

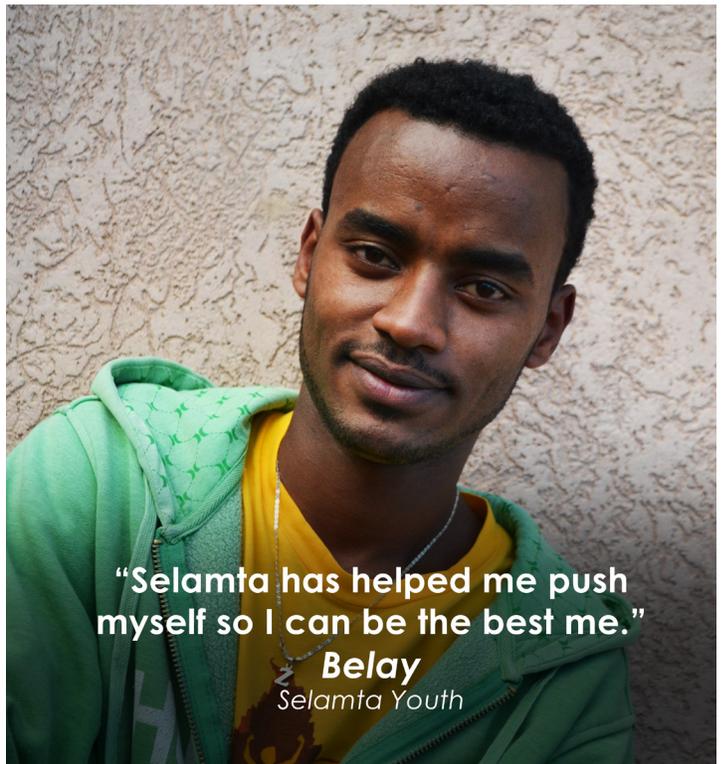


“Selamta gave me a second chance,
and I am what I am because of them.”

Zenebech
Selamta Mother



SELAMTA
FAMILY PROJECT



“Selamta has helped me push
myself so I can be the best me.”

Belay
Selamta Youth

THE FUTURE OF SELAMTA: WE HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE

This last year has been pivotal for Selamta Family Project.

We launched our first youths into independence, several of our kids are studying at university and vocational school and we're constantly forming new partnerships across Ethiopia and the U.S.

As we celebrate and reflect on our first 10 years, we know it's time to prepare for the next 10 years. We have a choice to make. We can either help the families we serve today grow up and call it a job well done (which it will certainly be!), or we can do that and replicate the model we've worked so hard to develop over the last 10 years, knowing that there are many more kids still on the streets of Ethiopia who need the love of family and the opportunities our current Selamta families have been given.

Our model works. We have the data to prove it and the stories of inspiring transformation that awe us. We've seen women, once hopeless, filled with purpose and determination. We've seen children, cast aside, become the leaders of tomorrow.

We have more to do and we need your help to do it.

While the plans are still being developed, we want you to be the first to know that we will be expanding. Once we have all of the details—the where, when and how—we will share them with you.

For now, we invite you to help us prepare. We're in the preliminary phases of planning, budgeting and sourcing out the best and brightest minds to advise and develop our strategic plan forward.

More than ever, we need your support.

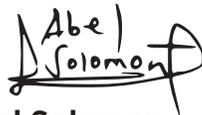
Financial support is critical, but so are your networks, connections and expertise. If you're willing, we'll take all the help we can get to make sure every Ethiopian child grows up in a loving, stable family. In the words of our founder, Carol Stone, "Love multiplies; it doesn't divide."

Join us to bring forever families and bright futures to the women and children of Ethiopia who are desperately waiting for the opportunity to love, be loved and learn to lead.

All the best,



Marisa Stam
Executive Director
Selamta Family Project



Abel Solomon
Ethiopian Director
Selamta Family Project



Jim Wasz
Board Chairman
Selamta Family Project

PLEASE CONSIDER US FOR A YEAR-END GIFT

As you think about your year-end contributions, we ask that you consider investing in us. We promise your gift will be put to excellent use. It will meet a need. It will serve our families. It will be used as a launching pad for the future.

You can make a gift by using the enclosed return envelope or going online to our website SelamtaFamilyProject.org and clicking the “Donate Now” button.

NEW OUTREACH FAMILY WELCOMED INTO SELAMTA

In early November, Selamta received a request from the Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs about a mother, Mekdelawit, 28, her two young children and their elderly great grandmother who were homeless, surviving together under a tarp in the remnants of a demolished home. They only had a mattress to sleep on and some old kitchen utensils covered with worn fabric. The roof was made of a plastic shade, and it was part of an alley where people smoked, chewed chat and drank alcohol—not a good location for a single mom and her family.

Even in the midst of homelessness, Mekdelawit's children attend school and love to learn. Sitota, meaning “gift,” is a healthy 10-year-old girl in fourth grade. She dreams of being a doctor. She loves physics and mathematics. Misr (lentils) and Firfir (injera topped with spiced injera) are her two favorite foods. She loves art, playing “Abarosh” and reading.

Arsema, age 6, is in grade KG-3 (upper Kindergarten). She is also a healthy and cheerful little girl. She wants to be a doctor too and is a fan of science subjects. Her favorite foods are eggs and vegetables. She loves “Eshkirkirosh” and plays “Emushe gela.” Like many children her age, she enjoys watching kids TV, including Tom and Jerry cartoons.



With help from Selamta, Mekdelawit's family is now in a safe home and off the street. Selamta staff will work with Mekdelawit to find stable employment so her family can be lifted from poverty and the girls will have every opportunity to live out their dreams of medical school one day.



**SEE THEM SOAR:
THREE KIDS—NOW ADULTS—LAUNCH FROM SELAMTA IN 2015**

For the last 10 years, we've dreamed of seeing our kids grow into the people they were born to be. This year, we had the privilege of launching our first Selamta children—now young adults—into independence. They are beginning the next phase of their lives filled with education, experience and support as they transition.



NATI

Nati has been studying drafting for several years. His interest in applied computer science led him to start an internet cafe with a friend in the local area. He continues to love soccer and plays on an adult league in Addis. Nati is paving his own way into adulthood.

MEKDES

Mekdes has a new job outside of Ethiopia; she currently lives in Beirut, Lebanon. She is working as a personal assistant and is thriving. Recently, she generously sent a gift back to us in support of Selamta. We are thrilled—not only because of her personal success—but because of the love she has for her family and her desire to give back to our organization.



YORDANOS

Yordanos is our most recent youth to launch from her family's home. She has secured a job working in retail and is renting her own space. We admire her tenacity and hard work and are thrilled that she is finding success independently.

2015 IS MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF LEAD THE WAY 5K EVER

Because of the tremendous support of our donors and volunteers—you!—our 2015 Lead the Way 5K was a fantastic success. With three organized event locations in New Hampshire, California and Florida, we raised \$50,000 for our programs. Our Ethiopian families wear their 5K shirts proudly knowing that friends halfway around the world stand with them as we all walk into the future together. **Thank you!**

UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT: SEVEN SELAMTA STUDENTS ATTEND UNIVERSITY



We have seven students currently attending universities nationwide. The national average of students who attend tertiary school in Ethiopia is 8%, but *Selamta is currently achieving four times that rate*. With many of our children age/grade mismatched and still in secondary school, we expect to see these numbers increase dramatically over the next three years as our youth complete high school and move into university and vocational training to pursue their bright futures.

We had two first-year university students launch their college journey this fall. Yohannes and Ermiyas both left home and began studying Engineering at Debre Birhan University and Debre Markos University, respectively.



Getu and Wondemagegn are attending their second year at university. Getu is at Bahir Dar University, one of the top schools in the country, studying Engineering, and Wondemagegn is at Dire Dawa University studying Textile Engineering. Although being apart is difficult for these two brothers, they are dedicated to their education and clearly see the value of their hard work. Frehiwot is also a second year student studying Engineering and is attending Debre Tabor University.

Belay is in his third and final year of his Business degree at Hope University in Addis Ababa. He is able to continue to live with his family and commute to school, and has worked hard throughout his college career raising chickens and selling goods in the family's shop.

Mekides is completing her fourth year at Gondar University and is on schedule to graduate this spring with a major in Psychology.

SELAMTA YOUTH AND STAR OF DIFRET VISITS THE U.S. FOR PREMIERE AND SCREENING TOUR

One month. Five screenings. Countless photo opportunities.

This was the reality for our very own Tizita Hagere, star of the award-winning film, *Difret*, presented by Executive Producer Angelina Jolie Pitt. The film also features two additional Selamta youth, Nardos Yoseph and Tigist Girma.

Tizita, affectionately known as “Tizzy,” journeyed across the ocean to share the film with U.S. audiences and participate in several screenings and Q&A sessions in cities including New York City, D.C., Hanover, NH and Lake Placid, FL with our Executive Director, Marisa Stam. During the events, Tizzy and Marisa shared Selamta’s work with new audiences and invited more people to join our expanding family.



In NYC, Tizzy experienced her first boat ride on the Staten Ferry, enjoyed the NYC skyline, Statue of Liberty and a run through Central Park. In D.C., Tizzy could smell the berbere spices on the streets in a city with a booming Ethiopian population. She visited the Smithsonian and enjoyed delicious Ethiopian food. She even packed up some “take away” injera, straight from Ethiopia, to take back to our home base in Florida.

The trip to New England provided the chance to connect with long-time friends who have supported Selamta from the very beginning and celebrate the first 10 years of Selamta’s success. Finally, the Sunshine State provided a warm respite during downtime where Tizzy could swim, ride horses and learn to ride a bike.

When asked about her favorite part of the screenings, Tizzy says she most enjoys the Q&As and interacting with our guests and supporters.



She’s still processing her experiences, comparing and contrasting the differences between the U.S. and Ethiopia. It’s a lot to take in for a teenager, but it’s a time in her life she will never forget.



SELAMTA STUDENTS ACQUIRE ADVANCED ENGLISH SKILLS AT SUMMER CAMP

This summer, we had the incredible opportunity to invite volunteers from across the U.S. to join us in Ethiopia to facilitate a six-week English Summer Camp. Through time well spent with “ferengi” (foreign) volunteers over the years, many of our kids have developed advanced English skills that are uncommonly found among their peers. However, for the first time at Selamta, we were able to provide an engaging and creative curriculum focused on speech, grammar, reading and comprehension.

Emily Gallagher, a Selamta Ambassador, spent months planning and creating this curriculum from the ground up to allow our kids to sharpen their English skills over a six-week period. While exploring the overall theme of “Tell Your Story,” they were exposed to captivating and interactive genres of storytelling through music, games, world culture, plays and short story writing.



Three teams of volunteers traveled to Selamta and each team spent two weeks facilitating alongside Emily. The volunteers were dedicated to helping each child understand the program and meeting them where they were at with their English skills, so the curriculum could reach it's greatest potential to help our kids.

The older Selamta kids (who weren't working summer jobs) were willing to help and would show up voluntarily to assist with translation.

On the second week of camp, one of our current university students who was home for the summer, Getu, took it upon himself to encourage our Camp Selamta students.

Having spent the last year at university, he now understands the challenges that they will face one day. Not only are the 8th, 10th and 12th grade National Exams in English, but so is every class in university. Getu can now see, through experience, the value of an opportunity like this. He told the students that their hard work now will prepare them for future endeavors.



We love that each new volunteer had the opportunity to meet our families and build relationships with our kids and moms. They were quickly welcomed into the Selamta family, which for many, can be a life-changing experience. Most importantly though, we love to see our kids thrive. Opportunities like this, where they can practically apply themselves and acquire new skills, will prepare them to be the leaders and influencers that they each have the potential to be. In July and August of 2016, we will be sending three, two-week teams to Ethiopia for another English Summer Camp. For more information or to apply, visit our website at SelamtaFamilyProject.org and click “Take a Trip.”



SELAMTA WELCOMES NEW STAFF IN THE U.S. AND ETHIOPIA

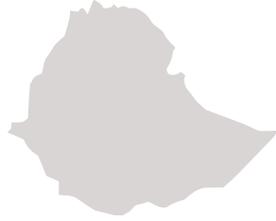


ETHIOPIA
Yonas
Finance & Facilities Manager

Etsegenet
Psychologist

Yemeserach
Social Worker

Zerihun
Guard



NEVER MISS A SELAMTA MOMENT AGAIN

We want to make sure you stay up to date on all of our happiest moments and achievements that you make possible at Selamta. We're communicating more and more through email, and we want to make sure you're staying in touch.

- *If we don't have your email address:* Write it on the reply envelope and we'll get you added to our e-communications.
- *If we do have your email address:* Check your spam! Sometimes emails can get stuck in that folder. Be sure to mark us as "not spam."

www.selamtafamilyproject.org

Lake Placid, FL 33862

PO Box 1857

FAMILY PROJECT

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