In addition to benevolent and steadfastly loyal people supporting our work on an individual basis we have benefited from and are grateful for the encouragement and generosity of the members of a growing number of organisations:

- AR Hair & Beauty Lounge, Arundel
- Barclays Bank, Derby
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Belle Vie - Chesterfield
- Brimington Women's Group
- Cardiff Progress Team, Australia
- Central Methodist Church, Chesterfield
- Chesterfield Football Club
- Chesterfield Library
- Connelly Court residents
- Copy and Print, Chesterfield
- Cumbria Overseas Aid Trust
- Derbyshire Libraries, Matlock
- Dore and Totley United Reformed Church
- Elastic FM
- Grassmoor Women's Institute
- Halesowen Stitch Club, West Midlands
- Holymoorside Ladies Group
- Imperial Voice Radio, Bath
- Jenny Meadows Yoga Club
- Loundsley Green Mothers' Union
- Max Spielmann – Tesco and Chesterfield outlets
- Milestone Financial Planning
- Mitcham Mothers' Union
- Pilsley Community Group
- Quinton Methodist Church, Birmingham
- Reflections magazine
- Rich In Time, Leeds
- ROE Developments (UK) Ltd
- S40 magazine
- Salem Chapel, Wingerworth
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staveley Seniors Group
- Storrs Electrical Ltd
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- St Peter & St Paul – Mitcham Parish Church, London

- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Sutton African and Caribbean Cultural Organisation, London
- The 50+ Inspired Group
- The Co-operative Social Group
- The Derbyshire Times
- The Inner Wheel Club of Clay Cross
- The Oddfellows, Chesterfield
- The Ragged School, Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of Addis Ababa
- The Rotary Club of Aireborough
- The Rotary Club of Bolsover
- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of York Ainsty
- Thom's Blokes
- Treasure Trove Fairs
- TWIST magazine
- Wingerworth Women's Institute

**On behalf of the trustees, volunteers and families of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – thank you. Be in no doubt, these children can prepare with hope for the day rather than fear for the night because of you.**

## 2. Background, Context and Guiding Principles

- *the acronym 'SCH' in the text refers to Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia*

As covered in previous reports the tension, threats, skirmishes and outright conflict continues to feature in Ethiopia's daily news. The Pretoria peace agreement is holding by the skin of its teeth as the federal governments moves to ban the Tigray signatories and its activities.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has called for the African Union to mediate with the federal government after the electoral agency revoked its legal status resulting in heightened tension.

Tragically, the delay in implementing the agreement and subsequent antagonism has fuelled fears of renewed violence and still some one million people displaced by war have yet to return to their homes.

Relations with countries on Ethiopia's borders have also deteriorated. Egypt and Sudan continue to oppose the operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam seeing any reduction in the flow of the Nile as an existential threat. During 2024/25 Ethiopia's attempts to access ports in Somaliland without consulting the Somali government angered the regime and tempers remain high. And despite a brief de-escalation in border tension with Eritrea following the election of Abiy Ahmed Ali relations have returned to their frosty state with the Ethiopian Prime Minister issuing the warning that anyone planning to invade his country should think 10 times before doing so. Significantly Egypt, Somalia and Eritrea have cemented an axis against Ethiopia and strained relations persist.

Economically 2024/25 was not a good year for Ethiopia with the currency at times falling 30% against the US dollar. The government reversed its long-standing policy of fixing the exchange rate in a bid to secure a $10 billion loan from the IMF and World Bank. The news was received with some trepidation across Ethiopia with the people fearing sharp rises in an already high inflation rate. Feedback from our volunteers, the children we support and trustees following inspection has confirmed that this is evident.

Our Risk Register is regularly reviewed and currently highlights the following areas:

- Long-term commitment to supporting children to Independence
- Trustee succession
- Loss of active volunteers in the UK
- Significant fall in income from donors
- Due diligence
- Funds transfer

… and always the safeguarding of children.

All this has informed trustees' decision-making for example regarding the level of allowances and grants issued and the security of children we care for in the war-zone. The relocation of Matyas and his mother from Tigray to the capital is just one example of where decisions have been taken and support given to ensure the safety of the girls and boys we care for.

Despite all the clear and ongoing risks our commitment to help some of the most vulnerable children in the world has not wavered. With the increase in the number of girls and boys we care for it has been necessary to structure into communities. This has been a natural progression. For example Tsadkan oversees the children on the south side of Addis Ababa while the two communities to the east of the city are looked after by Tlahun and Peniel. In all we have ten communities. This includes the most recent families we have agreed to support in Tigray. Here Hamen in Mekelle and Almaz in Axum are keeping us in touch with the day-to-day needs of the children, distributing the monthly allowances and keeping trustees updated about the situation in that region.

As set out in the governing document and registered with the Charity Commission the charity's activities are based on:

(i) The relief of poverty and sickness and
(ii) The advancement of education

… of homeless, disadvantaged and needy children in Ethiopia.

The charity has strategies to promote health and well-being and families are supported into accommodation, education and employment. Overall

the charity helps needy children recognise and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

Since foundation the trustees have worked hard to ensure that we can support children long-term ultimately to self-sufficiency. As such the decision-making process has to be consistent over time, support agreed programmes and lead to transformational change. We operate in a dynamic environment and regular contact with volunteers in Ethiopia is apparent on a daily basis. When dealing with the many requests and challenges the following list of guiding principles acts as a reference:

- SCH supports children who are with a family member. This ensures that safeguarding concerns are minimised and no one associated with the charity is ever alone with a child. However, even though this approach reduces possible safeguarding issues we never forget that we are caring for vulnerable people and vigilance in this area is integral to the work. Typically the children live with a grandmother or aunt having become orphaned. In other cases the father has died and income has ceased. Young widowed mothers with children are a common sight begging in Ethiopia.

- SCH is not structured along the lines of a single large building filled with children. Historically this approach has been shown to have serious flaws even in developed countries. Instead the children live in separate small houses across Addis Ababa and Tigray. Usually the house comprises only a single room but it is a start and it is off the street. The beauty of this approach to housing is that we have no upper limit, no capacity issues. We don't turn children away on the basis that 'our building is full.' We are constrained only by the amount of donations we receive from kind supporters. Simply put – the more donations we receive the more children we can take off the street.

- The charity is pleased to report that, although the number of children cared for has increased, we continue to oversee a very personal operation. We know if Gebrella is doing well in school, we know how Rahel's operation has gone, we know what Bamlak has had for breakfast. When the trustees are not in Ethiopia our volunteers maintain close relations with all the families supported

and ongoing contact with the trustees ensures that progress can be monitored and issues resolved in a timely and effective manner.

- The need to strive for *whole family* independence has been accepted as a valuable way forward. For example, if we provide a young widowed mother with a sewing machine to earn an income mending clothes then her children also benefit. This releases funds to support other families, reduces dependency and results in heightened self-esteem. And yet, our target for families needing help is zero. At first reading this appears to be a paradox but is clarified by the Drive to Independence. Ultimately we strive to help all the children we support to stand on their own two feet and we look forward to that affirming declaration – 'thank you for all you have done for us but we are self-sufficient now. Please use the funds to help others in need.'

- Greater focus on partnership working is seen as an important step in being able to support children effectively and SCH has already benefited from working closely with hospitals and other charities in Addis Ababa.

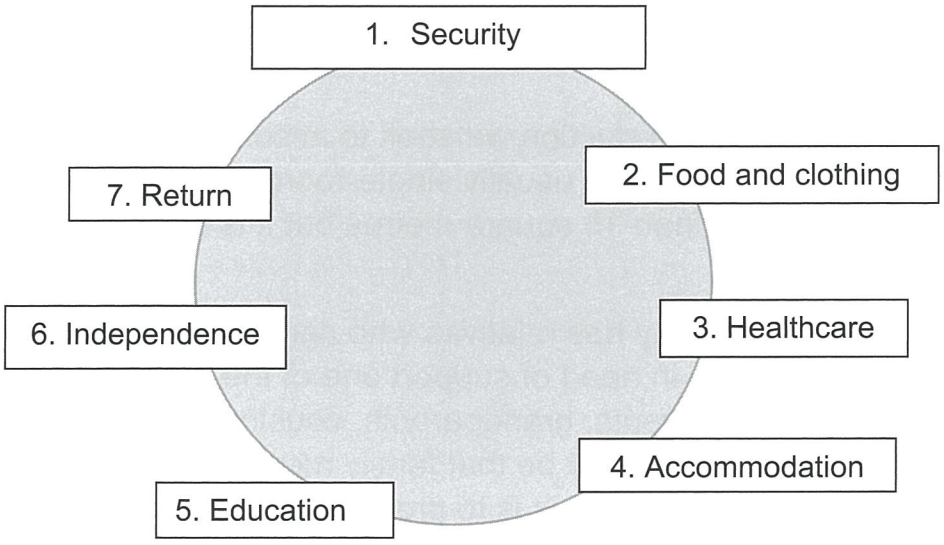
- **And – as always – every penny donated goes directly to provide food, clothing, housing, healthcare and education for the children. All SCH overheads and running costs from payment of money transfer charges from the UK to Ethiopia to the cost of flights to Addis Ababa are met by the trustees. Donors contributions are highly valued and do not disappear down a black hole. It is seen as critical that a donor knows what a world of difference they have made to a child's life.**

## 3. Achievement and Performance

### 3.1 In Ethiopia

As referenced in the Introduction we now care for 190 children, an increase of 38 over the past year. 68 families with a total of 125 children are supported with regular monthly allowances to cover basic needs, housing and education. A further 58 children have received one-off payments to cover the annual school registration fee and any medical expenses. These children are in families that have progressed to a level of self-sufficiency but we keep in touch and are always there to turn to if needed. And, having invested in a small poultry farm, 7 children now receive regular allowances from income generated by egg sales. Of the 190 children we support there are 98 girls and 92 boys. All the children are in accommodation and all those of school age are in the classroom.

The trustees have updated their stepwise approach to caring for a child on the road to independence and, with our support for children escaping from the war zone, it is clear that a first step – the security of the child – needs to take priority.



## Security

There are 3.6 million people on the brink of starvation in Ethiopia. With conflict in two regions of the country this has led to over 600,000 people killed to date. Additionally hundreds of refugees cross the border into Ethiopia daily as they escape conflict in their own countries – Sudan and Somalia have both suffered from the disastrous effects of war in recent years. The situation, particularly in the north of Ethiopia, is chaotic and precarious.

Thousands of women have been widowed during this time and many make their way to the capital with their children in search of relative safety. With little support in Addis Ababa these displaced families swell the numbers sleeping on the streets and it is estimated that 100,000 children will sleep on the streets of Addis Ababa tonight. (United Nations and World Food Programme data.)

Just some of the reasons we operate in this part of the world.

We have been asked by people outside, and perhaps more surprisingly inside, Ethiopia – 'Nobody cares for these children, why do you care for these children?' It is because nobody cares – or even knows - about these children that we care.

## Accommodation

As referred to in the introduction we seek to accommodate families in separate houses. These are usually single-roomed and very basic with floor space no more than 16 square metres but it is off the street and it's a start.

In some cases the family has relatives who can help. When we are introduced to a family in need of support one of the first questions we ask is 'do you have parents, grandparents, cousins in the city or in other parts of the country?' It might be that family members are happy to help and the only requirement for us is to provide the means of transport. As reported in the previous section we discovered that Zigabe has a sister who could help and she welcomed her and her son Matyas to live with her and her family.

We were very pleased with the outcome for Tadalu and her children for several reasons. The trustees were introduced to Tadalu and her children Abraha and Besufkad in February 2024. Having escaped the conflict after her husband was killed the family were sleeping at the roadside in a roughly constructed tent made from plastic bags. Armed with a generous donation from ROE Developments (UK) we met with the elders of the local village and discussed the possibility of local villagers helping – we provide the funds, they provide the workforce. No sooner said than done and within a week Tadalu and her children had a roof over their heads. More importantly they knew that they had settled in a caring and supportive community.

As with all the families we are asked to help the situation they are in is often dire with little hope for the future. When confronted by children in desperate circumstances which can be overwhelming solutions are not always immediately apparent but our experience of working in this field has taught us a simple truth – the solution often starts with the mother. It is her love and the desire that her children should have hope for the future that will ultimately make that happen. Our approach is to support Mum, to give her a chance by offering her the means to fulfil the dreams she has for her family.

**Health**

Many of the children we are asked to help are malnourished. From birth their diet has been based on what they can beg or what they can scavenge in the street or on the rubbish tip. For those that have escaped the conflict and made their way to the city this has been exacerbated by the reduction in aid apparent during 2024/25. As such addressing basic needs taken for granted in developed countries is a priority for us and our supplies are sourced locally or from the livestock and crops we have invested in.

Clothing also requires immediate attention. Ethiopian Airlines generous luggage allowance means we can take substantial amounts of clothes for the children. Many organisations and kind folks donate clothing for us to take. For example the congregation of Quinton Methodist Church have knitted hats, scarves and jumpers, Central Methodist Church members have collections and the football kit from the supporters of Chesterfield FC always puts a smile on the faces of the children.

During 2024/25 we have sought to establish good relations with even more medical professionals in Ethiopia. Dr Tigist is yet another experienced practitioner who we are now acquainted with. She has treated hundreds of patients since qualifying – mainly young girls – and it is reassuring that we have yet another highly respected doctor who we can turn to should the need arise.

Over the course of the year we are able to report that the children we care for have generally enjoyed good health and this is reflected in school attendance data. However, in February we did receive the terrible news that Efrata Israel had died. Despite being blind and suffering with the effects of hydrocephalus Efrata was always bright and cheerful and is sorely missed. Her mother and brother are struggling to cope with their loss. We have supported this family since 2020 and our volunteers are close by their side and keeping the trustees in touch with how best we can help at this time.

Generous folks continue to supply us with hundreds of unwanted pairs of spectacles which we take to Ethiopia. Many an hour is spent with girls and boys trying on pair after pair and the wonderful moment we hear an excited 'I can see!' is quite special and always a pleasure to report back to the donors. We are delighted to have been able to provide other equipment to enable children to have fulfilling lives. Efrata Markos is very happy in her new leg braces and it has been rewarding to address the particular needs of Halyeka who uses a wheelchair. The rough terrain in Addis Ababa makes progress difficult but this has been eased by a new battery-powered model and Halyeka's mobility is greatly improved.

Tsege was our first volunteer. Known to the trustees for many years she played a critical role when the first of our children were taken off the streets and supported. Ever-present she willingly undertook feeding, washing, school-preparation and all the many daily tasks that make the operation tick. Most important she built strong and positive relationships with children who had sometimes been abused and in all cases suffered in desperate circumstances. The transformation to a life of hope was facilitated by an ever-present Tsege and she is loved and respected by all the children. This has been evident now that Tsege has succumbed to the debilitating effects of osteo-arthritis which has resulted in her being bed-ridden. Greatly supported she has Ambes to carry her, Mimi to cook for her and Amanuel – the first child we cared for – to deal with

her toilet bucket. And many thanks to Deborah who is one of our wonderful supporters and is now based in the UK after a life living and working in several countries including Ethiopia. On a visit to Addis Ababa she took a large quantity of medical supplies for Tsege – we know some special people.

## Education

We are getting used to seeing pictures of Eyob proudly holding up his Maths Star of the Week certificate – just one of the children working hard and making the most of the opportunity they have been given.

All the school-age children have a desk in a classroom and the number of role models they can look up to continues to increase. Danait and Delina were the first to don the cap and gown following their success at university and Yeshume wasn't far behind. Now Yeshume has returned to university on a part-time basis to study for a Master's degree. With qualified teacher status, a full time job working in a government school and a toddler to bring up weekends and evenings are now study time proving that 90% of genius is founded in hard work.

Cap and gown photographs of the younger children having successfully completed their academic year also evidence the children taking their chance and a beaming Yabsera stood out among the crowd of students.

In recent years kind folks have donated laptops. iPads and mobile phones and these have been a valuable addition to our stock of educational supplies. With Dibabe and Lemlem equipping a room with the computers we now have a facility that all the children they oversee can use. Education will always be part of the solution on the road to independence.

**Registration fees vary from school to school and with inflation and an increasing number of children to support this is our biggest annual one-off outlay. For 2024 the total cost was £2,265.**

## The Drive to Independence

We don't just drop a few coins in an outstretched hand and walk by – we are with these children until they are in sell-sufficient families. This long-term commitment requires trustees to always have an eye on the future and the reserves to support children on their journey to independence in some cases for many years.

There are a number of ways this transition from begging to self-sufficiency can be achieved. It may be that a young widowed mother can be reunited with family members who are willing to welcome her into their home.

Discussions about training and employment possibly along the lines of setting up a small business has also led to families we support becoming independent as with Fasika and her daughter Beselot. Fully trained and now an experienced sewing machinist Fasika can now not just make clothes for the children we care for she can also earn income making and selling dresses, curtains and duvet covers. Sewing machines are expensive (currently around £400) but their value as an investment has been proven and Feven, Ayenalum and Rehima have also taken this route becoming proficient. Further, during 2024/25, we have provided sewing machines to a local hospital and now patients can acquire skills in the rehabilitation unit giving them a chance to earn an income when they are discharged.

So contact and relocation to live with extended family, training and supporting guardians to be wage-earners and, of course, by educating the children themselves to acquire qualifications and become equipped to get a job or study at university are supported. Ongoing discussions take place with our teenagers to assess and appropriately support their ambitions. Mekdes wants to be a pilot, Meheret a doctor and with our support they are working hard to make their dreams reality. Not all children see a future that needs a university education and many are keen to start work on leaving school. Tools and training have enabled Kelam to get work as a welder and we have introduced Yohannes to garage owners and taken him to Ethiopian Airlines workshops to support his ambition to become a mechanic.

It is great to see how Melat is increasing her customer-base and taking bookings for beauty treatment. It is 2 years since she finished her course

and she is working hard to maximise the opportunity she has been given. She now has clients at some of the expensive hotels and the signs for future growth are positive.

At the beginning of the year we listened to Mehat talking excitedly about wanting to be a hotel manager when she left school. We have supported her progress and she is now on the verge of successfully completing her first year at college. She has taken to her new life as a student and made many contacts in the hotel business which all bodes well for a successful start to her career - she has already been offered a position with a reputable hotel following her graduation.

The trustees are often asked the question 'yes but what does a bright future look like for these children?' The response may not sound too ambitious to someone enjoying the benefits of living in a developed country with a welfare state, emergency services a phone call away and a supermarket on the corner. So much of what represents a wonderful life for the girls and boys we care for is too easily taken for granted in many countries. When your early years have been shaped by begging on the street then food, clothes, housing, healthcare, education and, critically, the means to stand on your own two feet with hope for tomorrow represent a very bright future.

In 2022 our volunteers were contacted by a local church with a view to fostering a baby girl. Her mother had rejected her and the pastor was looking for help to care for the child. We spoke with Mebrat and broached the idea that she might foster the baby. (As a young girl Mebrat had become pregnant, was homeless and was sleeping on the floor of a church with her new born son Yabsera – we have supported them ever since and Yabsera is now 7 years old, in good health and a keen student.) Mebrat agreed to look after the little girl and called her Mariel. It has been very special to see how this arrangement has turned out. Mariel is now a lively 3 year old blessed with a loving mother and doting brother in Yabsera. This is just one example that captures our desire to see return on investment not in terms of money but in extending a caring approach. If families we have supported can act on opportunities to help others who are in the predicament they once were there is a natural progression to helping vulnerable children to thrive.

## The Next Level

The 2023/24 Annual Report referred to the trustees aspirations to move to the next level. That is to invest in larger-scale initiatives that will benefit whole communities of children. The point was raised that this may require bids for government funding. In the event during 2024/25 we have benefited from the generosity of our individual donors and the companies ROE Developments (UK), Belle Vie Aesthetics and Storrs Electrical who have donated substantial lump sums. This has financed the following projects:

- Sewing machine workshop
- Irrigation and crops
- Plastic recycling
- Livestock

Although in the early stages we are pleased to report that these projects are up and running and delivering the planned benefits both to the children we care for and partners in Ethiopia.

Sewing Machines

Fasika, Feven, Aynalum and Rehima are now fully equipped both with equipment and materials. Erratic power supply hindered Fasika's output during the year but this has been solved with the purchase of a manual machine. These mothers have not just made clothes for children we care for but are also earning an income making and selling, for example, curtains and bedding. The children may live in little houses made of corrugated iron and cow dung but they are very happy with their new outfits created by our machinists.

We have also equipped a local hospital with machines and patients are being trained before being discharged in the rehabilitation centre. They are making the most of this opportunity and giving themselves a chance to support themselves after they finish their course of treatment.

Irrigation and Crops

During the 2024 inspection the trustees noted a small lake in a local hospital grounds. Questioning revealed that the lake contained water all

year round as it was fed by underground streams. With land nearby it was surprising that this water supply was not used for irrigation and crop-growing. Plans were drawn up and drip-irrigation kits have been acquired.

It is anticipated that the first crops of carrots and potatoes will be harvested in the coming weeks. Further, cost analysis has been completed and this initiative will be progressed to grow a wider variety of vegetables, plant fruit trees and invest in mushroom spores.

Plastic Recycling

Many families in Ethiopia have to walk long distances to collect water for washing, drinking and cooking. Few have access to running water in the home. Large plastic jerry cans are used and often dumped thus littering the local area. Our volunteers now collect these, tidy them up and sell them – the income supports four of the children we care for.

Livestock

During 2024/25 the profit from our livestock has been reinvested to buy more cows, sheep, goats and chickens – Chadwick Farm goes from strength to strength. The additional income from this enterprise has been one of the factors which has led to the increasing number of girls and boys we support. There is also the potential for future employment in stock management should the children have aspirations in this field beyond school.

Solar Panels

Nominated volunteers feature in our investment with responsibility for ongoing support and reporting to the trustees so that any necessary remedial action can be taken. Over the past year the trustees have made initial enquiries about the purchase of solar panels which are available in Ethiopia. (A small solar panel is sited above every street light in Addis Ababa.) At preliminary stage re costing and implementation – to be progressed.

## 3.2 Outside Ethiopia

Promotion and fund raising has progressed throughout the year and numerous activities have resulted in donations continuing on their upward trajectory. It has been a pleasure to attend gatherings of various groups and talk about our work. The majority of these have been repeat bookings and it is great to return to see friends who are keen to hear about the progress of the children they have supported so generously. A programme of presentations has been delivered to members of the following organisations:

- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Aireborough
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- Pilsley Community Group
- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Holymoorside Women's Group
- Wingerworth WI
- Staveley Seniors
- Salem Chapel
- Chesterfield Townswomen's Guild
- Inkersall Social Group
- St John's Church, Newbold
- Central Methodist Church

We are delighted to have been beneficiaries of the microloan scheme initiated by members of The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize. The members have provided donations on the basis that they are used to support families to independence. We have identified Tlahun as best placed to oversee the scheme in Ethiopia and loans are given out to individuals – usually widowed Mums with children – who we support. The aim is for them to set up in business so that they become self-sufficient and don't have to rely on SCH, Ethiopia. The loans do not bear interest and a repayment plan is agreed depending on factors such as forecast income and the number of dependents in the family. To date loans have been made to buy livestock, set up market stalls and purchase hairdressing equipment and beauty products. These initiatives have achieved the aim of helping families to independence and have led to the additional benefit for the charity of reducing the number of allowances we send each month – these savings have been used to

help more girls and boys off the street and have been a major factor in increasing the number of families we can support.

John and Margaret Bown have been long-standing friends of our children and we are very grateful for all that they have done for them. Regular donors they also sends royalties from John's book – ***Called to Serve and Protect*** - which covers his time working with the Ethiopian Police Force. And – wonderfully – guests at John and Margaret's Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebrations generously donated to the charity at the couple's request.

Dave Powditch is another of the children's heroes championing the cause around Chesterfield and raising an incredible level of funds to help further the charity's aims. Sales of second-hand goods including tools, clothes and toys have become a regular source of income all credit to Dave's drive and initiative. Dave has also had a book published. ***Given*** is a collection of poems and ditties reflecting on moments along the road we all travel. Yet another of the many friends of the girls and boys we help and …

… runners, we mustn't forget our champions of the track. Picking up the baton in 2024/25 were Michael, Shirley and Mike who pounded the streets of London in The Big Half Marathon raising vast amounts in sponsorship. Exhausting to watch let alone run their brilliant efforts were inspirational. Sticking with the sporting theme the good folks of Chesterfield Football Club chipped in with bags of kit which put smiles on the faces of the children. Visitors to Addis Ababa spotting a girl or boy in a Spireites shirt can be assured that they are one of ours.

We continue to appear in publications and attend for interviews at radio stations and Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has featured in:

- Lichgate News, St Paul's Church
- Ploughshare, St Thomas' Church
- Reflections
- Kaleidoscope – Sutton African Caribbean Cultural Organisation
- TWIST
- S40
- The Derbyshire Times
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield

- Spire Radio
- Imperial Voice Radio
- Elastic FM
- Sheffield Hallam University Alumni Newsletter

During 2024/25 the reach of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has continued to extend to countries around the world. In addition to supporters in Australia, Denmark, France, Italy, Poland and several states across the USA we now have friends in Brazil and Canada who have shown a keen interest in our work. Kind donors have also increased in number across the UK and we are delighted with the response to our work by new groups of friends who have taken up the cause and are increasingly involved in the promotion of the charity's aims. The trustees will continue to work with all our supporters keeping them in touch with the children and are always available to speak with any group who might be interested in our charity – we look forward to hearing from you.

## 4. Financial Review

With over 125 million people Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world with average per capita gross national income $1.02. In recent years there has been some development notably with the expansion of nearby potable water, increased access to electricity and successful child vaccination programmes. However, the state-led development has relied on overvalued currency, unsustainable debt and strict regulations that limit private investment. Overall this approach has restricted competitiveness, fuelled inflation and drained resources. 70% of the population depends on agriculture, global trade is limited and multiple crises including COVID-19, drought and the Tigray conflict have severely impacted economic imbalance and led to debt default. Living standards have deteriorated and conflict displaced over 3 million people resulting in humanitarian and reconstruction needs.

In 2024, in an attempt to stabilise the economy and revive growth, the government has embarked on comprehensive macroeconomic reform. Supported by the IMF and World Bank financing Ethiopia has shifted to an interest-based monetary framework which aims to translate economic improvements into tangible benefits for its people. Higher earnings,

productive jobs and improved public services are key aims. Development challenges are significant and have to include:

- Expanding private sector growth and reducing state-dominance of the economy.
- Reducing the conflicts which persist throughout the country.
- Overcoming food insecurity which is growing due to adverse weather conditions.
- Improving human capital – a child born in Ethiopia is estimated to achieve only 38% of its development potential.
- The need to create jobs – 2 million people reach working age every year.

These are just some of the significant and long-standing challenges Ethiopia faces and ultimately are the reasons we operate in this part of the world.

A simple truth is always to the fore as the trustees look to support children and work to help them transform their lives:

**It is kind and loyal donors who give our volunteers the means to feed, house and educate the children we care for and we can do nothing without their support.**

The cost of supporting a child including food, shelter and schooling is **£25 a month.**

A question that many charities seek to answer is 'how can ongoing funds be found?' For us the answer lies in clearly understanding the ideal end-state and working to put in place a cyclic, self-perpetuating model that makes the need for funding from our donors unnecessary – that makes the trustees of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia redundant. This is founded on the basic principle that folks need to roll their own sleeves up and work to stand on their own two feet. Ultimately long-term funding needs to be earned by the families themselves.

Of the 190 children we support 58 are now independent and in jobs secured after getting good results in school or by guardians being trained and supported into business ventures. We keep in touch with these, now independent, families in case of, for example, medical emergencies even though we don't send them monthly allowances anymore. This is no different to family relationships in any country in the world and it is rewarding to see folks who were once begging on the street now leading fulfilling lives and, like Yeshume, bringing up their own families.

In addition to earning income supporting families to self-sufficiency has many benefits including enhanced self-esteem, hope for the future and the reassurance that tomorrow can bring what it wants and it can be faced with confidence. For the local community there is the provision of services and products and for us as charity trustees saved allowances that can be used to help even more children off the streets.

Six years ago we were introduced to Mehat who was surviving in desperate circumstances. Dad had died and her mother was HIV+ and bed-ridden. Mehat had dropped out of school to care for Mum and with rain pouring in through the roof of their one-roomed hut the situation looked dire. With the antiretrovirals sorted Mum's health improved dramatically and with a small allowance from us Mehat was able to return to the classroom. With excellent school results we discussed careers with Mehat and she talked about her ambition to become a hotel manager. Now nearing the end of her first year at college Mehat is doing well and we have introduced her to the business managers in several hotels. In one case – providing she graduates from college – she has been offered an apprenticeship. Mehat is just one of the children who have given us confidence and is living proof that our approach to addressing the long-term funding question is well-founded.

Broadly the charity continues to operate on a prudent basis of:

Regular funds in e.g. standing orders = Regular allowances paid

and

One-off donations = One-off payments made

e.g. medical emergencies, grants, annual school registration fees.

We continue to use only registered banking systems for investment and money transfer. As advised by the UK International Charity Engagement Team we never use cash couriers.

Noted that no funds are materially in deficit. For detailed financial information please visit the Charity Commission website.

## 5. Change Agenda and Concluding Remarks

In the 2023/24 report we expressed the ambition to move to the 'next level' with possible submissions to governments for funding. In the event, as covered in these pages, we have benefited from private sector and benevolent group funding and the significant donations by ROE Development (UK), Belle Vie, The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize and Storrs Electrical have been pivotal in enabling the trustees to take the first steps to bring community-benefiting initiatives to fruition. Irrigation, crop-growing, hospital ward refurbishment and plastic recycling are all up and running and we are very grateful for this level of support which runs in tandem with the fantastic loyalty of individual donors who commit regular donations every month.

These projects are on track to deliver substantial benefits for families in Ethiopia and new initiatives are being explored in partnership with our friends in Ethiopia. As with current initiatives these will be closely managed. The trustees have seen first-hand failing projects initiated by well-meaning charities and individuals. Rusting solar panels rotting on rubbish tips are testament to the failure of the 'give something and walk away' approach. Similarly photocopiers stand idle in school classrooms because the donors didn't consider the need for consumables, training or even something as minor as bulb replacement or as major as whether there is a reliable supply of electricity – not good enough. As such the trustees and volunteers of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia are always on hand post-implementation to support.

Acute awareness has been triggered by fast-growing children in terms of 'they are approaching school-leaving age – how can we best support the transition to life beyond the classroom?' This transition needs to be

addressed on a child by child basis and we are on hand discussing, listening to the ambitions of Mehat, Bethlehem and Kelam as they prepare for life in the outside world where work, university and training college are all assessed.

The challenges to maximising the benefits of current initiatives, establishing new ones and supporting families to independence are significant but the experience the trustees have acquired in the past 10 years, the local knowledge of our volunteers and the energy of the children we care for will stand us in good stead and the girls and boys we care for – and will care for – have every chance of a successful and prosperous future.

**Although our change agenda is progressive and demanding our touchstone is always summarised in one question and guides everything we do – 'if this child was your own what would you do?'**

## 6. Declaration

Independent Examiner JANINE PATRICIA LE MIRE

Signature Janine P. Le Mire

Date 27 November 2025

Chair of Trustees KEVIN MORLEY

Signature

Date 27 November 20'25

# Appendices

## Appendix A - Reference and Administration

Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

Registered Charity Number: 1175880

Charity's Address: 10 Foxbrook Court, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire S40 3SS

M: (+44) 077 899 75460

E: kevinjosephmorley@yahoo.co.uk

Charity Trustees:

1. Michelle Marie Guthrie
2. Rebecca Gurr
3. Genet Morley
4. David Levick
5. Kevin Morley (Chair)

The body entitled to appoint trustees are the current board of charity trustees.

Names of the trustees for the charity e.g. Custodian Trustees:

None

Names and addresses of advisers:

None

Name of Chief Executive or names of senior staff members:

None

## Appendix B - Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts:

Type of Governing Document: Constitution adopted 21 June 2015 – latest version included here:

# SMALL CHARITY CONSTITUTION

1. **NAME**

The charity's name is:

**Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia**

2. **THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE:**

(i) the relief of poverty, homelessness and sickness and
(ii) the advancement of education and employment beyond school leading to the self-sufficiency

... of disadvantaged and needy families in Ethiopia.

The charity will promote health and well-being and will help children and young adults to recognise and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

3. **TRUSTEES**

The charity shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are members and are appointed at the Annual Meeting of the charity with approval to continue in the role for a further year.

## 4. CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:

(1) raise funds, profit from business opportunities, receive grants and donations

(2) apply funds to carry out the work of the charity

(3) co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes

(4) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

For definition purposes these form the rules of the charity.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP

The charity will aim to build the membership. People who support the work of the charity and are aged 18 or over can apply to the trustees to become a member. Once accepted by the trustees membership may be renewed. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

## 6. ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting must be held every year with 14 days' notice and agenda given to all members. Minutes will be kept of the Annual Meeting.

(1) There must be at least 3 members present at the meeting.

(2) Every member has one vote.

(3) The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.

(4) Any member may stand for election as a trustee.

(5) Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next annual meeting but may stand for re-election.

## 7. TRUSTEE MEETINGS

(1) Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the annual meeting they will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.

(2) At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.

(3) If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.

(4) During the year the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next annual meeting.

(5) The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

## 8. MONEY AND PROPERTY

(1) Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.

(2) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by members on request.

(3) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity.

(4) Money must be held in the charity's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 trustees.

## 9. GENERAL MEETINGS

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the charity, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

(1) **Winding up -** any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be transferred to the appointed officers in Ethiopia to use in accordance with the purposes of the charity.

(2) **Changes to the Constitution -** can be made at Annual Meetings or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.

(3) **General Meeting -** called on written request from a majority of members.

(4) Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership.

Note: Every effort will be made to hold face-to-face meetings. If this is not possible meetings will be held virtually or using telephone facilities. Any votes cast will be confirmed by post. If a meeting is held using digital solutions or over the telephone this will be recorded in the minutes.

## 10. SETTING UP THE CHARITY

The charity was founded and the original constitution adopted by the trustees on 21 June 2015. The current trustees signatures appear below. They are the members of the charity and will be the trustees until the Annual Meeting. Amendments to the constitution were approved by the trustees on 14 September 2018, 25 September 2020, 4 June 2021 and 7 February 2025.

How the charity is constituted: Unincorporated Association.

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting by existing trustees.

### Additional Governance Issues

At induction trustees are referred to the Charity Commission guidance and the charity's policies in particular regarding safeguarding. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

## Appendix C – Trustees Scope

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the charity's objects and with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission are in accordance with the strategies:

1. **Management**

   Overall management of the charity has ensured that a legal framework is adhered to, the planning cycle is robust and the vision is being delivered in accordance with the agreed strategies.

2. **Promotion and Fund Raising**

   The charity is promoted worldwide, awareness is raised and a network of individuals and partner organisations which are mutually beneficial and have developed into a supportive community is being built. ICT is used wherever possible to promote and secure the charity.

   Homes are supported by raising funds by any legal means, approaching organisations and individuals and promoting events and initiatives. Donors and Friends of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia are highly valued for their essential contribution.

3. **Cost Reduction**

   Effort has been expended to ensure that costs are on a variable basis wherever possible and opportunities are continuously sought to drive costs down.

4. **Partnership**

   We have built relations with government departments and other organisations and charities – bodies that the charity can work with in partnership to deliver the vision.

5. **Care in Ethiopia**

   We research, deploy and deliver on care, accommodation, medical facilities/expertise and appropriate educational establishments. Regular payments have been made to families and one-off payments are made in response to requests for healthcare and

educational supplies. Children have been referred for vaccinations in accordance with the programme available in Ethiopia and the cost of physiotherapy and dietary supplements has been covered.

6. **Growth in Ethiopia**

   We grow secure, sustainable homes as driven by the charity's available resources which are legally-based. We have built a supportive family community and gender balance of the total number of children we care for is continuously addressed.

The value of the charity's work to the children it supports can be measured in terms of:

- Provision of basic needs e.g. food, clothing
- Families in accommodation
- Children in school and results in school
- Children receiving necessary healthcare
- Adults in training
- Families becoming self-sufficient
- Level of Return
- Delivery of agreed projects

**The trustees confirm that they have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit when planning the charity's activities at the trustee meetings.**

# Charity Commission for England and Wales

# Receipts and Payments Accounts

# Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

# Charity Number: 1175880

# For the period from: 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

## Section A - Receipts and payments

### A1 Receipts

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds | Last year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Donations (Individuals)** | 21123 | | | 21123 | 17901 |
| **Donations (Organisations)** | 19728 | | | 19728 | 20496 |
| **Donations (Trustees)** | 2827 | | | 2827 | 3275 |
| **Fund Raising Events** | 1301 | | | 1301 | 60 |
| **Gift Aid Receipts** | 2007 | | | 2007 | 1576 |
| **Sub Total** | **46986** | | | **46986** | **43308** |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales** | | | | | |
| **Total Receipts** | **46986** | | | **46986** | **43308** |

## A3 Payments

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds | Last Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Payments made to Ethiopia** | 31340 | | | 31340 | 25100 |
| **Printing, stationery, postage** | 1918 | | | 1918 | 1738 |
| **Travel & Subsistence** | 909 | | | 909 | 1537 |
| **Sub Total** | **34167** | | | **34167** | **28375** |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases** | | | | | |
| **Total Payments** | **34167** | | | **34167** | **28375** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Net of Receipts/ Payments** | **12819** | | | **12819** | **14933** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | | | | | |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 65544 | | | 65544 | |
| **Cash funds this year end** | **78363** | | | **78363** | |

## Section B - Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

### B1 Cash Funds

| Details | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total cash funds (b/f from receipt and payment accounts) | 78363 | | |

### B2 Other Monetary Assets

| Details | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

### B3 Investment Assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost | Current Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

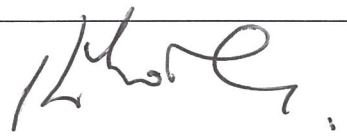
### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost | Current Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## B5 Liabilities

| Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount Due | When Due |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## Signed by one trustee on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of Approval |
|---|---|---|
|  | Kevin Morley | 27/11/ 2025 |

*Format based on The Charity Commission template March 2012: New format January 2017*

**Charity Commission for England and Wales**

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

**Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia**

**Charity Number: 1175880**

**For the period from: 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

I hereby declare that on 27/11/25 the following evidence pertaining to the Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia accounts were made available to me:

- Receipts and Payments Accounts
- Bank Statements
- Receipts
- International Transfer documents

I confirm that the income and expenditure shown in the accounts for 2024/25 are a true and accurate record of receipts and payments.

Signed Janine LeMire

Janine LeMire – Independent Examiner

Date 27th November 2025

021125

**SALTERGATE CHILDREN'S HOME, ETHIOPIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1175880

# Accounts

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B Structure, Governance and Management

C Trustees Scope

Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – *giving hope, transforming lives*

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Email: kevinjosephmorley@yahoo.co.uk

http://saltergatechildrenshome.org/

Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1175880

# Trustees' Annual Report - 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## 1. Introduction – 9th Anniversary Report

As a good friend of our children said in 2015 we were, at that time, a 'fledgling charity.' Well we have a few more feathers now and care for a lot more children. We currently support 152 girls and boys – children for who one thought used to dominate every minute of the day 'where can I get something to eat?' Now Mekdes talks about wanting to be a pilot when she grows up and Bereket wants to be a doctor. They, and all the children, are very grateful and making the most of the chance they have been given. Over the past 9 years our approach to the work has evolved, developed and been refined in the light of experience. As follows:

We do not drop a few coins in an outstretched hand and walk away. What we do is respond to a cry for help by listening, understanding and assessing how best to help before supporting children to self-sufficiency. All this is achieved with our team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers – the timeframe determined by individual circumstances. To succeed the relationships, the partnerships within Ethiopia have to be, and are, founded on trust and integrity.

The strength and respect for partnership is also key on the flip-side of the operation. That is loyal donors are recognised for the critical role they play – without their support we can only offer sympathy and empty words. The food, clothes, housing, medical care and education is all covered by generous friends who are committed to the cause. We never ask for money – we strive to communicate our aims widely and people decide if they want or don't want to support. The song is consistent – the singer is of no importance. It's that simple. All donations are responded to with gratitude and updates are comprehensive and timely. Donors' contributions do not disappear down black holes leaving kind folks in the dark as to how their money was spent. They can see the shirt they have bought for Ezekiel and the grades achieved at school by Jitu and ultimately the smile that says 'thank you for giving me this opportunity.'

We are recognised as a grassroots charity and for the past 9 years the trustees have worked hard to build these close ties between needy families, volunteers and donors. The time has come to view this as our cornerstone, a base on which to build and progress to the next stage in our aim to help more children off the streets. This will mean even closer working relations with partners in Ethiopia and the construction of bids to governments and trusts for significant funding. Plans are being drafted to widen our remit for the benefit of families we seek to help and the trustees look forward to successful delivery over the coming years.

As trustees we manage the operation and oversee the delivery of the work in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. **Critically we ensure that every penny donated goes to support the girls and boys we care for.** In essence the strength and integrity of our partnership with families, volunteers and donors is paramount and this is evidenced by a) the progress to independence of children who were once begging on the street and b) the long-term support of donors who have underpinned our work since 2015. Examples of this being played out are covered in the pages of this report.

In summary the progress of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia and, more importantly, the livelihoods of the families we care for is built on the loyalty of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers in Ethiopia. In addition to benevolent and steadfastly loyal people supporting our work on an individual basis we have benefited from and are grateful for the encouragement and generosity of the members of a growing number of organisations:

- AR Hair & Beauty Lounge, Arundel
- Barclays Bank, Derby
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Belle Vie - Chesterfield
- Brimington Women's Group
- Cardiff Progress Team, Australia
- Central Methodist Church, Chesterfield
- Chesterfield Football Club
- Chesterfield Library
- Connelly Court residents
- Copy and Print, Chesterfield
- Cumbria Overseas Aid Trust
- Derbyshire Libraries, Matlock
- Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

- Elastic FM
- Grassmoor Women's Institute
- Halesowen Stitch Club, West Midlands
- Holymoorside Ladies Group
- Imperial Voice Radio, Bath
- Jenny Meadows Yoga Club
- Loundsley Green Mothers' Union
- Max Spielmann – Tesco and Chesterfield outlets
- Milestone Financial Planning
- Mitcham Mothers' Union
- Pilsley Community Group
- Quinton Methodist Church, Birmingham
- Reflections magazine
- Rich In Time, Leeds
- ROE Developments (UK) Ltd
- S40 magazine
- Salem Chapel, Wingerworth
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staveley Seniors Group
- Storrs Electrical Ltd
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- St Peter & St Paul – Mitcham Parish Church, London
- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Sutton African and Caribbean Cultural Organisation, London
- The 50+ Inspired Group
- The Co-operative Social Group
- The Derbyshire Times
- The Inner Wheel Club of Clay Cross
- The Oddfellows, Chesterfield
- The Ragged School, Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of Addis Ababa
- The Rotary Club of Aireborough
- The Rotary Club of Bolsover
- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of York Ainsty
- Thom's Blokes
- Treasure Trove Fairs
- TWIST magazine
- Wingerworth Women's Institute

**On behalf of the trustees, volunteers and families of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – thank you. Be in no doubt - these children have food in their bellies, clothes on their backs, a roof over their heads and are in a classroom instead of begging on the street because of you.**

## 2. Background, Context and Guiding Principles

- *the acronym 'SCH' in the text refers to Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia*

Over the past few years Ethiopia has suffered from the impact of a global pandemic, civil war and precarious economic uncertainty. During 2023/24 the challenges have increased and intensified leading to heightened tension in the region. Within Ethiopia fighting has escalated in both the north and south of the country. Following the signing of the peace agreement by the federal government and the Tigray leaders fighting has broken out in other regions most notably in Amhara and Oromia. Over 60% of the population live in these areas and the impact on the country is devastating leading to instability and the diversion of funds away from infrastructure projects and social support programmes to the security forces. The trustees have witnessed first-hand the resulting tension on the streets of the capital with numerous regular spot-checks by soldiers and the cancellation of flights to inspect the charity's operation in the north of the country where safe passage could not be guaranteed.

Relations with countries on the borders of Ethiopia continue to be problematic. The long-standing dispute with Egypt and Sudan over the flow of the Nile affected by the construction of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam still persists and the continued presence of Eritrean soldiers in the Tigray region is not yet resolved. To the east diplomatic relations with Somalia have deteriorated following the recent talks between the Ethiopian government and Somaliland officials regarding access to its ports. Ambassadors have been expelled and consulates closed and there is no sign of resolution on the horizon.

According to the National Ombudsman over 400 people have starved in the north of the country due to the war and persistent drought which has led to crop failure. The supply of aid is haphazard with the World Food Programme and US Aid suspending their efforts due to organised theft as they try to carry out their work. Regular reports highlight a region in crisis with many thousands of children dropping out of school, widespread malnourishment and the displacement of another 25,000 people. This along with contested areas, disarmament of combatants and the fate of hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans forced out of their homes during the 2020/22 war remains unresolved.

Despite all this our commitment to help some of the most vulnerable children in the world has not wavered. With the increase in the number of girls and boys we care for it has been necessary to structure into communities. This has been a natural progression – for example Tsadkam oversees the children on the south side of Addis Ababa while the two communities to the east of the city are looked after by Tlahun and Peniel. In all we have ten communities. This includes the most recent families we have agreed to support in Tigray. Here Hamen in Mekelle and Almaz in Axum are keeping us in touch with the day-to-day needs of the children, distributing the monthly allowances and keeping trustees updated about the situation.

As set out in the governing document and registered with the Charity Commission the charity's activities are based on:

(i) The relief of poverty and sickness and
(ii) The advancement of education

… of homeless, disadvantaged and needy children in Ethiopia.

The charity has strategies to promote health and well-being and families are supported into accommodation, education and employment. Overall the charity helps needy children recognise and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

Since foundation the trustees have worked hard to ensure that we can support children long-term ultimately to self-sufficiency. As such the decision-making process has to be consistent over time, support agreed programmes and lead to transformational change. We operate in a dynamic environment and regular contact with volunteers in Ethiopia is apparent on a daily basis. When dealing with the many requests and challenges the following list of guiding principles acts as a reference:

- SCH supports children who are with a family member. This ensures that safeguarding concerns are minimised and no one associated with the charity is ever alone with a child. However, even though this approach minimises possible safeguarding issues, we never forget that we are caring for vulnerable people and vigilance in this area is integral to the work. Typically the children live with a grandmother or aunt having become orphaned. In other cases the father has died and income has ceased. Young

widowed mothers with children are a common sight begging in Ethiopia.

- SCH is not structured along the lines of a single large building filled with children. Historically this approach has been shown to have serious flaws even in developed countries. Instead the children live in separate small houses across Addis Ababa and Tigray. Usually the house comprises only a single room but it is a start and it is off the street. The beauty of this approach to housing is that we have no upper limit, no capacity issues. We don't turn children away on the basis that 'our building is full.' We are constrained only by the amount of donations we receive from kind supporters. Simply put – the more donations we receive the more children we can take off the street.

- The charity is pleased to report that, although the number of children cared for has increased, we continue to oversee a very personal operation. We know if Gebrella is doing well in school, we know how Rahel's operation has gone, we know what Bamlak has had for breakfast. When the trustees are not in Ethiopia our volunteers maintain close relations with all the families supported and daily contact with the trustees ensures that progress can be monitored and issues resolved in a timely and effective manner.

- The need to strive for *whole family* independence has been accepted as a valuable way forward. For example, if we provide a young widowed mother with a sewing machine to earn an income mending clothes then her children also benefit. This releases funds to support other families, reduces dependency and results in heightened self-esteem. And yet, our target for families needing help is zero. At first reading this appears to be a paradox but is clarified by the Drive to Independence. Ultimately we strive to help all the children we support to stand on their own two feet and we look forward to that affirming declaration – 'thank you for all you have done for us but we are self-sufficient now. Please use the funds to help others in need.'

- Greater focus on partnership working is seen as an important step in being able to support children effectively and SCH has already

benefited from working closely with hospitals and other charities in Addis Ababa.

- **And – as always – every penny donated goes directly to provide food, clothing, housing, healthcare and education for the children. All SCH overheads and running costs from payment of money transfer charges from the UK to Ethiopia to the cost of flights to Addis Ababa are met by the trustees. Donors contributions are highly valued and do not disappear down a black hole. It is seen as vital that a donor knows what a world of difference they have made to a child's life.**

## 3. Achievement and Performance

Folks who say it's nothing when it's everything – our volunteers who oversee the 10 communities of children we care for in Ethiopia. With 152 children it is necessary to have structure and this has evolved naturally over the past 9 years. 8 of the communities are based in Addis Ababa – 1 to the north of the city, 2 on the east side, 1 to the south and 4 in the centre. Additionally we have Hamen and Almaz who volunteer in Tigray. These volunteers play a critical role in providing a two-way link to/from the families. Information and requests they receive are communicated to the trustees and allowances and grants are sent to them for distribution. Contact with the volunteers is on a daily basis and, predictably, has increased as the number of children has increased. Families are also contacted directly on the telephone and face to face meetings are held with all the volunteers and families during the inspections which take place at least once a year.

There were two inspections conducted in 2023/24 with clear remit:

- To confirm that the operation is sound, legally-based and in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines.

- To make real the link between donors and the children they support.

- To listen to the concerns of volunteers and families and work to develop solutions.

- In partnership with volunteers, families and organisations to identify initiatives to take the operation forward.

- To strengthen partnership working with in-country organisations including government, medical and educational establishments.

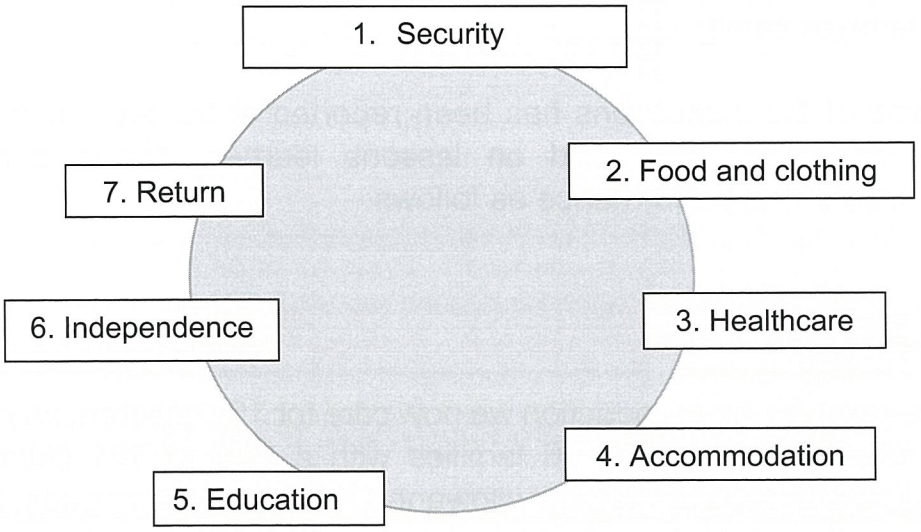
- To construct a programme whereby the inspection can be conducted effectively and trustees, donors and friends can visit the families safely.

Outcome of the inspections has been reported at trustee meetings and future inspections will build on lessons learned. Noted particularly achievement and performance as follows:

### 3.1 In Ethiopia

As referred to in the Introduction we now care for 152 children, an increase of 15 over the past year. 56 families with a total of 101 children are supported with regular monthly allowances to cover basic needs, housing and education. A further 44 children have received one-off payments to cover the annual school registration fee and any medical expenses. These children are in families that have progressed to a level of self-sufficiency but we keep in touch and are always there to turn to if needed. And, having invested in a small poultry farm, 7 children now receive regular allowances from income generated by egg sales. Of the 152 children we support there are 85 girls and 67 boys. All the children are in accommodation and all those of school age are in the classroom.

The trustees have updated their stepwise approach to caring for a child on the road to independence and, with our support for children escaping from the war zone, it is clear that a first step – the security of the child – needs to take priority.




**Security**

With regular deadly skirmishes between federal and regional forces and the ever-present unrest and tension in many parts of Ethiopia we are constantly aware of the need to keep children safe and secure. Hamen in Mekelle and Almaz in Axum oversee the 6 children we support in Tigray where conditions are as dire as anywhere on earth. War and the effects of war – compounded by drought – leads to lives where thoughts of survival are ever-present. War-widowed Zigabe is Matyas' mother and we agreed to support them during the all-out conflict between the government and Tigray forces which ended in 2022. A fragile peace deal is just about holding but under threat with the tribal battles in the region. Zigabe's health was deteriorating and was diagnosed with breast cancer. With few hospitals and only basic medical care in Tigray we arranged for Zigabe to fly to the capital where she was treated at St Petros hospital. Early days but the signs are promising and we – and Matyas – look forward to her full recovery.

During the June 2023 inspection trustees were on site to witness the aftermath of a tragic accident involving a lorry and several cars. One driver was killed leaving a widow and 3 children – Yohannes, Bruk and Delina – neighbours of Ambes one of our volunteers. In addition to the shock of losing their father the family were in a very precarious situation so we agreed to step in and help. Nearly one year on and the situation for the family has stabilised with the genuine risk of being homeless now in the past. The children are back in school and working hard to make sure that everything they do from now on will make their Dad proud.

With hyenas prowling the streets at night sleeping at the roadside is not a life-choice. In February 2024 we were introduced to young widow Tadalu and her 2 young children Absera and Besufkad who were living under a makeshift tent made from plastic bags. We agreed to help and discussed the building of a small one-roomed house in the village. SCH offered to buy materials if the community were willing to build the house. No sooner said than done and with all the village playing their part the house was constructed in days and Tadalu and her children now sleep safely at night. More than this she knows that she lives among people who she can turn to for support when needed.

**Health**

Kind folks have provided medical equipment for us to take to Ethiopia and this has been donated for use by doctors in the hospitals we visit. Oximeters, walking frames and wheelchairs have all been provided and received gratefully and are being used for the benefit not just of the children we care for but other patients as well. And – many thanks to all who kindly donated spectacle and hearing aids which have restored sight and sound for many of our volunteers and children.

In 2015 Tsege was our first volunteer and played a key role in the founding of the charity. Since then she has overseen the growth of the community of children we support south of the city but in recent years has increasingly suffered from the effects of osteoarthritis. Now bed-ridden it is moving to see Amanuel – the first child we agreed to help and now 9 years old – acting as carer for the woman who cared for him when he was abandoned at a few hours old. We are grateful for the quantity of

pain relief medication for Tsege taken to Ethiopia on a visit by one of our friends – many thanks Deborah.

Dr Tim continues to work wonders at the Christian hospital in Addis Ababa and has treated countless children over the years he has lived in Ethiopia. As orthopaedic surgeon at the hospital he has performed many successful operations on children with club feet and we were pleased to support his work with Rahel following his previous success with Abduro who now walks unaided. The pictures of Rahel following her treatment were wonderful and not just of her aligned feet. Rahel's smile shows that her whole outlook on life has been transformed and she can look to the future with confidence.

## Education

Laptops, tablets and mobile phones have also been given to us to take to Ethiopia and in addition to helping communication with families and volunteers in Ethiopia they have been used to support education. The two laptops taken out during 2023/24 are now maintained by Dibabe and Lemlem and are available for use by any of the families who might need them. Our graduates Danait, Delina and Yeshume were supported in their studies by access to computer equipment and we see this continuing with other students who progress to higher and further education. We look forward to expanding in this venture with more promises of equipment from supporters.

We have helped Mehat since she was 12 years old. In 2018 her father had died and she was living in a one-roomed house with the rain pouring in. Caring for an HIV+ mother there was little time to concentrate on school work. With our support that changed and she is now about to leave school and applying for a place at university. Her ambition is to work in hotel management and we can help her make that a reality.

Melat is another teenager who is blossoming. HIV+ herself we organised the medication and she completed her schooling in September. She asked for support to attend a 13 week course as a beautician and earlier this year was awarded her diploma. With her stock of henna, nail varnish and creams she is patiently building a customer base and has high hopes for a successful business.

School registration fees are due at the start of every academic year and it is one of our key milestones to ensure that these are covered for every school age child.

**Registration fees vary from school to school and with inflation and an increasing number of children to support this is our biggest annual one-off outlay. For 2024 the total cost will be approximately £3,000.**

## The Drive to Independence

We do not want to create dependency and soon after agreeing to help a child we commit ourselves to planning for their independence and for young children this may be a long-term commitment. However, by talking with Mums and other adult family members it may be that they have skills and are willing to work or train to work, earn an income and become self-sufficient. If Mum can progress to a point where she can stand on her own two feet then the child also benefits to the point where we get that wonderful phone call – 'Thank you for everything but we are doing fine now – please use the monthly allowance to help another child.'

It was very special to receive a call from Delina this year. We had agreed to help her in 2016 when both her parents died after contracting AIDS. HIV+ herself Delina was very sick but once the medication took effect she returned to school, did well and applied for a place on an accountancy course at university. Post-graduation she took up employment in an office in the capital and this year was promoted - making the most of the opportunity she has been given.

During 2021/22 we started to support a number of families who had fled from the fighting in the north and made their way to the capital. Widowed with two children Zemeda became the spokeswoman for this group and proved herself resilient and enterprising. With our support and a microloan from The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize she set up as a hairdresser. Her success was witnessed first-hand by the trustees as on several inspections it was difficult to meet with Zemeda as there was always a queue of ladies outside her home patiently waiting for her to attend to their hair. With the ceasefire Zemeda returned to Tigray and – independent now – continues to expand her business.

Letay is another widow who escaped the conflict with her children Abraha and Filimon. Like Zemeda once the fighting subsided she decided to return to the north of the country and there joined a co-operative farming programme. The photographs of her tomatoes, onions and carrots were very encouraging and it was not long before she too was self-sufficient and able to provide for her children. Although we do not send regular allowances to either Letay or Zemeda now we are still in touch and always on hand if they think we might help in any way.

Fasika lost her husband and her leg in a factory accident but never lost hope. Begging at the roadside with a toddler we helped and over the years we have supported Fasika to train as a machinist and supplied a sewing machine. Fasika now earns an income making dresses, curtains and bedding and also makes clothes for the children we care for. During our last inspection we discussed the possibility of her applying for a trade licence. These are highly prized and allow the holder to bid for contracts to make outfits for government establishments e.g. hospital uniforms. Lemlem is working with Fasika to progress this with our support and we look forward to Fasika taking her business to the next level.

We are pleased to report that Chadwick Farm is now productive and expanding from its initial false start. The investment in milk cows ended abruptly when our manager was incarcerated along with thousands of other young men during the conflict in what the government saw was a national security risk. With no one to milk the cows they were sold and we were fortunate to recoup the initial outlay. We now deal in beef cows which are bought in rural markets west of the capital then sold to restaurants and hotels in Addis Ababa for a profit. Although these transactions only take place three times a year (Easter, New Year and Christmas) the income generated is sufficient to support some of our families thus releasing funds to care for more children. In addition to cows we still maintain a flock of chickens to the north of the city and the income from egg sales is used to support 7 children in that area.

**More animals = more income = more children off the streets**

This section of the report covers just some of the stories about our achievements in Ethiopia. The trustees are always available to come along to groups if invited to speak and expand on the progress being made.

## 3.2 Outside Ethiopia

Promotion and fund raising has progressed throughout the year and numerous enjoyable activities have resulted in donations continuing on their upward trajectory. It has been a pleasure to attend gatherings of various groups and talk about our work. The majority of these have been repeat bookings and it is great to return to see friends who are keen to hear about the progress of the children they have supported so generously. A programme of presentations has been delivered and is scheduled as follows:

- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Aireborough
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- Pilsley Community Group
- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Holymoorside Women's Group
- Wingerworth WI
- Staveley Seniors
- Salem Chapel

We are delighted to have been beneficiaries of the microloan scheme initiated by members of The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize. The members have provided donations on the basis that they are used to support families to independence. We have identified Tlahun as best placed to oversee the scheme in Ethiopia and loans are given out to individuals – usually widowed Mums with children – who we support. The aim is for them to set up in business so that they become self-sufficient and don't have to rely on SCH, Ethiopia. The loans do not bear interest and a repayment plan is agreed depending on factors such as forecast income and the number of dependents in the family. To date loans have been made to buy livestock, set up market stalls and purchase hairdressing equipment and beauty products. These initiatives have achieved the aim of helping families to independence and have led to the additional benefit for the charity of reducing the number of allowances we send each month – these savings have been used to help more girls and boys off the street and have been a major factor in increasing the number of families we can support.

Increased awareness has also resulted in many donations of clothes, spectacles, computers and medical equipment that have been taken by

the trustees to our partners and volunteers in Ethiopia. Goods have also been donated for us to sell in order to raise cash and our market stalls and car boot sales have generated significant funds. Many thanks to Mick Brady, Mayor of Chesterfield and all the kind folks who give so freely. Particular recognition is necessary regarding the spectacular achievement of Dave Powditch who tirelessly supports our work with his sales – thank you Dave!

We are delighted that retired police officer John Bown continues to support SCH, Ethiopia and his decision to grant a percentage of sales of his book is greatly appreciated. *Called to Serve and Protect* covers how he grew up on a farm with no running water or electricity, left school with no academic qualifications yet went on to a successful career in the police force before travelling the world as adviser to overseas forces.

Our growing team of SCH runners continue to raise funds via sponsorship and we are looking forward to the Big Half Marathon in London where we will be represented by a team of 4 athletes. Many thanks to Mike, Shirley, Craig and Paul. And the sporting link is further strengthened by our association with the Community Group of Chesterfield FC. Many of our girls and boys were overjoyed to receive football kit donated by supporters of the club. The food, housing and medical care are important but a football shirt really makes a child's face light up.

We continue to appear in publications and attend for interviews at radio stations and Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has featured in:

- Lichgate News, St Paul's Church
- Ploughshare, St Thomas' Church
- Reflections
- Kaleidoscope – Sutton African Caribbean Cultural Organisation
- TWIST
- S40
- The Derbyshire Times
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Spire Radio
- Imperial Voice Radio
- Elastic FM
- Sheffield Hallam University Alumni Newsletter

During 2023/24 the reach of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has continued to extend to countries around the world. In addition to supporters in Australia, Denmark, France, Italy, Poland and several states across the USA we now have friends in Brazil and Canada who have shown a keen interest in our work. Kind donors have also increased in number across the UK and we are delighted with the response to our work by new groups of friends who have taken up the cause and are increasingly involved in the promotion of the charity's aims. The trustees will continue to work with all our supporters keeping them in touch with the children and are always available to speak with any group who might be interested in our charity – we look forward to hearing from you.

## 4. Financial Review

A simple truth is always to the fore as the trustees look to support children and work to help them transform their lives:

**It is kind and loyal donors who give our volunteers the means to feed, house and educate the children we care for and we can do nothing without their support.**

The quality of life and the number of children we can support is directly proportional to the donations received and at a time when many charities are struggling and even asking the government for help we are so grateful to our supporters. SCH care for children long-term just the same as if the children were their own. That is, we manage reserves to ensure that 12 year old Elias' dream of becoming a teacher – should he continue with that aspiration – can be made a reality by accessing the necessary funds for training.

SCH are no different from any other charity in that we need to be aware of the particular financial environment in which we operate. As such exchange rates are monitored on a daily basis to ensure that funds are transferred through the banking system to Ethiopia at the optimum rate. We are also keenly aware of inflation rates in Ethiopia which have fluctuated between 20 and 35% over recent years. And our knowledge of prices is not just based on data reported at the national level which for a country whose economy is underpinned at grassroots level by, for

example, subsistence farming can be unreliable. Daily communication with our volunteers and the families themselves means that we have a direct anecdotal link to prices in the local shops and on the markets. Hearing from mothers that 'sorghum has increased again' feeds into our understanding of the economy on the ground – the real impact on people's pockets. All this is referred to in the trustees' assessment regarding considered increases to the monthly allowances sent to families.

Returning to the point about our generous donors in order to underline our gratitude. With the cost of living crisis and the alarming increases in UK and other countries inflation rates following the pandemic and conflict in several countries worldwide it would have been understandable for regular donations to support our work to have been questioned. That our support is truly based on sound relations with selfless advocates is evidenced by the fact that during 2023/24 donations actually increased – quite wonderful.

The cost of supporting a child including food, shelter and schooling is **£25 a month.**

Broadly the charity continues to operate on a prudent basis of:

Regular funds in e.g. standing orders = Regular allowances paid

and

One-off donations = One-off payments made

e.g. medical emergencies, grants, annual school registration fees.

We continue to use only registered banking systems for investment and money transfer. As advised by the UK International Charity Engagement Team we never use cash couriers.

Noted that no funds are materially in deficit. For detailed financial information please visit the Charity Commission website.

## 5. Change Agenda and Concluding Remarks

No apology is made for taking and extending a paragraph from the 2022/23 annual report here. In fact this is offered as evidence of constancy of purpose and highlights the fact that the trustees never lose sight of the basic premise that underpins everything we do - care for the child comes first.

An effective change agenda demands awareness of what will not change. Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia will continue to deliver on its purposes to cover the medical, housing and educational needs of disadvantaged children in Ethiopia. We are keen that our support helps to build confidence and capability and leads to the independence of the families we care for as they escape from the generation to generation stranglehold of poverty. The issue of children progressing beyond secondary education is regularly addressed as we support young people through the transition to higher or further education, employment and self-sufficiency.

The trustees' vision is to establish and oversee a three stage virtuous circle. The initial material offering has to be funding for survival. Beyond that the message – and the funding to support the message – is to promote working towards independence through education and initiative. And finally, once self-sufficiency is achieved, the cycle to be repeated by the beneficiary helping others in the same situation they once endured.

And – during 2023/24 - it has become even clearer that the districts in which our communities are based are benefiting from the projects that are being delivered. Parents of children and our volunteers have grasped the opportunity given them and are not just feeding their own families and enabling them to get an education but bringing the benefits of their enterprise to all the people in that area. Further, it has been rewarding to see the network support between families flourishing and close relations are evident within the ten communities.

2024/25 and beyond will see a greater awareness that what has been built in the name of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia can now be viewed as a launch pad for step-change projects. We have delivered numerous initiatives that have helped families to independence since our inception not least with the support of The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize where we

have benefited by being part of their microloan scheme. Next level projects will now be considered as a natural progression.

The trustees have been approached to consider support for numerous projects including hospital facilities, buildings to accommodate the needs of children with disabilities and the expansion of Chadwick Farm. Officials at the British Embassy and the Pentecostal Church in Addis Ababa have reached out to us to offer support and preliminary bids for funding to government and trusts are being assessed. Given the current state of the country risk assessment will clearly need to be thorough but with the charity's base secure, the experience gained from the years working in Ethiopia informing decision-making and the growing strength of partnerships the trustees see that all risks can be managed in order to ensure successful delivery.

**Although our change agenda is progressive and demanding our touchstone is always summarised in one question and guides everything we do – 'if this child was your own what would you do?'**

## 6. Declaration

Independent Examiner

Signature Janice LeMire

Date 4th June 2024

Chair of Trustees

Signature

Date 4 June 2024

# Appendices

## Appendix A - Reference and Administration

Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

Registered Charity Number: 1175880

Charity's Address: 62 Rhodesia Road, Brampton, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire S40 3AL United Kingdom

M: (+44) 077 899 75460

E: kevinjosephmorley@yahoo.co.uk

Charity Trustees:

1. Michelle Marie Guthrie
2. Rebecca Gurr
3. Genet Morley
4. David Levick
5. Kevin Morley (Chair)

The body entitled to appoint trustees are the current board of charity trustees.

Names of the trustees for the charity e.g. Custodian Trustees:

None

Names and addresses of advisers:

None

Name of Chief Executive or names of senior staff members:

None

## Appendix B - Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts:

Type of Governing Document: Constitution adopted 21 June 2015.

How the charity is constituted: Unincorporated Association.

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting by existing trustees.

### Additional Governance Issues

At induction trustees are referred to the Charity Commission guidance and the charity's policies in particular regarding safeguarding. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

## Appendix C – Trustees Scope

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the charity's objects and with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission are in accordance with the strategies:

1. **Management**

   Overall management of the charity has ensured that a legal framework is adhered to, the planning cycle is robust and the vision is being delivered in accordance with the agreed strategies.

2. **Promotion and Fund Raising**

   The charity is promoted worldwide, awareness is raised and a network of individuals and partner organisations which are mutually beneficial and have developed into a supportive community is being built. ICT is used wherever possible to promote and secure the charity.

   Homes are supported by raising funds by any legal means, approaching organisations and individuals and promoting events and initiatives. Donors and Friends of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia are highly valued for their essential contribution.

3. **Cost Reduction**

   Effort has been expended to ensure that costs are on a variable basis wherever possible and opportunities are continuously sought to drive costs down.

4. **Partnership**

   We have built relations with government departments and other organisations and charities – bodies that the charity can work with in partnership to deliver the vision.

5. **Care in Ethiopia**

   We research, deploy and deliver on care, accommodation, medical facilities/expertise and appropriate educational establishments. Regular payments have been made to families and one-off payments are made in response to requests for healthcare and educational supplies. Children have been referred for vaccinations in accordance with the programme available in Ethiopia and the cost of physiotherapy and dietary supplements has been covered.

6. **Growth in Ethiopia**

   We grow secure, sustainable homes as driven by the charity's available resources which are legally-based. We have built a supportive family community and gender balance of the total number of children we care for is continuously addressed.

The value of the charity's work to the children it supports can be measured in terms of:

- Provision of basic needs e.g. food, clothing
- Families in accommodation
- Children in school and results in school
- Children receiving necessary healthcare
- Adults in training
- Families becoming self-sufficient
- Level of Return
- Delivery of agreed projects

**The trustees confirm that they have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit when planning the charity's activities at the trustee meetings.**

# Charity Commission for England and Wales

# Receipts and Payments Accounts

# Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

# Charity Number: 1175880

# For the period from: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## Section A - Receipts and payments

### A1 Receipts

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds | Last year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Donations (Individuals)** | 17901 | | | 17901 | 16629 |
| **Donations (Organisations)** | 20496 | | | 20496 | 7044 |
| **Donations (Trustees)** | 3275 | | | 3275 | 4898 |
| **Fund Raising Events** | 60 | | | 60 | 2237 |
| **Gift Aid Receipts** | 1576 | | | 1576 | 978 |
| **Sub Total** | **43308** | | | **43308** | **31786** |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales** | | | | | |
| **Total Receipts** | **43308** | | | **43308** | **31786** |

## A3 Payments

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds | Last Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Payments made to Ethiopia** | 25100 | | | 25100 | 19935 |
| **Printing, stationery, postage** | 1738 | | | 1738 | 1321 |
| **Travel & Subsistence** | 1537 | | | 1537 | 3577 |
| **Sub Total** | **28375** | | | **28375** | **24833** |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases** | | | | | |
| **Total Payments** | **28375** | | | **28375** | **24833** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Net of Receipts/ Payments** | **14933** | | | **14933** | **6953** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | | | | | |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 50611 | | | 50611 | |
| **Cash funds this year end** | **65544** | | | **65544** | |

## Section B - Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

### B1 Cash Funds

| Details | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total cash funds (b/f from receipt and payment accounts) | 65544 | | |

### B2 Other Monetary Assets

| Details | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

### B3 Investment Assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost | Current Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

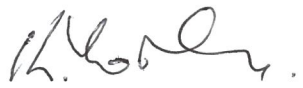
| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost | Current Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

## B5 Liabilities

| Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount Due | When Due |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## Signed by one trustee on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of Approval |
|---|---|---|
|  | Kevin Morley | 4 June 2024 |

*Format based on The Charity Commission template March 2012: New format January 2017*

**Charity Commission for England and Wales**

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

**Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia**

**Charity Number: 1175880**

**For the period from: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

I hereby declare that on Tuesday 4 June 2024 the following evidence pertaining to the Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia accounts were made available to me:

- Receipts and Payments Accounts
- Bank Statements
- Receipts
- International Transfer documents

I confirm that the income and expenditure shown in the accounts for 2023/24 are a true and accurate record of receipts and payments.

Signed Janine LeMire

Janine LeMire – Independent Examiner

Date 4th June 2024

040624

**SALTERGATE CHILDREN'S HOME, ETHIOPIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1175880

# Accounts

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Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – *giving hope, transforming lives*

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Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1175880

# Trustees' Annual Report - 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## 1. Introduction – 9th Anniversary Report

As a good friend of our children said in 2015 we were, at that time, a 'fledgling charity.' Well we have a few more feathers now and care for a lot more children. We currently support 152 girls and boys – children for who one thought used to dominate every minute of the day 'where can I get something to eat?' Now Mekdes talks about wanting to be a pilot when she grows up and Bereket wants to be a doctor. They, and all the children, are very grateful and making the most of the chance they have been given. Over the past 9 years our approach to the work has evolved, developed and been refined in the light of experience. As follows:

We do not drop a few coins in an outstretched hand and walk away. What we do is respond to a cry for help by listening, understanding and assessing how best to help before supporting children to self-sufficiency. All this is achieved with our team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers – the timeframe determined by individual circumstances. To succeed the relationships, the partnerships within Ethiopia have to be, and are, founded on trust and integrity.

The strength and respect for partnership is also key on the flip-side of the operation. That is loyal donors are recognised for the critical role they play – without their support we can only offer sympathy and empty words. The food, clothes, housing, medical care and education is all covered by generous friends who are committed to the cause. We never ask for money – we strive to communicate our aims widely and people decide if they want or don't want to support. The song is consistent – the singer is of no importance. It's that simple. All donations are responded to with gratitude and updates are comprehensive and timely. Donors' contributions do not disappear down black holes leaving kind folks in the dark as to how their money was spent. They can see the shirt they have bought for Ezekiel and the grades achieved at school by Jitu and ultimately the smile that says 'thank you for giving me this opportunity.'

We are recognised as a grassroots charity and for the past 9 years the trustees have worked hard to build these close ties between needy families, volunteers and donors. The time has come to view this as our cornerstone, a base on which to build and progress to the next stage in our aim to help more children off the streets. This will mean even closer working relations with partners in Ethiopia and the construction of bids to governments and trusts for significant funding. Plans are being drafted to widen our remit for the benefit of families we seek to help and the trustees look forward to successful delivery over the coming years.

As trustees we manage the operation and oversee the delivery of the work in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. **Critically we ensure that every penny donated goes to support the girls and boys we care for.** In essence the strength and integrity of our partnership with families, volunteers and donors is paramount and this is evidenced by a) the progress to independence of children who were once begging on the street and b) the long-term support of donors who have underpinned our work since 2015. Examples of this being played out are covered in the pages of this report.

In summary the progress of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia and, more importantly, the livelihoods of the families we care for is built on the loyalty of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers in Ethiopia. In addition to benevolent and steadfastly loyal people supporting our work on an individual basis we have benefited from and are grateful for the encouragement and generosity of the members of a growing number of organisations:

- AR Hair & Beauty Lounge, Arundel
- Barclays Bank, Derby
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Belle Vie - Chesterfield
- Brimington Women's Group
- Cardiff Progress Team, Australia
- Central Methodist Church, Chesterfield
- Chesterfield Football Club
- Chesterfield Library
- Connelly Court residents
- Copy and Print, Chesterfield
- Cumbria Overseas Aid Trust
- Derbyshire Libraries, Matlock
- Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

- Elastic FM
- Grassmoor Women's Institute
- Halesowen Stitch Club, West Midlands
- Holymoorside Ladies Group
- Imperial Voice Radio, Bath
- Jenny Meadows Yoga Club
- Loundsley Green Mothers' Union
- Max Spielmann – Tesco and Chesterfield outlets
- Milestone Financial Planning
- Mitcham Mothers' Union
- Pilsley Community Group
- Quinton Methodist Church, Birmingham
- Reflections magazine
- Rich In Time, Leeds
- ROE Developments (UK) Ltd
- S40 magazine
- Salem Chapel, Wingerworth
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staveley Seniors Group
- Storrs Electrical Ltd
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- St Peter & St Paul – Mitcham Parish Church, London
- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Sutton African and Caribbean Cultural Organisation, London
- The 50+ Inspired Group
- The Co-operative Social Group
- The Derbyshire Times
- The Inner Wheel Club of Clay Cross
- The Oddfellows, Chesterfield
- The Ragged School, Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of Addis Ababa
- The Rotary Club of Aireborough
- The Rotary Club of Bolsover
- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of York Ainsty
- Thom's Blokes
- Treasure Trove Fairs
- TWIST magazine
- Wingerworth Women's Institute

**On behalf of the trustees, volunteers and families of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – thank you. Be in no doubt - these children have food in their bellies, clothes on their backs, a roof over their heads and are in a classroom instead of begging on the street because of you.**

## 2. Background, Context and Guiding Principles

- *the acronym 'SCH' in the text refers to Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia*

Over the past few years Ethiopia has suffered from the impact of a global pandemic, civil war and precarious economic uncertainty. During 2023/24 the challenges have increased and intensified leading to heightened tension in the region. Within Ethiopia fighting has escalated in both the north and south of the country. Following the signing of the peace agreement by the federal government and the Tigray leaders fighting has broken out in other regions most notably in Amhara and Oromia. Over 60% of the population live in these areas and the impact on the country is devastating leading to instability and the diversion of funds away from infrastructure projects and social support programmes to the security forces. The trustees have witnessed first-hand the resulting tension on the streets of the capital with numerous regular spot-checks by soldiers and the cancellation of flights to inspect the charity's operation in the north of the country where safe passage could not be guaranteed.

Relations with countries on the borders of Ethiopia continue to be problematic. The long-standing dispute with Egypt and Sudan over the flow of the Nile affected by the construction of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam still persists and the continued presence of Eritrean soldiers in the Tigray region is not yet resolved. To the east diplomatic relations with Somalia have deteriorated following the recent talks between the Ethiopian government and Somaliland officials regarding access to its ports. Ambassadors have been expelled and consulates closed and there is no sign of resolution on the horizon.

According to the National Ombudsman over 400 people have starved in the north of the country due to the war and persistent drought which has led to crop failure. The supply of aid is haphazard with the World Food Programme and US Aid suspending their efforts due to organised theft as they try to carry out their work. Regular reports highlight a region in crisis with many thousands of children dropping out of school, widespread malnourishment and the displacement of another 25,000 people. This along with contested areas, disarmament of combatants and the fate of hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans forced out of their homes during the 2020/22 war remains unresolved.

Despite all this our commitment to help some of the most vulnerable children in the world has not wavered. With the increase in the number of girls and boys we care for it has been necessary to structure into communities. This has been a natural progression – for example Tsadkam oversees the children on the south side of Addis Ababa while the two communities to the east of the city are looked after by Tlahun and Peniel. In all we have ten communities. This includes the most recent families we have agreed to support in Tigray. Here Hamen in Mekelle and Almaz in Axum are keeping us in touch with the day-to-day needs of the children, distributing the monthly allowances and keeping trustees updated about the situation.

As set out in the governing document and registered with the Charity Commission the charity's activities are based on:

(i) The relief of poverty and sickness and
(ii) The advancement of education

… of homeless, disadvantaged and needy children in Ethiopia.

The charity has strategies to promote health and well-being and families are supported into accommodation, education and employment. Overall the charity helps needy children recognise and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

Since foundation the trustees have worked hard to ensure that we can support children long-term ultimately to self-sufficiency. As such the decision-making process has to be consistent over time, support agreed programmes and lead to transformational change. We operate in a dynamic environment and regular contact with volunteers in Ethiopia is apparent on a daily basis. When dealing with the many requests and challenges the following list of guiding principles acts as a reference:

- SCH supports children who are with a family member. This ensures that safeguarding concerns are minimised and no one associated with the charity is ever alone with a child. However, even though this approach minimises possible safeguarding issues, we never forget that we are caring for vulnerable people and vigilance in this area is integral to the work. Typically the children live with a grandmother or aunt having become orphaned. In other cases the father has died and income has ceased. Young

widowed mothers with children are a common sight begging in Ethiopia.

- SCH is not structured along the lines of a single large building filled with children. Historically this approach has been shown to have serious flaws even in developed countries. Instead the children live in separate small houses across Addis Ababa and Tigray. Usually the house comprises only a single room but it is a start and it is off the street. The beauty of this approach to housing is that we have no upper limit, no capacity issues. We don't turn children away on the basis that 'our building is full.' We are constrained only by the amount of donations we receive from kind supporters. Simply put – the more donations we receive the more children we can take off the street.

- The charity is pleased to report that, although the number of children cared for has increased, we continue to oversee a very personal operation. We know if Gebrella is doing well in school, we know how Rahel's operation has gone, we know what Bamlak has had for breakfast. When the trustees are not in Ethiopia our volunteers maintain close relations with all the families supported and daily contact with the trustees ensures that progress can be monitored and issues resolved in a timely and effective manner.

- The need to strive for *whole family* independence has been accepted as a valuable way forward. For example, if we provide a young widowed mother with a sewing machine to earn an income mending clothes then her children also benefit. This releases funds to support other families, reduces dependency and results in heightened self-esteem. And yet, our target for families needing help is zero. At first reading this appears to be a paradox but is clarified by the Drive to Independence. Ultimately we strive to help all the children we support to stand on their own two feet and we look forward to that affirming declaration – 'thank you for all you have done for us but we are self-sufficient now. Please use the funds to help others in need.'

- Greater focus on partnership working is seen as an important step in being able to support children effectively and SCH has already

benefited from working closely with hospitals and other charities in Addis Ababa.

- **And – as always – every penny donated goes directly to provide food, clothing, housing, healthcare and education for the children. All SCH overheads and running costs from payment of money transfer charges from the UK to Ethiopia to the cost of flights to Addis Ababa are met by the trustees. Donors contributions are highly valued and do not disappear down a black hole. It is seen as vital that a donor knows what a world of difference they have made to a child's life.**

## 3. Achievement and Performance

Folks who say it's nothing when it's everything – our volunteers who oversee the 10 communities of children we care for in Ethiopia. With 152 children it is necessary to have structure and this has evolved naturally over the past 9 years. 8 of the communities are based in Addis Ababa – 1 to the north of the city, 2 on the east side, 1 to the south and 4 in the centre. Additionally we have Hamen and Almaz who volunteer in Tigray. These volunteers play a critical role in providing a two-way link to/from the families. Information and requests they receive are communicated to the trustees and allowances and grants are sent to them for distribution. Contact with the volunteers is on a daily basis and, predictably, has increased as the number of children has increased. Families are also contacted directly on the telephone and face to face meetings are held with all the volunteers and families during the inspections which take place at least once a year.

There were two inspections conducted in 2023/24 with clear remit:

- To confirm that the operation is sound, legally-based and in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines.

- To make real the link between donors and the children they support.

- To listen to the concerns of volunteers and families and work to develop solutions.

- In partnership with volunteers, families and organisations to identify initiatives to take the operation forward.

- To strengthen partnership working with in-country organisations including government, medical and educational establishments.

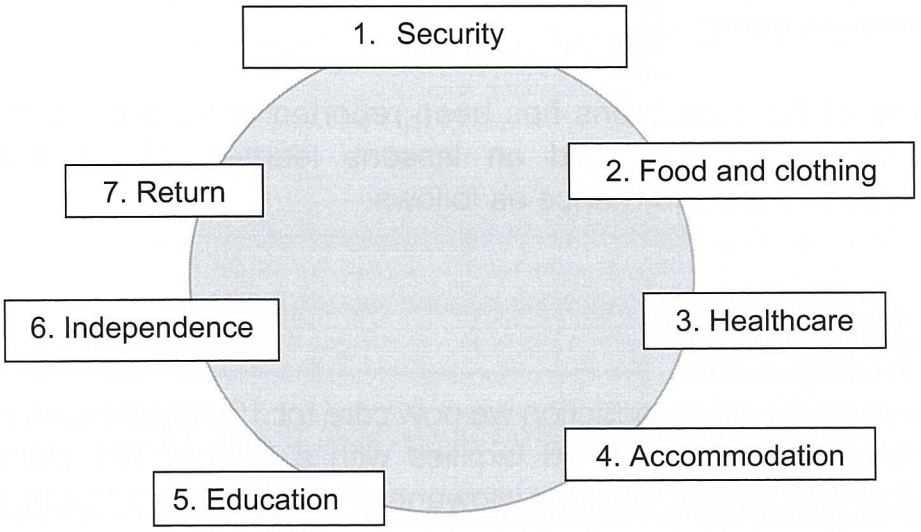
- To construct a programme whereby the inspection can be conducted effectively and trustees, donors and friends can visit the families safely.

Outcome of the inspections has been reported at trustee meetings and future inspections will build on lessons learned. Noted particularly achievement and performance as follows:

### 3.1 In Ethiopia

As referred to in the Introduction we now care for 152 children, an increase of 15 over the past year. 56 families with a total of 101 children are supported with regular monthly allowances to cover basic needs, housing and education. A further 44 children have received one-off payments to cover the annual school registration fee and any medical expenses. These children are in families that have progressed to a level of self-sufficiency but we keep in touch and are always there to turn to if needed. And, having invested in a small poultry farm, 7 children now receive regular allowances from income generated by egg sales. Of the 152 children we support there are 85 girls and 67 boys. All the children are in accommodation and all those of school age are in the classroom.

The trustees have updated their stepwise approach to caring for a child on the road to independence and, with our support for children escaping from the war zone, it is clear that a first step – the security of the child – needs to take priority.




**Security**

With regular deadly skirmishes between federal and regional forces and the ever-present unrest and tension in many parts of Ethiopia we are constantly aware of the need to keep children safe and secure. Hamen in Mekelle and Almaz in Axum oversee the 6 children we support in Tigray where conditions are as dire as anywhere on earth. War and the effects of war – compounded by drought – leads to lives where thoughts of survival are ever-present. War-widowed Zigabe is Matyas' mother and we agreed to support them during the all-out conflict between the government and Tigray forces which ended in 2022. A fragile peace deal is just about holding but under threat with the tribal battles in the region. Zigabe's health was deteriorating and was diagnosed with breast cancer. With few hospitals and only basic medical care in Tigray we arranged for Zigabe to fly to the capital where she was treated at St Petros hospital. Early days but the signs are promising and we – and Matyas – look forward to her full recovery.

During the June 2023 inspection trustees were on site to witness the aftermath of a tragic accident involving a lorry and several cars. One driver was killed leaving a widow and 3 children – Yohannes, Bruk and Delina – neighbours of Ambes one of our volunteers. In addition to the shock of losing their father the family were in a very precarious situation so we agreed to step in and help. Nearly one year on and the situation for the family has stabilised with the genuine risk of being homeless now in the past. The children are back in school and working hard to make sure that everything they do from now on will make their Dad proud.

With hyenas prowling the streets at night sleeping at the roadside is not a life-choice. In February 2024 we were introduced to young widow Tadalu and her 2 young children Absera and Besufkad who were living under a makeshift tent made from plastic bags. We agreed to help and discussed the building of a small one-roomed house in the village. SCH offered to buy materials if the community were willing to build the house. No sooner said than done and with all the village playing their part the house was constructed in days and Tadalu and her children now sleep safely at night. More than this she knows that she lives among people who she can turn to for support when needed.

**Health**

Kind folks have provided medical equipment for us to take to Ethiopia and this has been donated for use by doctors in the hospitals we visit. Oximeters, walking frames and wheelchairs have all been provided and received gratefully and are being used for the benefit not just of the children we care for but other patients as well. And – many thanks to all who kindly donated spectacle and hearing aids which have restored sight and sound for many of our volunteers and children.

In 2015 Tsege was our first volunteer and played a key role in the founding of the charity. Since then she has overseen the growth of the community of children we support south of the city but in recent years has increasingly suffered from the effects of osteoarthritis. Now bed-ridden it is moving to see Amanuel – the first child we agreed to help and now 9 years old – acting as carer for the woman who cared for him when he was abandoned at a few hours old. We are grateful for the quantity of

pain relief medication for Tsege taken to Ethiopia on a visit by one of our friends – many thanks Deborah.

Dr Tim continues to work wonders at the Christian hospital in Addis Ababa and has treated countless children over the years he has lived in Ethiopia. As orthopaedic surgeon at the hospital he has performed many successful operations on children with club feet and we were pleased to support his work with Rahel following his previous success with Abduro who now walks unaided. The pictures of Rahel following her treatment were wonderful and not just of her aligned feet. Rahel's smile shows that her whole outlook on life has been transformed and she can look to the future with confidence.

## Education

Laptops, tablets and mobile phones have also been given to us to take to Ethiopia and in addition to helping communication with families and volunteers in Ethiopia they have been used to support education. The two laptops taken out during 2023/24 are now maintained by Dibabe and Lemlem and are available for use by any of the families who might need them. Our graduates Danait, Delina and Yeshume were supported in their studies by access to computer equipment and we see this continuing with other students who progress to higher and further education. We look forward to expanding in this venture with more promises of equipment from supporters.

We have helped Mehat since she was 12 years old. In 2018 her father had died and she was living in a one-roomed house with the rain pouring in. Caring for an HIV+ mother there was little time to concentrate on school work. With our support that changed and she is now about to leave school and applying for a place at university. Her ambition is to work in hotel management and we can help her make that a reality.

Melat is another teenager who is blossoming. HIV+ herself we organised the medication and she completed her schooling in September. She asked for support to attend a 13 week course as a beautician and earlier this year was awarded her diploma. With her stock of henna, nail varnish and creams she is patiently building a customer base and has high hopes for a successful business.

School registration fees are due at the start of every academic year and it is one of our key milestones to ensure that these are covered for every school age child.

**Registration fees vary from school to school and with inflation and an increasing number of children to support this is our biggest annual one-off outlay. For 2024 the total cost will be approximately £3,000.**

## The Drive to Independence

We do not want to create dependency and soon after agreeing to help a child we commit ourselves to planning for their independence and for young children this may be a long-term commitment. However, by talking with Mums and other adult family members it may be that they have skills and are willing to work or train to work, earn an income and become self-sufficient. If Mum can progress to a point where she can stand on her own two feet then the child also benefits to the point where we get that wonderful phone call – 'Thank you for everything but we are doing fine now – please use the monthly allowance to help another child.'

It was very special to receive a call from Delina this year. We had agreed to help her in 2016 when both her parents died after contracting AIDS. HIV+ herself Delina was very sick but once the medication took effect she returned to school, did well and applied for a place on an accountancy course at university. Post-graduation she took up employment in an office in the capital and this year was promoted - making the most of the opportunity she has been given.

During 2021/22 we started to support a number of families who had fled from the fighting in the north and made their way to the capital. Widowed with two children Zemeda became the spokeswoman for this group and proved herself resilient and enterprising. With our support and a microloan from The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize she set up as a hairdresser. Her success was witnessed first-hand by the trustees as on several inspections it was difficult to meet with Zemeda as there was always a queue of ladies outside her home patiently waiting for her to attend to their hair. With the ceasefire Zemeda returned to Tigray and – independent now – continues to expand her business.

Letay is another widow who escaped the conflict with her children Abraha and Filimon. Like Zemeda once the fighting subsided she decided to return to the north of the country and there joined a co-operative farming programme. The photographs of her tomatoes, onions and carrots were very encouraging and it was not long before she too was self-sufficient and able to provide for her children. Although we do not send regular allowances to either Letay or Zemeda now we are still in touch and always on hand if they think we might help in any way.

Fasika lost her husband and her leg in a factory accident but never lost hope. Begging at the roadside with a toddler we helped and over the years we have supported Fasika to train as a machinist and supplied a sewing machine. Fasika now earns an income making dresses, curtains and bedding and also makes clothes for the children we care for. During our last inspection we discussed the possibility of her applying for a trade licence. These are highly prized and allow the holder to bid for contracts to make outfits for government establishments e.g. hospital uniforms. Lemlem is working with Fasika to progress this with our support and we look forward to Fasika taking her business to the next level.

We are pleased to report that Chadwick Farm is now productive and expanding from its initial false start. The investment in milk cows ended abruptly when our manager was incarcerated along with thousands of other young men during the conflict in what the government saw was a national security risk. With no one to milk the cows they were sold and we were fortunate to recoup the initial outlay. We now deal in beef cows which are bought in rural markets west of the capital then sold to restaurants and hotels in Addis Ababa for a profit. Although these transactions only take place three times a year (Easter, New Year and Christmas) the income generated is sufficient to support some of our families thus releasing funds to care for more children. In addition to cows we still maintain a flock of chickens to the north of the city and the income from egg sales is used to support 7 children in that area.

**More animals = more income = more children off the streets**

This section of the report covers just some of the stories about our achievements in Ethiopia. The trustees are always available to come along to groups if invited to speak and expand on the progress being made.

## 3.2 Outside Ethiopia

Promotion and fund raising has progressed throughout the year and numerous enjoyable activities have resulted in donations continuing on their upward trajectory. It has been a pleasure to attend gatherings of various groups and talk about our work. The majority of these have been repeat bookings and it is great to return to see friends who are keen to hear about the progress of the children they have supported so generously. A programme of presentations has been delivered and is scheduled as follows:

- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Aireborough
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- Pilsley Community Group
- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Holymoorside Women's Group
- Wingerworth WI
- Staveley Seniors
- Salem Chapel

We are delighted to have been beneficiaries of the microloan scheme initiated by members of The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize. The members have provided donations on the basis that they are used to support families to independence. We have identified Tlahun as best placed to oversee the scheme in Ethiopia and loans are given out to individuals – usually widowed Mums with children – who we support. The aim is for them to set up in business so that they become self-sufficient and don't have to rely on SCH, Ethiopia. The loans do not bear interest and a repayment plan is agreed depending on factors such as forecast income and the number of dependents in the family. To date loans have been made to buy livestock, set up market stalls and purchase hairdressing equipment and beauty products. These initiatives have achieved the aim of helping families to independence and have led to the additional benefit for the charity of reducing the number of allowances we send each month – these savings have been used to help more girls and boys off the street and have been a major factor in increasing the number of families we can support.

Increased awareness has also resulted in many donations of clothes, spectacles, computers and medical equipment that have been taken by

the trustees to our partners and volunteers in Ethiopia. Goods have also been donated for us to sell in order to raise cash and our market stalls and car boot sales have generated significant funds. Many thanks to Mick Brady, Mayor of Chesterfield and all the kind folks who give so freely. Particular recognition is necessary regarding the spectacular achievement of Dave Powditch who tirelessly supports our work with his sales – thank you Dave!

We are delighted that retired police officer John Bown continues to support SCH, Ethiopia and his decision to grant a percentage of sales of his book is greatly appreciated. *Called to Serve and Protect* covers how he grew up on a farm with no running water or electricity, left school with no academic qualifications yet went on to a successful career in the police force before travelling the world as adviser to overseas forces.

Our growing team of SCH runners continue to raise funds via sponsorship and we are looking forward to the Big Half Marathon in London where we will be represented by a team of 4 athletes. Many thanks to Mike, Shirley, Craig and Paul. And the sporting link is further strengthened by our association with the Community Group of Chesterfield FC. Many of our girls and boys were overjoyed to receive football kit donated by supporters of the club. The food, housing and medical care are important but a football shirt really makes a child's face light up.

We continue to appear in publications and attend for interviews at radio stations and Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has featured in:

- Lichgate News, St Paul's Church
- Ploughshare, St Thomas' Church
- Reflections
- Kaleidoscope – Sutton African Caribbean Cultural Organisation
- TWIST
- S40
- The Derbyshire Times
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Spire Radio
- Imperial Voice Radio
- Elastic FM
- Sheffield Hallam University Alumni Newsletter

During 2023/24 the reach of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has continued to extend to countries around the world. In addition to supporters in Australia, Denmark, France, Italy, Poland and several states across the USA we now have friends in Brazil and Canada who have shown a keen interest in our work. Kind donors have also increased in number across the UK and we are delighted with the response to our work by new groups of friends who have taken up the cause and are increasingly involved in the promotion of the charity's aims. The trustees will continue to work with all our supporters keeping them in touch with the children and are always available to speak with any group who might be interested in our charity – we look forward to hearing from you.

## 4. Financial Review

A simple truth is always to the fore as the trustees look to support children and work to help them transform their lives:

**It is kind and loyal donors who give our volunteers the means to feed, house and educate the children we care for and we can do nothing without their support.**

The quality of life and the number of children we can support is directly proportional to the donations received and at a time when many charities are struggling and even asking the government for help we are so grateful to our supporters. SCH care for children long-term just the same as if the children were their own. That is, we manage reserves to ensure that 12 year old Elias' dream of becoming a teacher – should he continue with that aspiration – can be made a reality by accessing the necessary funds for training.

SCH are no different from any other charity in that we need to be aware of the particular financial environment in which we operate. As such exchange rates are monitored on a daily basis to ensure that funds are transferred through the banking system to Ethiopia at the optimum rate. We are also keenly aware of inflation rates in Ethiopia which have fluctuated between 20 and 35% over recent years. And our knowledge of prices is not just based on data reported at the national level which for a country whose economy is underpinned at grassroots level by, for

example, subsistence farming can be unreliable. Daily communication with our volunteers and the families themselves means that we have a direct anecdotal link to prices in the local shops and on the markets. Hearing from mothers that 'sorghum has increased again' feeds into our understanding of the economy on the ground – the real impact on people's pockets. All this is referred to in the trustees' assessment regarding considered increases to the monthly allowances sent to families.

Returning to the point about our generous donors in order to underline our gratitude. With the cost of living crisis and the alarming increases in UK and other countries inflation rates following the pandemic and conflict in several countries worldwide it would have been understandable for regular donations to support our work to have been questioned. That our support is truly based on sound relations with selfless advocates is evidenced by the fact that during 2023/24 donations actually increased – quite wonderful.

The cost of supporting a child including food, shelter and schooling is **£25 a month.**

Broadly the charity continues to operate on a prudent basis of:

Regular funds in e.g. standing orders = Regular allowances paid

and

One-off donations = One-off payments made

e.g. medical emergencies, grants, annual school registration fees.

We continue to use only registered banking systems for investment and money transfer. As advised by the UK International Charity Engagement Team we never use cash couriers.

Noted that no funds are materially in deficit. For detailed financial information please visit the Charity Commission website.

## 5. Change Agenda and Concluding Remarks

No apology is made for taking and extending a paragraph from the 2022/23 annual report here. In fact this is offered as evidence of constancy of purpose and highlights the fact that the trustees never lose sight of the basic premise that underpins everything we do - care for the child comes first.

An effective change agenda demands awareness of what will not change. Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia will continue to deliver on its purposes to cover the medical, housing and educational needs of disadvantaged children in Ethiopia. We are keen that our support helps to build confidence and capability and leads to the independence of the families we care for as they escape from the generation to generation stranglehold of poverty. The issue of children progressing beyond secondary education is regularly addressed as we support young people through the transition to higher or further education, employment and self-sufficiency.

The trustees' vision is to establish and oversee a three stage virtuous circle. The initial material offering has to be funding for survival. Beyond that the message – and the funding to support the message – is to promote working towards independence through education and initiative. And finally, once self-sufficiency is achieved, the cycle to be repeated by the beneficiary helping others in the same situation they once endured.

And – during 2023/24 - it has become even clearer that the districts in which our communities are based are benefiting from the projects that are being delivered. Parents of children and our volunteers have grasped the opportunity given them and are not just feeding their own families and enabling them to get an education but bringing the benefits of their enterprise to all the people in that area. Further, it has been rewarding to see the network support between families flourishing and close relations are evident within the ten communities.

2024/25 and beyond will see a greater awareness that what has been built in the name of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia can now be viewed as a launch pad for step-change projects. We have delivered numerous initiatives that have helped families to independence since our inception not least with the support of The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize where we

have benefited by being part of their microloan scheme. Next level projects will now be considered as a natural progression.

The trustees have been approached to consider support for numerous projects including hospital facilities, buildings to accommodate the needs of children with disabilities and the expansion of Chadwick Farm. Officials at the British Embassy and the Pentecostal Church in Addis Ababa have reached out to us to offer support and preliminary bids for funding to government and trusts are being assessed. Given the current state of the country risk assessment will clearly need to be thorough but with the charity's base secure, the experience gained from the years working in Ethiopia informing decision-making and the growing strength of partnerships the trustees see that all risks can be managed in order to ensure successful delivery.

**Although our change agenda is progressive and demanding our touchstone is always summarised in one question and guides everything we do – 'if this child was your own what would you do?'**

## 6. Declaration

Independent Examiner

Signature Janice LeMire

Date 4th June 2024

Chair of Trustees

Signature

Date 4 June 2024

# Appendices

## Appendix A - Reference and Administration

Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

Registered Charity Number: 1175880

Charity's Address: 62 Rhodesia Road, Brampton, Chesterfield,
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1. Michelle Marie Guthrie
2. Rebecca Gurr
3. Genet Morley
4. David Levick
5. Kevin Morley (Chair)

The body entitled to appoint trustees are the current board of charity trustees.

Names of the trustees for the charity e.g. Custodian Trustees:

None

Names and addresses of advisers:

None

Name of Chief Executive or names of senior staff members:

None

## Appendix B - Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts:

Type of Governing Document: Constitution adopted 21 June 2015.

How the charity is constituted: Unincorporated Association.

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting by existing trustees.

### Additional Governance Issues

At induction trustees are referred to the Charity Commission guidance and the charity's policies in particular regarding safeguarding. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

## Appendix C – Trustees Scope

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the charity's objects and with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission are in accordance with the strategies:

1. **Management**

   Overall management of the charity has ensured that a legal framework is adhered to, the planning cycle is robust and the vision is being delivered in accordance with the agreed strategies.

2. **Promotion and Fund Raising**

   The charity is promoted worldwide, awareness is raised and a network of individuals and partner organisations which are mutually beneficial and have developed into a supportive community is being built. ICT is used wherever possible to promote and secure the charity.

   Homes are supported by raising funds by any legal means, approaching organisations and individuals and promoting events and initiatives. Donors and Friends of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia are highly valued for their essential contribution.

3. **Cost Reduction**

   Effort has been expended to ensure that costs are on a variable basis wherever possible and opportunities are continuously sought to drive costs down.

4. **Partnership**

   We have built relations with government departments and other organisations and charities – bodies that the charity can work with in partnership to deliver the vision.

5. **Care in Ethiopia**

   We research, deploy and deliver on care, accommodation, medical facilities/expertise and appropriate educational establishments. Regular payments have been made to families and one-off payments are made in response to requests for healthcare and educational supplies. Children have been referred for vaccinations in accordance with the programme available in Ethiopia and the cost of physiotherapy and dietary supplements has been covered.

6. **Growth in Ethiopia**

   We grow secure, sustainable homes as driven by the charity's available resources which are legally-based. We have built a supportive family community and gender balance of the total number of children we care for is continuously addressed.

The value of the charity's work to the children it supports can be measured in terms of:

- Provision of basic needs e.g. food, clothing
- Families in accommodation
- Children in school and results in school
- Children receiving necessary healthcare
- Adults in training
- Families becoming self-sufficient
- Level of Return
- Delivery of agreed projects

**The trustees confirm that they have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit when planning the charity's activities at the trustee meetings.**

# Charity Commission for England and Wales

# Receipts and Payments Accounts

# Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

# Charity Number: 1175880

# For the period from: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## Section A - Receipts and payments

### A1 Receipts

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds | Last year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Donations (Individuals)** | 17901 | | | 17901 | 16629 |
| **Donations (Organisations)** | 20496 | | | 20496 | 7044 |
| **Donations (Trustees)** | 3275 | | | 3275 | 4898 |
| **Fund Raising Events** | 60 | | | 60 | 2237 |
| **Gift Aid Receipts** | 1576 | | | 1576 | 978 |
| **Sub Total** | **43308** | | | **43308** | **31786** |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales** | | | | | |
| **Total Receipts** | **43308** | | | **43308** | **31786** |

## A3 Payments

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds | Last Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Payments made to Ethiopia** | 25100 | | | 25100 | 19935 |
| **Printing, stationery, postage** | 1738 | | | 1738 | 1321 |
| **Travel & Subsistence** | 1537 | | | 1537 | 3577 |
| **Sub Total** | **28375** | | | **28375** | **24833** |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases** | | | | | |
| **Total Payments** | **28375** | | | **28375** | **24833** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Net of Receipts/ Payments** | **14933** | | | **14933** | **6953** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | | | | | |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 50611 | | | 50611 | |
| **Cash funds this year end** | **65544** | | | **65544** | |

## Section B - Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

### B1 Cash Funds

| Details | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total cash funds (b/f from receipt and payment accounts) | 65544 | | |

### B2 Other Monetary Assets

| Details | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

### B3 Investment Assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost | Current Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

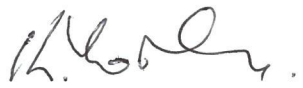
| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost | Current Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

## B5 Liabilities

| Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount Due | When Due |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## Signed by one trustee on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of Approval |
|---|---|---|
|  | Kevin Morley | 4 June 2024 |

*Format based on The Charity Commission template March 2012: New format January 2017*

**Charity Commission for England and Wales**

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

**Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia**

**Charity Number: 1175880**

**For the period from: 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

I hereby declare that on Tuesday 4 June 2024 the following evidence pertaining to the Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia accounts were made available to me:

- Receipts and Payments Accounts
- Bank Statements
- Receipts
- International Transfer documents

I confirm that the income and expenditure shown in the accounts for 2023/24 are a true and accurate record of receipts and payments.

Signed Janine LeMire

Janine LeMire – Independent Examiner

Date 4th June 2024

040624

**SALTERGATE CHILDREN'S HOME, ETHIOPIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1175880

# Accounts

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6. Declaration

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A Reference and Administration

B Structure, Governance and Management

C Principles, Objectives and Activities overview

Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – *giving hope, transforming lives*

62 Rhodesia Road, Brampton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S40 3AL

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Email: kevinjosephmorley@yahoo.co.uk

http://saltergatechildrenshome.org/

Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1175880

# Trustees' Annual Report

## 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

### 1. Introduction – 7th Anniversary Report

With the fighting concentrated in the north of Ethiopia the tension receded in the capital and the Foreign Office amended its advice from 'don't go' to 'only go for essential business.' As such we were able to resume in-country inspections and trustees representing the charity flew to Ethiopia in April 2022. With 109 children, 9 volunteers, 100 chickens and our pregnant cow to visit we had a full schedule. All are doing well and we are working up many of the ideas we discussed into projects that will help families to independence, improve the quality of life for the children and enable us to care for even more boys and girls.

Since our foundation in 2015 we have increased the number we care for and the current figure of 109 children includes an increase of 45 boys and girls over the past year. Actually with the continued support of highly valued donors many have become independent and others are now not children but have grown into young adults. Their stories will be covered in this report as their achievements are the charity's achievements.

Throughout 2021/22 we have consistently applied our guiding principles to house families in separate homes and only care for children who are with a family member – usually a widowed mother. And as always every penny donated goes to providing food, clothes, housing, healthcare, education and a route to independence for the children we support. Whilst remaining true to our principles we are pleased to highlight in this report progression in our operation that reflects the outcome of deliberations in three key areas:

- The **support for refugees** fleeing from the war in Ethiopia. The substantial growth in the number of children we now care for has primarily been driven by our willingness to respond positively when war widows with young families have needed help.

- The purchase of livestock which has made tangible our aim to see a **return on investment** not in financial terms but in terms of children supported. i.e. egg sales generate income which has enabled us to support more children.

- The **natural evolution of SCH communities**. Individual families we have supported – some for 7 years – have come together in different parts of the city and formed friendships and support networks. In addition to help from us they help each other which can only be beneficial for all concerned.

The progress of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia and, more importantly, the livelihoods of the families we care for is built on the loyalty of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers in Ethiopia. In addition to benevolent and steadfastly loyal people supporting our work on an individual basis we have benefited from and are grateful for the encouragement of members of a growing number of organisations:

- Barclays Bank, St Peters Street, Derby
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Belle Vie - Chesterfield
- Brimington Women's Group
- Cardiff Progress Team, Australia
- Chesterfield Library
- Chesterfield Methodist Church Ladies Group
- Connelly Court residents
- Copy and Print, Chesterfield
- Cumbria Overseas Aid Trust
- Derbyshire Libraries, Matlock
- Dore and Totley United Reformed Church
- Elastic FM
- Grassmoor Women's Institute
- Halesowen Stitch Club, West Midlands
- Imperial Voice Radio, Bath
- Jenny Meadows Yoga Club
- Loundsley Green Mothers' Union
- Max Spielmann – Tesco and Chesterfield outlets
- Milestone Financial Planning
- Mitcham Mothers' Union
- Quinton Methodist Church, Birmingham
- Reflections magazine
- ROE Developments (UK) Ltd

- S40 magazine
- Salem Chapel, Wingerworth
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staveley Seniors Group
- Storrs Electrical Ltd
- St Paul's Church, Hasland
- St Peter & St Paul – Mitcham Parish Church, London
- St Thomas' Church, Brampton
- Sutton African and Caribbean Cultural Organisation, London
- The 50+ Inspired Group
- The Co-operative Social Group
- The Derbyshire Times
- The Inner Wheel Club of Clay Cross
- The Oddfellows, Chesterfield
- The Ragged School, Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of Addis Ababa
- The Rotary Club of Bolsover
- The Rotary Club of Bradford Blaize
- The Rotary Club of Chesterfield
- The Rotary Club of York Ainsty
- Treasure Trove Fairs
- TWIST magazine

**On behalf of the trustees, volunteers and children of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – thank you.**

## 2. Background and Context

- *the acronym 'SCH' in the text refers to Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia*

During our inspection we were asked if we could help Rakeb. Dad took one look at Rakeb when she was born and left. That was six years ago and he hasn't been seen since. Rakeb is blind, paralysed from the neck down and fluid is building up in her brain to dangerous levels. Mama Zanesh cares for Rakeb alone. She is alone because her family and neighbours have ostracised them. They are abused and even attacked -- 'evil spirits have been at work here.' And because no one will help Zanesh has to leave Rakeb alone for four hours every day so that she can clean houses and earn something for them to survive. There must be a place under the sun where the only response to this situation is 'how can we help?' The trustees, volunteers and friends of Saltergate

Children's Home, Ethiopia work to be in that place and give Zanesh, Rakeb and all the families we care for someone to turn to.

As set out in the governing document and registered with the Charity Commission the charity's activities are based on:

(i) The relief of poverty and sickness and
(ii) The advancement of education

… of homeless, disadvantaged and needy children in Ethiopia.

The charity has strategies to promote health and well-being and families are supported into accommodation, education and employment. Overall the charity helps needy children recognise and fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

We are developing a model which seeks to redefine the term 'children's home.' Forget a big building packed with hollow-eyed, malnourished children where boys and girls are labelled and abuse is a feature of daily life. All the children we care for are with a family member - usually a young widowed Mum or a Grandparent where both parents have died – and all are housed in separate homes. To the onlooker they look no different to 'the family next door' and this is our aim. However, even though this approach minimises possible safeguarding issues, we never forget that we are caring for vulnerable people and vigilance in this area is integral to the work.

The beauty of this approach to housing is that we have no upper limit, no capacity issues. We don't turn children away on the basis that 'our building is full.' We are constrained only by the amount of donations we receive from kind supporters. Simply put – the more donations we receive the more children we can take off the streets.

And yet, our target for families needing help is zero. At first reading this appears to be a paradox but is clarified by the theme covered in this section – the Drive to Independence. Ultimately we strive to help all the children we support to stand on their own two feet and we look forward to that affirming declaration – 'thank you for all you have done for us but we are self-sufficient now. Please use the funds to help others in need.'

As the reach of SCH grows it is necessary to have focus on vital key themes to determine priorities and inform decision-making. The following are shaping current direction:

**Focus 1 of 3 – the Drive to Independence**

Once a family has food in their bellies, clothes on their backs and a roof over their heads our attention shifts and the future direction is then informed by the response to two questions – 'What can YOU do to stand on your own two feet?' and 'Once you are self-sufficient what can YOU do to help others?' We are delighted that many of the families we support have responded positively to this blunt approach and this is evidenced in Tgsti's shop and Fasica's machine room – see Achievements in Ethiopia section. During 2021/22 we have given our decision-making sharper focus along these lines and grants have been awarded on the basis that other children be supported by initiatives. For example funds for the purchase of chickens were granted providing that two other children – Nathan and Eldiyana – would also be supported by income from egg sales.

**Focus 2 of 3 – Partnership**

The trustees cannot work in isolation – we are not doctors, government officials or school principals and neither are our team of volunteers. As such we work hard in Ethiopia to build the necessary close relations with hospitals, local and national government departments and schools and universities so that children have a support structure they can rely on. These partners include CURE hospital, the Fistula hospital, the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association, the German Church School, Admas University and numerous local kebede (government departments). We continuously seek to build this network and, besides having access to valuable contacts for the children, these organisations have also been rewarded by partnering with SCH.

**Focus 3 of 3 - The War in Ethiopia**

As a charity working with children in Ethiopia we cannot ignore the ongoing conflict that broke out in November 2020. The UN, WHO and NGOs and charities are struggling to get into the war zone. We have family who are living – and dying – there and through them had access to the communications and banking systems. We worked to establish SCH safe houses and started to care for a widowed Mum and her young son. Our aim was to extend our operation in Tigray as the scale of the

catastrophe becomes apparent but, for now, we have also lost contact with the communities in the war-zone as the government lockdown on communications has tightened.

Looking to refocus our efforts the decision was made to support refugees fleeing from the conflict. Naturally, as the fighting intensified in the north thousands of refugees made their way to the capital where we operate. The support for young war-widows and their children is the primary reason for the increase in the number of families we support.

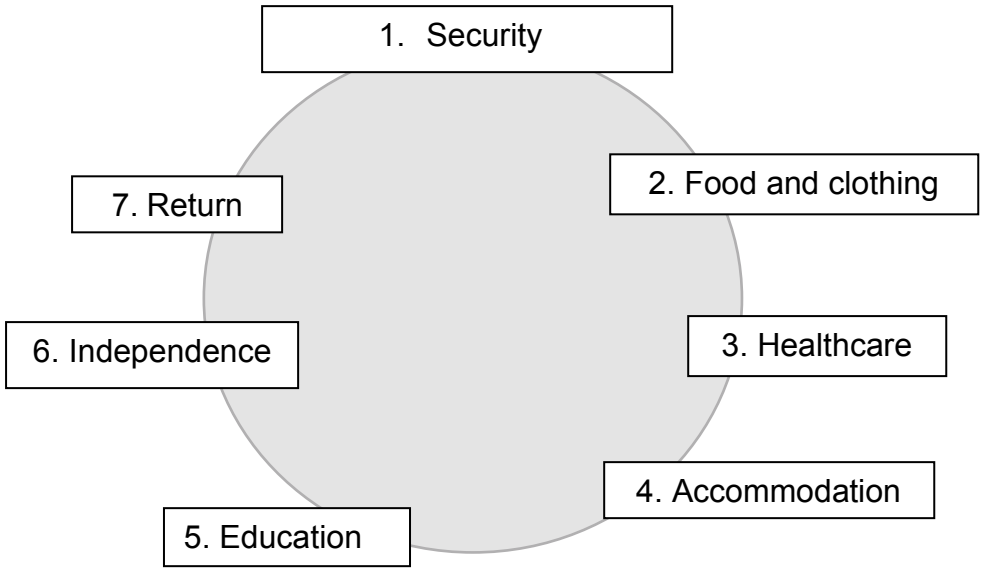
One day the horror that is unfolding in Tigray will hit the television screens. We are a small charity but we are uniquely-placed to play our part.

## 3. Achievement and Performance

### 3.1 In Ethiopia

As referred to in the Introduction we now care for 109 children, an increase of 45 over the past year. 47 families with a total of 75 children are supported with regular monthly allowances to cover basic needs, housing and education. A further 27 children have received one-off payments in September to cover the annual school registration fee and any medical expenses have been covered. These children are in families that have progressed to a level of self-sufficiency but we keep in touch and are always there to turn to if needed. And, having invested in a small poultry farm, 7 children now receive regular allowances from income generated by egg sales. Of the 109 children we support there are 64 girls and 45 boys. All the children are in accommodation and all the over-5s are in education.

The trustees have updated their stepwise approach to caring for a child on the road to independence and, with our support for children escaping from the war zone, it is clear that a first step – the security of the child – needs to take priority.



## Security in the War-Zone

Following years of disagreement between the leaders of the Tigray region in Ethiopia (TPLF) and the federal government this escalated to military conflict. After several postponements of the country's election due to the spread of covid-19 the TPLF refused to recognise the legitimacy of the central government and in mid-2020 went ahead with its own regional elections. Following this exercise relations between federal and regional representatives deteriorated further and in November the TPLF attacked the Ethiopian government's military bases in their region. Full-scale conflict ensued and the TPLF were driven out of the main cities into the mountains where they have regrouped. The situation is further complicated by the Eritrean army which is fighting on the Ethiopian government's side, 60,000 refugees fleeing into Sudan and the reduction of Ethiopia's defence forces in Somalia.

The Ethiopian government has imposed a blackout on communications to/from the conflict zone and as such the impact of the fighting has not been widely publicised around the world. The 2021 G7 summit did issue a statement that a) a ceasefire should be declared b) Eritrean soldiers should leave Ethiopia immediately and c) Aid agencies should be allowed free passage to all areas of Tigray to deal with what has been officially described as a 'catastrophic' and 'emergency' situation.

The perception of Ethiopia and its people around the world has been shaped by the newsreel footage of the 1980s when famine in parts of the country led to over 1 million deaths. The remarkable development and economic growth – approximately 10% per annum since the turn of the century has been less well-publicised. The average annual income per person in 2000 was $100, in 2019 it was $850 (Source: World Bank Gross National Income per capita). Child mortality has reduced from 240 per 1,000 births in 1970 to 50 per 1,000 in 2019. This improving state of affairs has received little attention in the media.

The current situation in Ethiopia clearly threatens the overall improving picture in the country. As for the conflict verifiable information is sporadic and contested. This plus the attention of the world being focused on the challenges raised by the pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine has meant that what is happening in Tigray is not widely known.

During responses to an urgent question raised in the House of Commons (15 June 2021) it was reported by the Foreign Office minister

that 350,000 people (since revised to 400,000) were now living in famine conditions in Ethiopia - level IPC 5 (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) which is the highest category. In simple terms people, and many of these are children, are starving to death. Atrocities have been reported by the United Nations including the massacre of innocent civilians, use of hunger as a weapon of war and high levels of sexual violence against women. Chillingly, 300,000 children are expected to die as the situation deteriorates further.

The United Nations, International Aid agencies and charities have struggled to get into the conflict zone – SCH trustees have family who are actually living in Tigray and the news from them is dire with many accounts of horrific acts including rape, starvation and countless children being orphaned.

Since we were founded in 2015 we have provided food, clothing, accommodation, healthcare and access to education for a growing number of children. Further, we have supported children's guardians – usually widowed mothers – to self-sufficiency. We are now seeking to extend our remit and focus on a critical consideration that needs to be addressed before any of these steps to independent can take place – that of a child's safety, in particular in a country at war.

Clearly the greater the need the greater the risks and these risks are being managed throughout the twists and turns of the conflict. Extensive work has been undertaken since the beginning of 2021 to ensure that we have safe houses and a robust process to ensure that funds are only used to further the charity's purposes. Due diligence is, of course, even more critical in conflict areas.

Our attempts to support children in the war-zone were postponed when we lost contact with family members in Tigray and our focus changed to helping refugees who had fled the conflict. Many families have made their way to Addis Ababa having escaped from the Tigray region and it has been directly due to loyal supporters of the charity that we have the organisation, funds and volunteers in place to respond and help some of these children. Young, widowed Mums Zemeda, Leteberhane, Kasu, Letay and Bertekan crossed the treacherous 250 miles to the capital with their children not knowing what they would find. They found us and we agreed to support them. Food, clothing and healthcare have been provided and the school-age children are all in the classroom. We monitor the situation in Tigray on a daily basis and look forward to

establishing communication links with our people in the region. Our support for families who are suffering in the war will be reassessed once information is available.

## Health

### Covid-19

According to official statistics there have been just under half a million cases of covid-19 with nearly 8,000 deaths. Although the numbers are relatively low when compared with the UK there are clearly questions regarding the reliability of the data with few figures collected outside the capital where there is little access to healthcare. The phrase ‘everyone on the street is coughing’ has been used many times over the past year when we have called Tsege, Mahraig and Dibabe.

Two of the key factors which have seen covid-19 result in hospitalisation and death have been age and obesity. The UK has an aging population – average over 45 years old. Ethiopia’s median age is under 20 years and with little obesity it may be that these are reasons why the death rate seems to be comparatively low. In terms of protection SCH is fortunate in that we have already provided sewing machines to Fasica and Feven, two of our young widowed Mums, and they have turned their hand to making masks. We have also ensured that all our volunteers and families have sanitizer as clean water is not always readily available.

The first shipment of 2.2 million doses was administered last year after the AstraZeneca vaccines produced by Serum Institute of India arrived in Ethiopia in March 2021 through the COVAX scheme. Doctors, nurses and hospital support staff were given priority to receive the vaccine and at time of writing 25 million people in Ethiopia have now received the vaccine with 21 million fully vaccinated.

We continue to build and strengthen partnerships with government officials, doctors and teachers and there are many examples where the children and their families have benefited.

### CURE Hospital - Abduro

Dr Tim is a surgeon at the CURE hospital. A Londoner he graduated in Sheffield before relocating to Addis Ababa with his family. Children from many countries in East Africa are referred to him and several of the

children we care for have benefited from his expertise including Kalkidan who had a corset fitted to arrest her spinal curvature.

Abduro was born with severe bilateral club foot. Now 17 years old he has never walked and we agreed to care for him in March 2021. Dr Tim has since performed two operations on Abduro and both went well. Following this fixators were attached to Abduro and were adjusted every day to straighten his feet. Abduro took his first steps in September on what was a special day. Since then Dr Tim has made minor adjustments and Abduro is getting stronger and more mobile every day and is back in his village near Sheshemane. We are working with Chaltu from the hospital Mission Committee to assess how we can support Abduro and his siblings long-term. In line with the way we work we don't just provide funding for a hospital treatment then walk away. Abduro's father died four years ago leaving a widow and four more children all younger than Abduro. We want to help the whole family and look forward to the Mission Committee's proposals.

**Fistula Hospital – Elinor**

Following our initial visit to the Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia and subsequent meetings with the hospital's trustees we have been pleased to see our working relationship bear fruit during 2021.

Long, obstructed labour in rural villages with no midwife in attendance and the nearest hospital hundreds of miles away leads to thousands of stillborn babies and extensive damage to women. On top of the grief a young girl, usually in her teens, has such internal injuries that she completely loses control of her faeces and urine – for life. Her husband leaves her, the village women shun her, she is abandoned in shame. She will spend the rest of her life alone and in misery with the stench of her own body a constant reminder of the hopelessness of her predicament.

But actually there is hope. Since the 1950s gynaecologists have worked tirelessly to establish fistula hospitals in Ethiopia and tens of thousands of women have been repaired with life-changing surgery and they have been able to go home and experience a normal life. We are pleased to have been able to contribute in a small way to the work of this hospital and that today Elinor is cured. As with Abduro we are not satisfied to leave it at that and we shall be working with the aftercare specialists to ensure that Elinor has every chance to build an independent life.

## Petros Hospital – Bisrat and Lhul

‘Bisrat has a burst appendix – can you help?’ … ‘Yes, get him to hospital.’ Appendix removed, infection controlled and a smile back on Bisrat’s face. We registered Bisrat in school in September and he is doing well.

Our Lemlem phoned with this plea earlier this year and immediate attention was clearly needed. This was our first introduction to Bisrat who is a little boy now 7 years old. Following the initial emergency we discovered that Bisrat’s widowed Mum Genet also has another son. Lhul is a couple of years younger than Bisrat and has hydrocephalus. We have had some success treating this condition in Helen Fantahun when Prof. Tony fitted a shunt to drain dangerous build-up of fluid in her brain. Initial assessments are underway and we shall work to a successful outcome for Lhul.

## Kalkidan

Kalkidan was one of the first children we started to care for and she and Mum Bertekan are doing great. Back in 2016 when we visited them they were in a sorry state. A malnourished Kalkidan has spinal muscular atrophy and the likelihood was she would be bed-ridden for life. She slept in a place with Mum that was just big enough for the bed and lived on handouts. 2021 – Kalkidan has a wheelchair (and corset from Dr Tim) attends physiotherapy sessions, is well-nourished and is getting great results in school. She looks unrecognisable from the little scrap we first met. And this year the government started to give free school meals to the poor so more dinner ladies required. This led to a job for Bertekan at Kalkidan’s school so she is also on-site to help her daughter with her toilet needs.

## Soliyana, Heren and Hananiya

Five years ago Tigist had just left her job in a builder’s merchant’s office as she was 8 months pregnant. Her husband worked on the site and they were looking forward to welcoming their first child. To the couple’s surprise Tigist gave birth to triplets - Soliyana, Heren and Hananiya. All three babies were born blind. Tigist devoted her time to bringing up her family then another shock when her husband was diagnosed with cancer.  He died in December 2020. With no income Tigist needed help so we helped.

The children have been accepted at the German Church School where the Principal tells us ‘they get trampled on quite a lot but they are doing fine.’ (Apparently getting ‘trampled on’ is a common occurrence in a room full of boisterous blind children.) Their favourite subject is music and particularly singing – we have the video. Following his teacher’s recommendation we referred Heren to hospital for assessment. The doctor told us ‘this boy is autistic as well as blind and will never learn anything – don’t waste your time with him anymore.’ Well that’s it then Heren, the doctor says we’ve got to dump you on the street. No chance. This beautiful boy will grow up surrounded by all the love in the world – and then some. With the triplets in school we turned our attention to Mum who was keen to work. We have provided her with a computer and paid for a maid to care for the triplets. This enabled Tigist to look for work and she has found employment in a local office. We can’t bring Dad back but this family has hope again.

**Education**

Many children across East Africa miss school. They have to plough fields, fetch the water, help on the market. Some have to learn how to handle a Kalashnikov. None of this applies to the children we care for and all the school age children in Addis Ababa are in the classroom. (Matyas is still in the war zone and the immediate security issues are taking priority.) A key first step to independence is education and we are pleased that we have registered all the children in school. This is our largest one-off outlay per year and in September 2021 we covered fees totalling £1,600. Noted that with the significant increase in the number of school-age children cared for post-September 2021 it is estimated that this figure will double for 2022/23 and beyond.

In terms of results we continue to see children making the most of the opportunity they have been given and their school reports reflect their achievements. In a year when schools have been closed for months during lockdown, over a similar timespan to the UK, we have provided stationery and books to ensure that learning has not been disrupted. And the stars continue to shine. Fekir had shown exceptional ability so we organised a transfer to a higher-performing school where her potential has already been recognised. Jitu and Gebrella have also excelled and we are particularly pleased to see Yordanos performing well. Yordanos had been born on the rubbish tip in Addis Ababa and had

known no other life. After agreeing to help we found a place for Mum Meskerem and her children and Yordanos started school in September 2019. Little sister Rediat has followed in her footsteps and joined Yordanos in September 2021.

Yeshume is going to be a special needs teacher. Severely sight-impaired from birth she was an outcast in her village. She found her way to the capital and after suffering every abuse imaginable discovered the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association. They contacted us and we have supported Yeshume ever since. Now a young adult we helped her enrol to Kotobe College where she is furthering her ambition to teach. We have ensured that she has all the audio equipment necessary to further her education and she will graduate in July 2022. Beyond that we see a successful transition to employment and look forward to seeing her working in the classroom.

Danait and Delina used to be petrol-sniffers. In Addis Ababa gangs of children hang around outside fuel stations clutching dirty rags. When a motorist spills a drop or two the children eagerly rush to mop it up and breathe the fumes. ‘It takes away the pain.’ This is the kind of thing children in extreme poverty do to combat the feelings of hopelessness. Neglected children leads to neglected tragedy.

Four years on and last September Danait (Marketing) and Delina (Accountancy) donned their graduation robes and left Admas University. We have supported these girls into the workplace and in Danait’s case to self-sufficiency. Early in 2022 we received that phone call that is music to our ears – ‘Thank you for everything you have done for me but I can stand on my own two feet now.’ Delina is continuing her studies on a master’s degree programme which is great. Her part-time job helps and we are on hand to help her keep on track.

Clearly the benefits of the girls’ education will benefit both their families. Only a few years ago Danait and her Mum and two younger brothers were on the point of eviction following the death of her father. Delina’s parents both died after contracting AIDS (Delina is HIV+ but the course of antiretrovirals we organised are keeping the disease in check.) so she lives with her elderly Grandma Mana. Granny Mana couldn’t be more pleased with her granddaughter’s achievements. The wider benefit of supporting these two girls from initially horrific circumstances through secondary school and then university is that they can show what is possible no matter the challenges and we have three more children –

Mehat, Halyeka and Melat – aiming to enrol at university in the next year. ‘If Danait and Delina can do it so can you’ - and the petrol-sniffing is a distant memory.

## The Drive to Independence

We don’t dwell on the circumstances that we find desperate families in, the challenges which tell us what needs to be done. Our focus is on what can be done to transform a child’s life often with very little in terms of funding and often in a relatively short space of time. We do not impose our ideas on what we think folks should do – we engage, listen and look for energy and initiative. Beyond that we support families on their path to self-sufficiency and this approach has led to independence and hope for the future. The Drive to Independence has seen the initiatives embraced by our families extending in number, reach and diversity. As follows:

## Chadwick Farm

Following a generous donation from one of our long-term supporters we have invested in two cows and a hundred chickens and income is being generated from sales of milk and eggs. This in turn has enabled us to care for more children and Nuhamin, Kristina, Meba, Soliyana, Yostina, Nathan and Eldiyan are fully supported by this initiative. This is a classic example of our desire to see a return on investment not in financial terms but in increasing numbers of children we can help. The trustees have seen the farm in operation and can confirm that high standards are being maintained. In addition to food and income there will also be employment opportunities for some of our children as the farm expands.

## Sewing Machinists

At 18 years old Fasica lost her husband and she was disabled for life in an explosion at the factory where they worked. After the birth of her daughter Beselot they spent their days at the roadside begging. After being introduced to this little family by our friends at the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association we organised splints for Fasica’s legs and registered Beselot in school – she is doing well. Last year we agreed to fund a training course so that Fasica could earn income as a sewing machinist. Kind donors provided the sewing machine and she was soon up and running making clothes, bedspreads and curtains. During the lockdown she started to make face masks for

hospitals and, with a little help from budding machinist Beselot, we have high hopes for their future. Widowed, maimed – life reclaimed.

Feven's husband died after contracting AIDS and Feven is HIV+ with a son Bamlak. Bed-ridden when we first met the antiretrovirals had a dramatic effect and soon we were talking with Feven about her future. (By this time we had enrolled Bamlak at school and he is proving to be one of our stars.) Feven had been employed as a machinist prior to getting sick so once we had given her the equipment – again thanks to kind donors – she was soon making clothes for customers. And this year has seen a further upturn in fortunes. The Ethiopian government's initiative to provide poor children with school uniforms has led to a need to recruit more machinists and Feven has successfully applied for a post in one of their factories. Just needed a chance.

The Yorkits project is an initiative of The Rotary Club of York Ainsty. In developing countries girls miss out on education every month during their periods. Good folks in Yorkshire work to templates making feminine hygiene products and these are sent to Pakistan, Nepal, Kenya and many other countries so that menstruation does not impact negatively on a girl's life. With Fasica and Feven we can take the Yorkits project a step further and produce the items in-country. The templates and instructions have been sent to the two ladies and the first consignment of washable sanitary towels was sent to teachers for distribution in school in June 2021. It took 3 weeks from initial approach to delivery. The Rotarians had the idea, we had the workforce, machines and energy – happy union.

And Aynalum is a new member of the sewing machine team. A refugee of the war she found her way to the city and we were asked to help. Discovering that she had been a machinist before the war started led to supplying her with a sewing machine and she has joined Fasika and Feven making clothes, curtains and bedding. The path to self-sufficiency lies ahead.

**Shops and Market Stalls**

Since 2019 we have supported young widowed mothers to set up market stalls selling vegetables and pots and pans. Aynalum (Muna and Mehat's Mum) and Meskerem (Yordanos, Rediat and Makbel's Mum) have done particularly well. Building on this we have contacted local

government officials and been granted rent-free premises to open shops.

Discarded and second-hand clothes are sent to Ethiopia in shipping containers and the government grant licences to the poor to sell them and earn an income. Kasye (Bereket and Habtom's Dad) now has his licence and is a regular at the distribution centre. Tgist (Fekir's Mum), Asmeret (Sharon's Mum) and Berhane (Eldana and Makbel's Mum) have yet to be given licences but this has not held them up as donors have supported these ladies with funds to set up in business with their first stock. Over time it is clear that these shops could be an outlet for the clothes that Fasica, Feven and Aynalum produce with their sewing machines.

Letay is another of the young widows whose husband was killed in the war. We have provided her with the means to set up a market stall and she is working hard to provide for her children. Abraha and Filimon are giving Mum a hand when not in school. It is only a few months since they escaped from the conflict but already they have hope for the future.

**Cafes and Food Outlets**

In addition to selling clothes we have also supported Kasye to open a café where he sells tea, coffee and soft drinks. Sons Bereket and Habtom were on hand during lockdown to serve customers. And Mebrat (Yabsera's Mum) has extended this idea. Our volunteers found Mebrat a pitch in one of the shopping malls in Addis Ababa where she sells traditional Ethiopian coffee. Mebrat has agreed terms with the owner of the shop she sits outside with her coffee pot to use his electricity. (The shopping mall is in one of the more affluent areas of the city and power is supplied.) As customers sit drinking Mebrat allows them to charge their mobile phones for a small fee and takings from coffee sales are supplemented.

And we have opened our first chip shop in Ethiopia. Mahraig got the fryer, Mama Asmeret is cooking and daughter Sharon was first in the queue.

**Cooking and Water Provision**

Mgogos (cookers) have been provided for Berhane (Eldana and Makbel's Mum) and Tsege Alemayoh (Danait, Abel and Melkyas' Mum). Both ladies have built customer bases in their local communities and have regular orders for injera (bread). One of the advantages of

supporting families across the city is that Berhane and Tsege Alemayoh don't live in the same district so don't compete for the same customers. We have also supplied Betiel (Frei's Mum) with a fryer and she is often seen at the street corner selling chips (crisps) and maize to passers-by.

And - a real flash of inspiration from Robuma. This boy was born without arms but is very capable – his exploits with the karate club where we funded his enrolment are evidence of that. Robuma and his Mum live outside the city and the local well regularly dries up. When this happens Robuma has a difficult trek to fetch water. Local church leaders looked kindly on our application for funds to have water piped into Robuma's place and the work was completed this year. Seeing an opportunity Mum and Robuma have gone into the water selling business and the local community has benefited by having water 'on tap.'

**Hairdressing**

As referred to we have increased our numbers during 2021/22 primarily due to supporting refugees from the civil war. These are young widows with – as in Kasu's case - up to five children. We have encouraged these women to work together and form a supportive community. Zemeda has established herself as the natural leader of the group and she has shown great initiative. We agreed to support her idea to set up a hairdressing business and she now has the equipment to serve customers in the community. This is an area we have had success in as we arranged for Natsinet – Amen's mother - to be trained as a hairdresser in 2017 and she has earned a steady income over the years.

**Bee Keeping**

Abraham and his little son visited us when we were in Ethiopia. They had no income and were living on handouts. During discussions the idea for Abraham to sell honey was raised. Abraham's birthplace is a village north of Addis Ababa and bees are common in that area. An initial grant was provided for Abraham to travel to his village, collect the wild honey or buy it from villagers then return to the city and sell it for a profit. We also encouraged Abraham to open a bank account and Dibabe went with him. Many Ethiopians have never been into a bank so this was a breakthrough leading to saving for the future, budgeting and aspects of general money management that are alien to many people living hand to mouth across the country. Accounts are now opened as a matter of

course when we agree to help families and this has the added benefit of easier allowance distribution for our volunteers via bank transfer.

**Jobs and Training**

We are constantly on the lookout for jobs for the parents and guardians of the children we support. In Addis Ababa many ladies are seen sweeping the streets with a giant palm leaf, basic work but it is a start and has the advantage of pre-school children being able to accompany Mum. Taike (Absera, Kalkidan and Kenyan's Mum) and Meskerem (Yordanos, Rediat and Makbel's Mum) are up early each morning keeping the city tidy. We have also found cleaning jobs for Mums, not forgetting Bertekan's dinner lady post already mentioned in the section on Health.

Training is another route to employment, income and independence and Natsinet (Amen's Mum) continues to cut and blow-dry hair in her place. We have cared for Natsinet and Amen – who was a baby back in 2016 – after we found her when she had been attacked in the street. After her discharge from hospital we funded her training and the value of that has been long-term. Amen is now a schoolboy and is very proud of Mum.

Muna failed his driving test. No problem – he is back behind the wheel and determined to pass next time. In the meantime he continues to work as a bus conductor and is well placed to get a driving job when he gets his licence.

As a caring charity we do not want to create dependency and work towards the day when the families we support contact us to say 'thank you for everything but we can stand on our own two feet now – please use the money you send us to help others.'

### 3.2 Outside Ethiopia

The UK-based team have delivered a programme of online and face-to-face presentations and the awareness of the charity's work continues to grow. Income has continued its trend of increasing year on year which has led directly to enabling the charity to care for more children, improving the quality of care and ensuring that we are in a position to respond to emergencies as they arise.

Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia is one of the charities supported by St Paul's Church, Hasland and we are grateful for all that the congregation do for our children. We are also wonderfully supported by St Thomas' church, Brampton. Danait and Delina continue to benefit by having access to the computers provided by the Mission Committee and they expressed their gratitude at their university graduation ceremony. And we are honoured that residents of Bradbury Close, Wingerworth - many of whom belong to the Salem Chapel – continue to support SCH following their open air carol service for us in 2020. At Christmas we were also grateful for the many orders for our festive cards which this year featured baby Rebecca. And - the SCH Christmas Tree is a regular feature in December and appreciated by visitors to the churches.

As covered here presentations are used to communicate the progress of the charity and we have built lasting relations with altruistic people and organisations. We are particularly pleased that new audiences in London have shown appreciation for our work. In September 2021 the trustees worked with United Nations representatives to promote the charity to the congregation of the Parish Church of Mitcham.

It is a pleasure to visit and talk about the transformed lives of the children. Further, we are grateful for the perceptive feedback received and this has directly fed into our thinking as we have developed strategies and objectives and moved beyond our fledgling charity days.

Articles promoting our work have also been included in local and national publications and radio interviews have also featured. These have led to a measurable increase in support. All the means of raising awareness are rewarding in that people have naturally been drawn to the stories of how children from horrific backgrounds have had their lives transformed and, of course, as the children grow the stories are progressive. There is genuine interest in Eldana's success at school,

Robuma's developing expertise at karate and Gebrella's new-found mobility in her wheelchair.

The publications and radio stations which have featured Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia are:

- Reflections
- Kaleidoscope – Sutton African Caribbean Cultural Organisation
- TWIST
- S40
- The Derbyshire Times
- Lichgate News, St Paul's church
- Ploughshare, St Thomas' church
- BBC Radio Derby
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Spire Radio
- Imperial Voice Radio
- Elastic FM
- Sheffield Hallam University Alumni Newsletter

The 2021 London Marathon was one of the biggest ever held on the planet with 40,000 runners on the streets of London and many more running a virtual London marathon in countries all over the world. Entries included elite champions Ashete Bekere (Ethiopia), Sara Hall (USA), Eliud Kipchoge (Kenya) and best of all Jo Heath (Chesterfield). After 5 years of applying SCH were rewarded with a charity entry and Jo took her place at the start on Sunday 3 October. 'Jo ran for the children!'

And the baton has been picked up by more enthusiastic competitors. Alysha Bradley and Paul Chell have successfully competed in the Vitality London 10,000 and Zoe Burrows actually won the ladies over-40s Ladybower Trail Marathon. Wonderful effort by all and tonight there are children in Ethiopia sleeping with a roof over their heads paid for as a direct result of these heroes. And it doesn't stop there – William Treves has entered the September Big Half marathon in London and Beth Waller is going to conquer Ben Nevis for the children this summer – champions all.

During 2021/22 the reach of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia has continued to extend to countries around the world. In addition to supporters in Australia, Denmark, France, Italy and several states

across the USA we now have friends in Brazil who have a keen interest in our work. Kind donors have also increased in number in towns and cities in the UK and we are delighted with the response to our work by groups of friends in London and Derby who have taken up the cause and are increasingly involved in the promotion of the charity's work.

Although still available to purchase on Amazon our book 'Inside Eritrea – A Volunteer in East Africa' is now primarily gifted to interested parties as a means of providing information about the background to founding the charity. Book signing events have taken place and the book is now on the shelves of Chesterfield library. If you would like a copy please get in touch. Further, a retired police officer who has written about his experience advising the Ethiopian Police Force has kindly agreed to donate a proportion of sales to the charity. His book is called 'British Bobby on International Beat' and is available from the author at john.bown@w3z.co.uk.

## 4. Financial Review

A simple truth is always to the fore as the trustees look to support children and work to help them secure their future:

***It is kind and loyal donors who give our volunteers the means to feed, house and educate the children we care for and we can do nothing without their support.***

The quality of life and the number of children we can support is directly proportional to the donations received and at a time when many charities are struggling and even asking the government for help we are grateful that our supporters have increased in number and that long-standing regular donors have increased the amount they give. As such 45 more children are not sleeping in the gutter tonight, scavenging on the rubbish tip for food and wondering why they will never see the inside of a classroom. The cost of supporting a child including food and schooling is **£20 a month.**

During 2021/22 our families have also benefited from significant one-off donations that we have used to award grants to widowed Mums, cover emergency medical costs and pay the annual school fees. School

registration is our largest one-off expenditure and is due in September each year – currently totalling **£3,000 pa**.

As Danait and Delina graduate, Tgsti builds her retail business and Muna leaves school and starts to earn an income driving minibuses the time is approaching when they will become independent and regular financial support from us will not be necessary. This will release funds to take on other children and a 'conveyor belt' approach will start to evolve. However, we will always maintain relations with children and guardians previously supported as emergencies happen and we will always be someone they can turn to in times of hardship.

As our purposes are centred on children our support for families has to be long-term – we don't drop a coin in their hand and walk away. We want to see Rebecca and Caleb at university in 2038 (if that is their ambition), Fekir a practicing surgeon (if she still wants to make that dream reality) and Abduro able to provide for his younger siblings. As such the trustees are building reserves that support these children as they grow without them having any fear of being on the street again. Based on current operating levels the charity has sufficient reserves to cover expenditure in Ethiopia and satisfy the aforementioned long-term aims for the children we care for and we shall be working to increase the number of children who can benefit in this way.

Broadly the charity continues to operate on a prudent basis of:

Regular funds in e.g. standing orders = Regular allowances paid

and

One-off donations = One-off payments made

e.g. medical emergencies, grants, annual school registration fees.

Noted also that with the purchase of cash-generating livestock we now have the means to commute reserves into regular income. For example, a cow acquired for £1,000 can bring in sufficient funds every month via milk sales to support two more children. This without the need for increased regular expenditure from the charity.

We continue to use only registered banking systems for investment and money transfer. As advised by the UK International Charity Engagement Team we never use cash couriers.

Noted that no funds are materially in deficit. For further financial information please visit the Charity Commission website.

## 5. Change Agenda and Concluding Remarks

The three main areas outlined in the introduction to this report and detailed in the text will continue to provide the framework for objectives going forward. That is:

- **Support for refugees fleeing from the war**
- **Return on investment in terms of children supported**
- **The natural evolution of and support for SCH communities**

Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia will continue to deliver on its purposes to cover the medical, housing and educational needs of disadvantaged children in Ethiopia. We are keen that our support helps to build confidence and capability and leads to the independence of the families we care for as they escape from the generation to generation poverty trap. The issue of children progressing beyond secondary education is regularly addressed as we support young people through the transition to higher or further education, employment and self-sufficiency.

Possible routes to independence will also be regularly assessed with the children's guardians. If a widowed Mum can earn income the whole family benefits. The equipment, knowledge and expertise are important but the real find is the energy, commitment and desire to succeed for the benefit of her children. That is the inner strength that doesn't choose to walk away when challenges arise but works to find the solution in the midst of famine, disease and war.

As covered in our report **this drive to independence will be a recurring consideration giving focus to our energy and informing our decision-making.**

At time of writing there are 400,000 people living and dying in the famine in Ethiopia and a further 1.8 million people are on the brink of starvation. Thousands have been killed and over 6 million have been internally displaced. As a small charity we cannot change the world but we can make a world of difference to some of the children who are suffering through no fault of their own. **The conflict and the fallout from the conflict will play out over the coming months and years and we will be working with our volunteers to continue playing our part.**

The thread running throughout this report highlights the critical factor underpinning everything we have done since foundation in 2015. That is the need to build, innovate and deliver as partners while maintaining our identity and operating independently. Whether it be with donors around the world, the Charity Commission in the UK or volunteers, doctors, employers and government departments in Ethiopia our growing network of friends is helping to turn aspirations into reality. The question 'who can we work with to transform this child's life?' will be raised time and again and **we look forward to working even closer with existing partners and forging links with new partners for the benefit of vulnerable and needy children, their families and the communities they live in.**

**Although our change agenda is progressive and demanding our touchstone is summarised in one constant question and guides everything we do – 'if this child was your own what would you do?'**

## 6. Declaration

Independent Examiner JANINE LEMIRE

Signature Janine LeMire

Date 14th July 2022

Chair of Trustees KEVIN MORLEY

Signature K. Morley.

Date 14 July 2022

# Appendices

## Appendix A - Reference and Administration

Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

Registered Charity Number: 1175880

Charity's Address: 62 Rhodesia Road, Brampton, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire S40 3AL United Kingdom

M: (+44) 077 899 75460

E: kevinjosephmorley@yahoo.co.uk

### Charity Trustees

1. Michelle Marie Guthrie
2. Rebecca Thomas
3. Genet Morley
4. David Levick
5. Kevin Morley (Chair)

The body entitled to appoint trustees are the current board of charity trustees.

### Names of the trustees for the charity e.g. Custodian Trustees

None

### Names and addresses of advisers

None

### Name of Chief Executive or names of senior staff members

None

## Appendix B - Structure, Governance and Management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of Governing Document: Constitution adopted 21 June 2015.

How the charity is constituted: Unincorporated Association.

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting by existing trustees.

### Additional Governance Issues

At induction trustees are referred to the Charity Commission guidance and the charity's policies in particular regarding safeguarding. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

## Appendix C – Principles, Objectives and Activities

Since foundation the trustees have worked hard to ensure that we can support children long-term ultimately to self-sufficiency. As such the decision-making process has to be consistent over time, support agreed programmes and lead to transformational change. We operate in a dynamic environment and regular contact with volunteers in Ethiopia is apparent on a daily basis. When dealing with the many requests and challenges the following list of guiding principles acts as a reference:

- SCH supports children who are with a family member. This ensures that safeguarding concerns are minimised and no one associated with the charity is ever alone with a child. Typically the children live with a grandmother or aunt having become orphaned. In other cases the father has died and income has ceased. Young widowed mothers with children are a common sight begging in Ethiopia.

- SCH is not structured along the lines of a single large building filled with children. Historically this approach has been shown to have

serious flaws even in developed countries. Instead the children live in separate small houses across Addis Ababa. Usually the house comprises only a single room but it is a start and it is off the street.

- The charity is pleased to report that, although the number of children cared for has increased, we continue to oversee a very personal operation. We know if Gebrella is doing well in school, we know how Abduro's operation has gone, we know what Bamlak has had for breakfast. When the trustees are not in Ethiopia our volunteers maintain close relations with all the families supported and daily contact with the trustees ensures that progress can be monitored and issues resolved in a timely and effective manner.

- The need to strive for *whole family* independence has been accepted as a valuable way forward. For example, if we provide a young widowed mother with a sewing machine to earn an income mending clothes then her children also benefit. This releases funds to support other families, reduces dependency and results in heightened self-esteem.

- Greater focus on partnership working is seen as an important step in being able to support children effectively and SCH has already benefited from working closely with hospitals and other charities in Addis Ababa.

- And – as always – every penny donated goes directly to the food, clothing, housing, healthcare and education for the children. All SCH overheads and running costs from payment of money transfer charges from the UK to Ethiopia to the cost of flights to Addis Ababa are met by the trustees. Donors contributions are highly valued and do not disappear down a black hole. It is seen as vital that a donor knows what a world of difference they have made to a child's life.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the charity's objects and with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission are in accordance with the strategies:

1. **Management**

   Overall management of the charity has ensured that a legal framework is adhered to, the planning cycle is robust and the vision is being delivered in accordance with the agreed strategies.

2. **Promotion and Fund Raising**

   The charity is promoted worldwide, awareness is raised and a network of individuals and partner organisations which are mutually beneficial and have developed into a supportive community is being built. ICT is used wherever possible to promote and secure the charity.

   Homes are supported by raising funds by any legal means, approaching organisations and individuals and promoting events and initiatives. Donors and Friends of Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia are highly valued for their essential contribution.

3. **Cost Reduction**

   Effort has been expended to ensure that costs are on a variable basis wherever possible and opportunities are continuously sought to drive costs down.

4. **Partnership**

   We have built relations with government departments and other organisations and charities – bodies that the charity can work with in partnership to deliver the vision.

5. **Care in Ethiopia**

   We research, deploy and deliver on care, accommodation, medical facilities/expertise and appropriate educational establishments. Regular payments have been made to families and one-off payments are made in response to requests for healthcare and educational supplies. Children have been referred for vaccinations in accordance with the programme available in

Ethiopia and the cost of physiotherapy and dietary supplements has been covered.

6. **Growth in Ethiopia**

   We grow secure, sustainable homes as driven by the charity's available resources which are legally-based. We have built a supportive family community and gender balance of the total number of children we care for is continuously addressed.

The value of the charity's work to the children it supports can be measured in terms of:

- Provision of basic needs e.g. food, clothing
- Families in accommodation
- Children in school and results in school
- Children receiving necessary healthcare
- Adults in training
- Families becoming self-sufficient
- Level of Return

**The trustees confirm that they have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit when planning the charity's activities at the trustee meetings.**

# Charity Commission for England and Wales

# Receipts and Payments Accounts

# Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

# Charity Number: 1175880

# For the period from: 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

## Section A - Receipts and payments

### A1 Receipts

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds | Last year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Donations (Individuals)** | 14704 | | | 14704 | 13383 |
| **Donations (Organisations)** | 10861 | | | 10861 | 8327 |
| **Donations (Trustees)** | 1579 | | | 1579 | 2099 |
| **Fund Raising Events** | 5060 | | | 5060 | - |
| **Gift Aid Receipts** | 2018 | | | 2018 | 880 |
| **Sub Total** | **34222** | | | **34222** | **24689** |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales** | | | | | |
| **Total Receipts** | **34222** | | | **34222** | **24689** |

## A3 Payments

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds | Last Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Payments made to Ethiopia** | 15340 | | | 15340 | 14594 |
| **Printing, stationery, postage** | 1579 | | | 1579 | 2099 |
| **Travel & Subsistence** | | | | | |
| **Sub Total** | **16919** | | | **16919** | **16693** |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases** | | | | | |
| **Total Payments** | **16919** | | | **16919** | **16693** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Net of Receipts/ Payments** | **17303** | | | **17303** | **7996** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | | | | | |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 26355 | | | 26355 | |
| **Cash funds this year end** | **43658** | | | **43658** | |

## Section B - Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

### B1 Cash Funds

| Details | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total cash funds (b/f from receipt and payment accounts) | 43658 | | |

### B2 Other Monetary Assets

| Details | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

### B3 Investment Assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost | Current Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost | Current Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## B5 Liabilities

| Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount Due | When Due |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## Signed by one trustee on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of Approval |
|---|---|---|
|  | Kevin Morley | 22 July 2022 |

*Format based on The Charity Commission template March 2012: New format January 2017*

**Charity Commission for England and Wales**

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

**Charity Name: Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia**

**Charity Number: 1175880**

**For the period from: 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

I hereby declare that on Thursday 14 July 2022 the following evidence pertaining to the Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia accounts were made available to me:

- Receipts and Payments Accounts
- Bank Statements
- Receipts
- International Transfer documents

I confirm that the income and expenditure shown in the accounts for 2021/22 are a true and accurate record of receipts and payments.

Signed Janine LeMire

Janine LeMire – Independent Examiner

Date 23rd July 2022