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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.

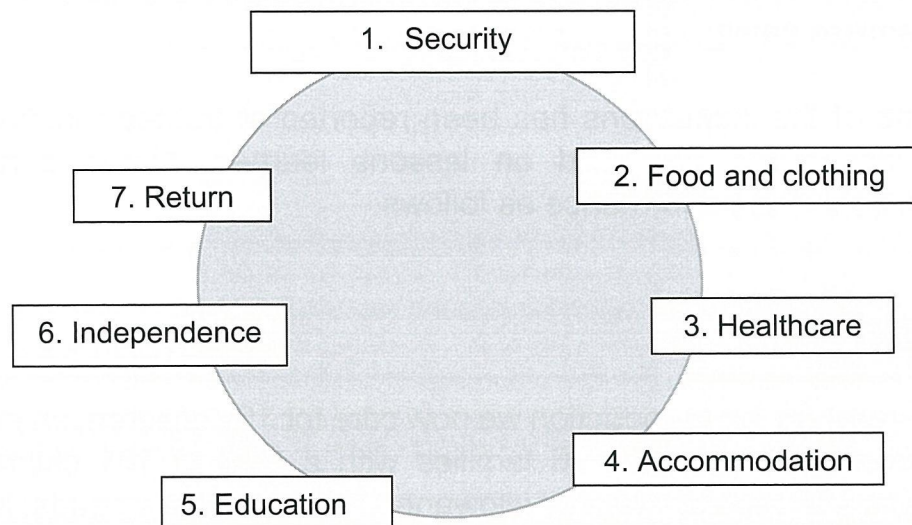
- In partnership with volunteers, families and organisations to identify initiatives to take the operation forward.
- To strengthen partnership working with in-country organisations including government, medical and educational establishments.
- To construct a programme whereby the inspection can be 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 Tadalul 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 Tadalul 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.

Leta 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 Leta 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 

Date 

Chair of Trustees

Signature 

Date 

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

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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
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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

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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 – Independent Examiner

Date

