



SELAMTA
FAMILY PROJECT

2018 REPORT

Dear Selamta Family,

2018 has been an incredible year of clarity and growth at Selamta. We determined our place in the continuum of care for orphaned children. We celebrated marriage. We cheered on our youth as many started new vocational and university programs. We're developing new partnerships with like-minded organizations who are executing their place in the continuum of care with excellence. We've been humbled by extraordinary gifts given to Selamta throughout this year. We're thrilled to grow our family of supporters and are looking forward to expanding our Forever Families in the years to come. We hope you're as excited and inspired by the pages that follow as we have been to see God work through Selamta this year. Thank you for being a blessing to our families!



Marisa Stam
Executive Director



Tamrat Kebede
Ethiopian Director



Jim Wasz
Board Chair



EVERY CHILD DESERVES THE LOVE OF A FAMILY

We create families for children who have lost their own. Our Forever Family Program is uniquely designed to give children the love and support they need.

Caring for vulnerable children and families requires multiple approaches and areas of expertise. Creating Forever Families for children who have been orphaned or abandoned is what we've been called and equipped to do. Poverty, brokenness, and a lack of domestic adoption resources create the need for Selamta's programs, but several options must be explored before a child comes into a Forever Family.

When biological families break down and children are separated, seeking reunification to biological parents should always be the first step. When reunification is not possible, kinship care, growing up with another biological relative like a grandparent, aunt or uncle, should be the

next step. Family strengthening resources are critical in both cases. The factors that broke down the family unit must be addressed with appropriate support. If kinship care is not an option, domestic adoption should then be considered. A culture of domestic adoption is being developed in Ethiopia but it's still early in the process and international adoption closed in 2017. Once those options have been explored and proven unavailable, then it's appropriate to bring a child or sibling group into a new Selamta Forever Family. An estimated 5 million children in Ethiopia have been separated from their birth parents. Selamta's Forever Family Program stands in the gap for children who need to know the love of a family.



FOREVER FAMILY

Children grow up together as a family over a 10-20 year period before launching from Selamta's care into independence.

We unite 8-10 children into a healthy family structure with a Selamta-trained mother, in their own home, integrated into their local community.

Our professional staff serve each family with an emphasis on education, health & wellness, psychosocial support, and spiritual and life skills development.

Growing up in a stable family, surrounded by the love of Christ, gives children a strong sense of belonging.

RESTORING FAMILY, DIGNITY, AND HOPE.

152

Total Children Served

82

Current children in Forever Families

5

Youth launched to independence this year

10

Forever Families



TAP



"I feel so happy and fulfilled when I see the kids growing up, executing responsibilities as young adults. It feels like yesterday when they were so small and playing together, and now everyone is busy taking care of themselves. I pray to God that they will reach their maximum potential. And I feel fulfilled by the love they bring to my life."

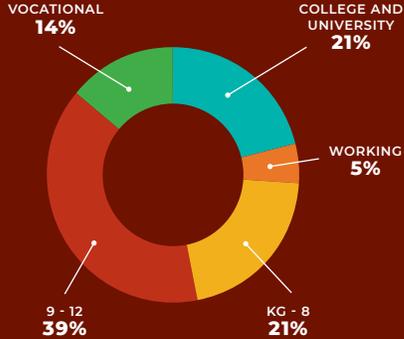
- Eskedar, Head Mother



"Even though I have prepared myself for this, I sometimes feel worried if I will be able to manage my life by myself. My family is in my heart. No matter where I am, I feel their presence in me. It is where I belong and where I would be if I feel sad."

- Mekides, Launched Selamta Youth

EDUCATION



For years, Selamta has created an environment where life-long learning is cherished. Whether it's finding the right accommodations for children with special needs, challenging gifted students with rigorous schooling, or tailoring educational opportunities to pique the interests of our children, we take educating this generation seriously. Selamta's youth tutoring program is giving our kids the opportunity to invest in their siblings, while sharpening their own skills.



"The health information technology training is already impacting my life. I was not that much into helping others before, but after a year of training and a chance to serve people in a government hospital setting, it changes my purpose for good. I now want to help those who need my professional help more than the money I can earn from doing it."

- Henok, Studying Health Sciences



"My Selamta family is very supportive towards my education. They allow me freedom to study at anytime, they understand my needs, even the fact that they allow me to help my younger sisters studying helps me to study and know more."

- Gezahegn, Grade 11



HEALTH & WELLNESS



We all have to take an active role in our health & wellness. Tigist, Selamta's full time nurse, encourages our older children to give blood twice a year so they can see how their small contribution can make a big difference in the lives of others. Working with our Outreach Families, Tigist conducts trainings and workshops so families can stay healthy, avoid unnecessary risks, and pass that vital information on to their children.



"The nurse gives me every medical advice I need, starting from simple illness, such as a cold, to complicated illnesses that need specialized attention. She links us with the right hospitals and health care services as needed."

-Tiruye, Selamta Mom



TAP

"Tigist (the nurse) was the one who advised me to go on the practicum and she helped me in choosing the hospital for practice and helped me to be accepted."

- Henok, Studying Health Sciences



PSYCHOSOCIAL



Peer pressure is an issue for kids everywhere. Etsegenet, Selamta's psychologist, makes sure our children have access to peer pressure trainings so they can identify potential issues and make more informed choices.

Every child who comes into Selamta has suffered some level of loss and trauma. Selamta provides trauma-informed care to our families so healing can take place in each home. Equipping our moms, making counseling services available, and taking the time to be present with each other makes a world of difference.



"I have participated in different trainings, but the one I took about children who have been through adverse experiences helped me a lot. My background is very much different from many of the children I have and the training gave me the perspective to see through their wounds and help them accordingly."

- Menbere, Selamta Mom

"Kids used to tease me because I was so scared to talk and play with them. But somehow the many psychological and life skill trainings empowered me with skills to become the confident, smart and hard working girl I am today."

- Tizita, Selamta Youth



"In Selamta's Forever Family, we grow up with care and strong character. I am saying this because I am able to see other children at school with unethical character and unhealthy habits."

- Sentayhu, Selamta Youth

SPIRITUAL & LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Integrity, character, and humility are traits that must be cultivated. The seeds of those critical traits can be nurtured when there is trust. We believe trust is built in the context of relationships. Small groups of our youth, a boys' group and a girls' group, meet twice monthly for sleepovers on Saturday nights to talk through family, faith, and friendships. Our kids are developing into the leaders of tomorrow, by coming to personally know who God is, find their purpose, and learn how to share this life with others.



"The idea of making Spiritual and Life Skills Development a defined cornerstone at Selamta is a great step in how we support our families in their spiritual journey. Spiritual development is key to the holistic development of a person."

- Habtie, Assistant Ethiopian Director

"We are not introducing a new Jesus or new religion but we are working towards encouraging everyone to explore their faith and have a personal relationship with God."

- Tamrat, Ethiopian Director



"I choose to be a part of the boys' sleepover because it gives me the chance to learn to be a good man. A good man at the house, a good man as a dad, and a good man as a hard worker."

- Mehari, Selamta Youth



REDEFINING OUTREACH



There is a continuum of care necessary to serve vulnerable children and families. Prevention is key to ensure every child knows the love of a family. Family strengthening and economic empowerment are critical for families to be lifted from poverty and crisis. Selamta's Outreach Program works with partners on the ground in Addis Ababa who are experts in their field. As families come to us in need, our social workers match them to the best resources available in their communities. Families in need who live in close proximity to Selamta's Community

Center receive the same holistic resources that support our Forever Families. Our goal is to keep biological families together and help them thrive so fewer children become orphaned or abandoned.

Selamta's Community Center has become more than a gathering place for our Forever Families. It's become a resource to families in our local community, a light on a hill. This summer, children of local families surrounding the center took part in our English Summer Camp.

"Being neighbors with Selamta affects my child positively, especially after the summer camp. Because we now understand, we are more willing to work with Selamta and get involved with the work they are doing."

- Ato Nigussie, Selamta Neighbor

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

SELAMTA MOMS

When the kids are grown, the day will come when it's time for our moms to launch into the next phase of their lives too. As with our children, we want to help our moms prepare to take those next steps. This year, our moms began a continuing education program to help them pick up where they left off in their formal education. Selamta Moms are the heartbeat of our families. Investing in them is multiplied as their new skills are shared with their children. Whether it's literacy, parenting, or self-care, our moms deserve every opportunity we can provide.

"The literacy training for the moms is so important for two reasons. One, for the moms themselves, it helps them define new identity; they no longer ask others to read or write to them. It helps them to use technology and update themselves easily. Secondly, it helps the moms with their children's education. They can now understand and help their children with school work and be involved in their children's schooling."

- Eskedar, Head Mother





HEART & HOME SPONSORSHIP

Becoming a Heart & Home sponsor is a tangible way to restore family, dignity, and hope to vulnerable children and families. Your monthly or annual gifts meet the daily needs of our families and create space for genuine, loving relationships that bring hope into each heart & home. Even if you are half a world away, your support encourages our children and families. They will know that you care, believing in them every step of the way.

\$25/mo

Neighbor

\$50/mo

Friend

\$100/mo

Mentor

\$500/mo

Family

50

New Sponsorships this year!

"We sponsor a Forever Family because we are passionate about the empowerment of youth in marginalized circumstances. Selamta has an innovative approach to orphan care that creates a sense of belonging for youth and sets them up for success in the future."

- Lincoln, Family Sponsor

SELAMTA FAMILY DINNERS

A meal shared around the table has the power to develop family. Across the country, our extended Selamta family members are inviting their friends and family to eat great food and support our Forever Families. Thousands of dollars have been raised by simply sharing a meal. Your dinner can be as fancy or as laid back as you are. When there's good food and good people, great things happen. Pull up a chair and share about why you love Selamta. There's always room for another seat at the table!

ENGLISH SUMMER CAMP

English Summer Camp is quickly becoming our favorite time of year. This year, our friends at McLean Bible Church, who also happen to be ESOL professionals, wrote our English Summer Camp curriculum. Between the vocabulary and pronunciation practice, bible stories punctuated the weekly themes of confidence, generosity, and respect. Join us for 2 or 4 weeks in July 2019 to share your conversational English skills with our children and community.

June 29 - July 12
July 13 - July 26



2019 VISION

After 12 years of raising our first Forever Families, we've learned so much. We know an in-country, community-integrated, holistic approach to raising children and developing family works. We know Selamta's Forever Family Program is a new niche in the continuum of care for orphaned and abandoned children. And we know it's time to take everything we've learned and create more opportunities for children to know the love of a family.

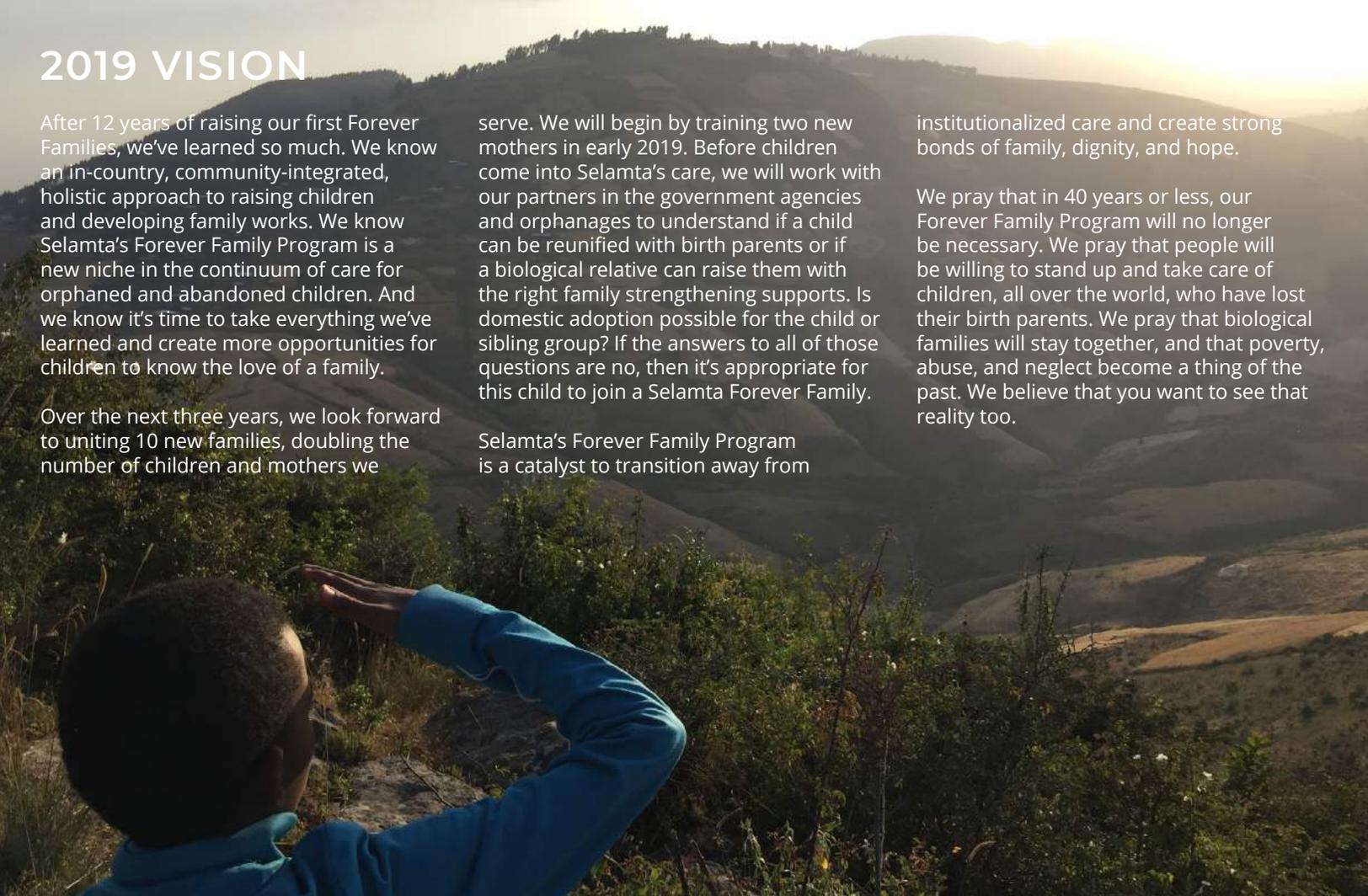
Over the next three years, we look forward to uniting 10 new families, doubling the number of children and mothers we

serve. We will begin by training two new mothers in early 2019. Before children come into Selamta's care, we will work with our partners in the government agencies and orphanages to understand if a child can be reunified with birth parents or if a biological relative can raise them with the right family strengthening supports. Is domestic adoption possible for the child or sibling group? If the answers to all of those questions are no, then it's appropriate for this child to join a Selamta Forever Family.

Selamta's Forever Family Program is a catalyst to transition away from

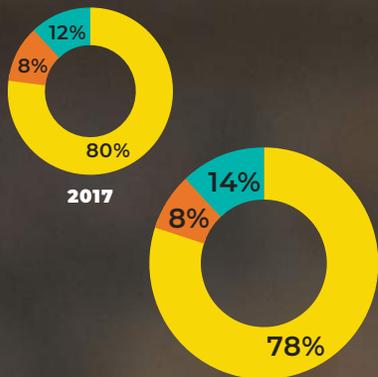
institutionalized care and create strong bonds of family, dignity, and hope.

We pray that in 40 years or less, our Forever Family Program will no longer be necessary. We pray that people will be willing to stand up and take care of children, all over the world, who have lost their birth parents. We pray that biological families will stay together, and that poverty, abuse, and neglect become a thing of the past. We believe that you want to see that reality too.



FINANCIALS

The graphs below show a breakdown of how our funds were allocated in 2017 and year to date in 2018.



2018 YTD

- FUNDRAISING
- MANAGEMENT
- PROGRAM

REVENUE GROWTH



*2018 revenue projected based on YTD results and Q4 budget

Transparency and sustainability are critical in serving our families well. Selamta recently received the gold-level Seal of Transparency from GuideStar certifying our commitment. We have also established specific funding streams to support our US Operations independent from our Ethiopian Program.



"We learned that orphans are easier to ignore before you know their names. They are easier to ignore before you see their faces. It is easier to pretend they're not real before you hold them in your arms. But once you do, everything changes."
- Radical, David Platt



Selamta Family Project



SelamtaFamilyProject.org



@SelamtaProject

Thank you to The Archibald Project (TAP) and Sara Jane Langham (SJL) for providing the beautiful photos inside.



TAP