



SELAMTA  
FAMILY PROJECT

2019 REPORT



**Dear Selamta Family,**

Last year we shared a vision for the future of Selamta that required a leap of faith and trust in God that provision would come. The idea of establishing our Second Generation of Forever Families was something that had been on our hearts for years. But before we could take steps to bring in new children, we had to clearly define our way forward. We had to build the capacity of our organization to be ready for a long term commitment to our families. In the pages that follow, you will see how God made a way for that vision to become a reality. We are in awe. We are hopeful. Your generosity makes it possible for Selamta to bring children out of institutions and into families. Your impact is extraordinary. Here we go!

Marisa Stam  
Executive Director

Tamrat Kebede  
Ethiopian Director

Jim Wasz  
Board Chair



## OUT OF INSTITUTIONS AND INTO FAMILIES

- Estimated 5,000,000 children are orphaned or abandoned in Ethiopia
- Up to 80% could be reunified with biological family
- Adoption is not an option for the majority of children - international adoption closed in 2017 and domestic adoption systems are still in development



Selamta Family Project creates Forever Families for children who have been orphaned or abandoned in Ethiopia. Poverty, brokenness and a lack of domestic adoption resources in Ethiopia create the need for Selamta's programs. Forever Families are a permanent alternative to institutions or life on the street. Children come to Selamta from government orphanages and institutions. We ask three critical questions before a child is placed in a Forever Family home:

*Is reunification with biological parents possible?  
If no...*

*Are there extended family members to raise this child?  
If no...*

*Is domestic adoption likely?  
If no...*

...then a Selamta Forever Family is the best place for this child to grow into a thriving adult. Selamta stands in the gap for children who so desperately need to know the love of family today. Family. Dignity. Hope.

# FOREVER FAMILY

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

*"Selamta's family structure is important not only in teaching them how family functions, sharing responsibilities, and caring for each other, but also teaches them how to receive love and care."*

**Eskedar, Head Mom**

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

*"Living in the neighborhood helps my children see and understand the lifestyles of the community and the tradition, making it easier when they grow up and form their own family."*

**Bizuayehu, Selamta Mom**

82

Current children  
in Forever  
Families

8

Youth launched  
to independence  
this year

8

Forever  
Families



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

*"When faced with any problem I know where to go to and ask for advice."*

**Emuye, Selamta Youth**

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

*"It gives me a sense of safety and security knowing that my mother is praying for me every day. It gives me the strength I need under difficult circumstances."*

**Kalkidan, Selamta Youth**



Selamta's youth do not age out. Every child has the opportunity to pursue formal education including primary, secondary and tertiary education - university, college or vocational school. Once they start their first living wage job or career and become financially stable, they enter our pre-launch program to assist with finding their first rental property, budgeting expenses and taking appropriate steps to independent life.

Gradually, Selamta's formal support lessens until this Selamta youth is standing confidently in independence. They have the support of Selamta's professional team and their Forever Family for guidance and encouragement in life's ups and downs.

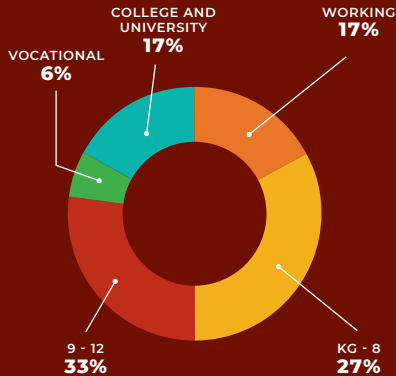
## SIBLING REUNIFICATION MATTERS

*"The separation hurts. I was worried about my younger sister all the time. It makes me happy and fulfilled that she is by my side."*  
**Selam, Selamta Youth**

*"Being reunited gives us the opportunity to be in each other's lives again, to be closer."*  
**Mahlet, Selamta Youth**



# EDUCATION



There's so much to celebrate in 2019. Selamta youth are graduating from university. They are completing vocational programs. They are preparing for opportunities to study abroad. Children who never had the chance to attend school because of disabilities are enrolled and learning. Our Selamta moms are taking advantage of new educational opportunities. Frehiwot is our first Engineering graduate to complete her 5-year bachelors program and has multiple job offers. Your support makes all of this possible!



- 7 Students Graduated from Universities, Colleges and Vocational Programs
- Reading Groups
- Team Tutorials
- Vocation Specific Training Opportunities
- Adult Education for Moms
- SAT/GRE Prep class
- New Schools for Primary and Secondary Students

*"Now I can read and write as a result of the Adult Literacy Education program."  
Yeshi, Outreach Mom*

*"Zelalem provides me with the support and guidance I need most. Because of his communication and close follow up about my education, I am succeeding. He longs and strives to give us better education."  
Belisuma, Selamta Youth*

# HEALTH



Maintaining the health and wellness of 8 Forever Families and the children of our Kids' Center is no small task. Tigist, Selamta's full time nurse, ensures every family understands how to manage chronic conditions, coaches moms on how to treat acute sickness, and walks with our families as they navigate the complexities of medical care in Ethiopia. Consistent access to medication can be a challenge, but Tigist uses her professional network to make sure our families' needs are met and children receive the right dose at the right time.

- Health Care Workshops
- Preventative Care
- Managing Chronic Illnesses
- Vaccinations
- Blood Donations with Red Cross
- Access to Specialized Care
- Sourcing Medication in Ethiopia

*"Tigist provides us with health education and advice, which is helping my family live a healthy lifestyle. She works to get us the care we need on time and follows up with me frequently regarding my health condition. I no longer have to worry as much about my health issues, which has allowed me to focus on my education."*  
**Yeshi, Selamta Youth**



# PSYCHOSOCIAL



At Selamta, we are constantly learning more about how adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress, and trauma dramatically affect the mental health and wellness of our families. Through a trauma-informed approach, Selamta's psychosocial team is taking steps to better serve our families. Unhealthy generational patterns, abuse, neglect, and loss all leave their mark on the brain and body. But where there is breath there is hope. Healing is possible. Dignity and restoration are the focus of our psychosocial team and Selamta moms.



- Trauma Informed Care Training
- Trauma Healing Group Workshops
- Group Discussions about Responsibility and Controlling Emotions for Boys
- Support for Launching Youth
- Individual and Group Counseling

*"The knowledge, skill and preparation the women have empowers them to help the kids and provide them with special care and unconditional love."*

**Eskeदार, Head Mom**



# SPIRITUAL



Holistic care requires intentional emphasis on the spirit. At Selamta, who we serve will never be determined by what someone believes or does not believe. Organizationally, our foundation is built on following the teachings of Jesus. We believe having a personal relationship with God will always be more important than the denomination or the specific church someone chooses to attend. Because of this, we provide opportunities for our families to read the Bible, apply the Word of God to everyday life, and grow in faith together.

- 20 Youth Attended Young Life Camp
- 3 Youth are Young Life Leaders
- Weekly Bible Studies at Kids' Center
- Faith Development through English Summer Camp
- Community and Prayer Groups
- Sleepover and Movie Nights with Mentors



*"God is my everything. Since my father is not around, God is the only Father that I know. He has been the provider of my family since my father died."*

**Michael Tadesse, Outreach Youth**

*"My calling as a believer is to help these kids come to know God. We can feed them, anybody can do that. Anybody can shelter them. Anybody can send them to school. But I believe at Selamta, our main goal, as much as it is clothing them or feeding them, is to help them know God personally."*

**Tamrat, Selamta Ethiopian Director**

# KIDS' CENTER



For years, we dreamed of the day Selamta would be able to serve more children who were waiting to know the love of a family. Last year, we cast a vision for 2019 and by the grace of God, it has become a reality. With your support and generosity, Selamta established a new Kids' Center in our neighborhood this summer.

The Kids' Center serves as a transition home for children coming out of government institutions and into the loving arms of a family. Our team serves each child by getting to know them personally, understanding their history, searching for potential biological family with our partner, Retrak, and preparing them to enter their Forever Family. This process takes 6-12 months depending on the child or sibling group.

Each child is fully assessed for medical needs, educational support, psychosocial counseling, and has the opportunity to grow in their faith. We're thrilled to announce that every child started the 2019/2020 school year attending local schools, some for the very first time.

Our newest Selamta Mom, Alemtsehay, is training and living at the Kids' Center, preparing to establish her Forever Family.



- 17 New Kids
- 2 Sets of Siblings
- 2 Girls Enrolled in Deaf School
- Sign Language Classes Weekly with Child Evangelism Fellowship
- Dedicated Social Workers Building Relationships



# HEART & HOME

**SPONSOR TODAY**

**\$25/mo or more**

Neighbor

**\$125/mo**

Mentor

**\$750/mo**

Family

Becoming a Heart & Home sponsor is a tangible way to restore family, dignity, and hope to orphaned and abandoned children in Ethiopia.

*"We believe it is important to come alongside Selamta because children best realize their potential in a family. And Ethiopia's children represent enormous potential!"*

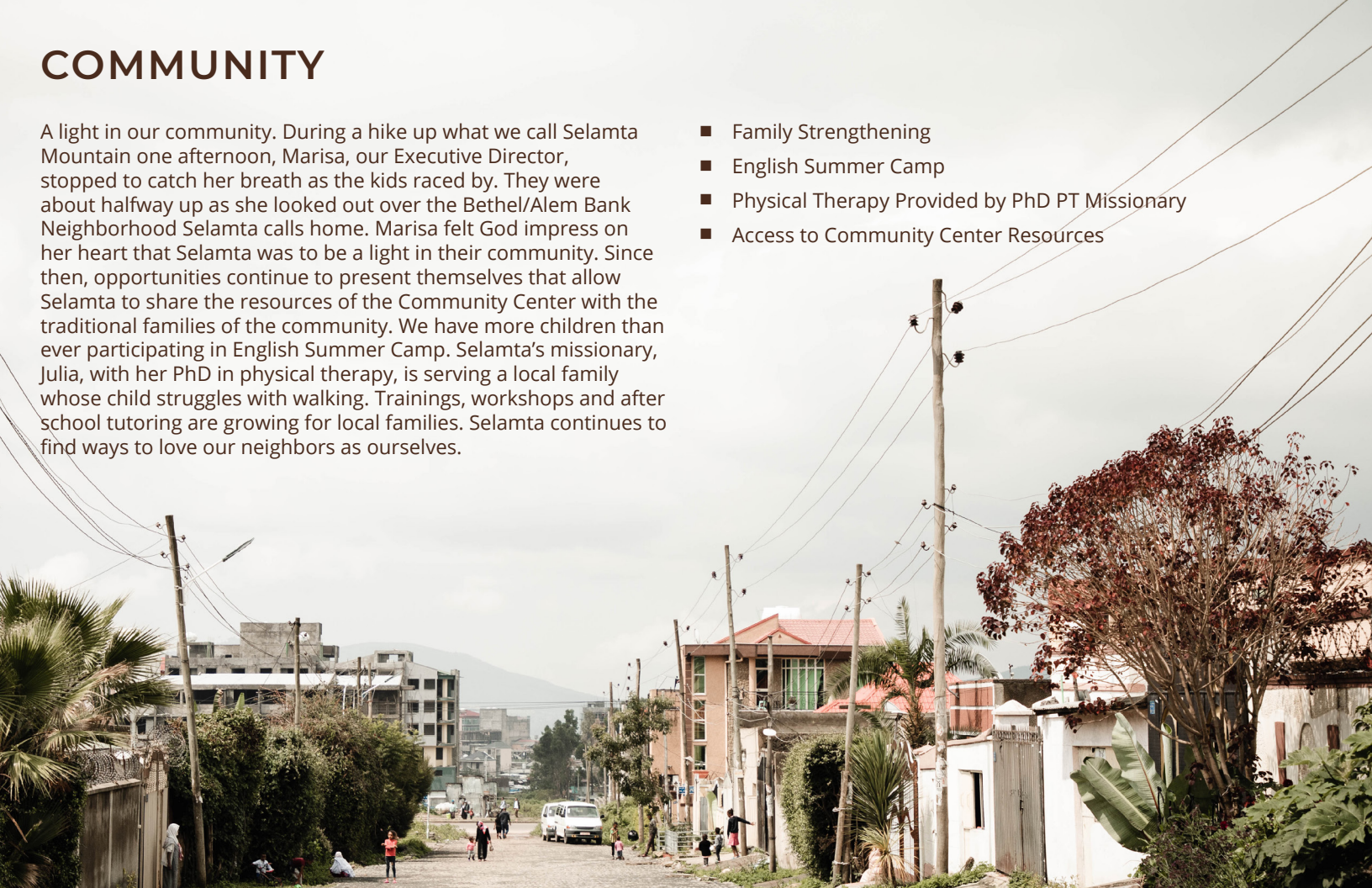
*- Rebecca, Selamta Sponsor*



# COMMUNITY

A light in our community. During a hike up what we call Selamta Mountain one afternoon, Marisa, our Executive Director, stopped to catch her breath as the kids raced by. They were about halfway up as she looked out over the Bethel/Alem Bank Neighborhood Selamta calls home. Marisa felt God impress on her heart that Selamta was to be a light in their community. Since then, opportunities continue to present themselves that allow Selamta to share the resources of the Community Center with the traditional families of the community. We have more children than ever participating in English Summer Camp. Selamta's missionary, Julia, with her PhD in physical therapy, is serving a local family whose child struggles with walking. Trainings, workshops and after school tutoring are growing for local families. Selamta continues to find ways to love our neighbors as ourselves.

- Family Strengthening
- English Summer Camp
- Physical Therapy Provided by PhD PT Missionary
- Access to Community Center Resources



# VISIT SELAMTA

There's no better way to fully understand the impact of Selamta Family Project than to see it for yourself. Meet with our team. Share a meal with a family. Build relationships with significance that will inspire you to take action when you come home. Week-long vision trips are an opportunity to learn the how and why of Selamta. English Summer Camp is an opportunity to share your skills and invest your time serving our families and local community. Visit our website for more details.

## SUMMER CAMP

- Conversational English
- 163 Kids Attended English Summer Camp
- Sign Language
- Sharing the Gospel
- Studied Examples of Role Models in History and the Bible

*"It was definitely a great experience to meet Mikiyas. I wanted to know what his life was like and his day to day lifestyle. It put many things into perspective."*

**Eyuel, Heart & Home Sponsor**



# LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The work of family building is long term. Long term programs require sustainability. Sustainability is rooted in our core mission support.

The Leadership Circle is a community of vision-oriented individuals, who invest in the core mission support of Selamta.

**The effectiveness and long-term impact of our programs relies on a solid core at the center of our organization.**

Investing in our infrastructure is strategic, effective, and absolutely critical. Strong programs are built on the ability to recruit and retain exceptional staff talent, and fuel the extraordinary effort that goes into building long term families. To successfully build Selamta Family Project for long-term growth, we need sustainable, renewable income. We are severely underfunded for the impact we're having right now.

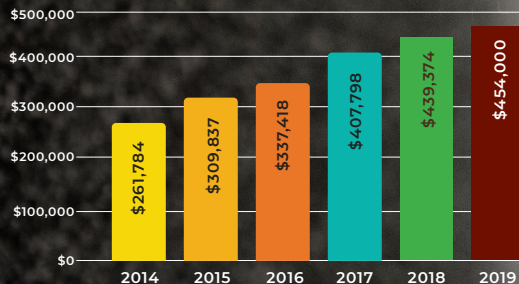
**We are seeking to establish an initial endowment fund of \$3.5 million assuming an annual average return of 6.5% or \$227,500.** This funding will be used for the core mission support of Selamta, allowing every dollar raised through sponsorship and general fundraising to go directly to Ethiopian programming.



# FINANCIALS



## REVENUE GROWTH



*"The training opportunities we got, here and abroad, also helped us assist our families better."*

Zelalem, Education Team Leader

*"For our mission to succeed long term, it's critical that Selamta Family Project continue to invest in operational infrastructure. With a solid foundation, we are harnessing the power of technology to build a better future for our families."*

Cori O'Brien, Volunteer, 2x Certified Salesforce Administrator



## FAMILY

He is a Father to the fatherless, defender of widows. This is God whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families. He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.

Psalm 68:5-6

## DIGNITY

God created mankind in his own image. In the image of God he created them. God looked over all he had made and saw it was very good.

Genesis 1:27 & 31

## HOPE

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



Selamta Family Project



[SelamtaFamilyProject.org](https://SelamtaFamilyProject.org)



@SelamtaProject

Thank you to Tim LaPointe and TheLaPointes.co for providing the beautiful photos inside.

