



SEL[♥]MTA
FAMILY PROJECT
2022 REPORT



Dear Selamta Family,

As we pause to reflect on all we've experienced in the last 12 months, we can't help but breathe in deeply and slowly exhale thinking about each life impacted, the unconditional love poured out, and the healing that's taken place. It's big work. It's hard, sometimes overwhelming, but always worth it. When you visit a Forever Family home or one of our community families for coffee or to share a meal, it's easy to forget why they came to us. We see joyful interactions, families loving and teasing, games being played, and academic growth celebrated. But Selamta exists because there are still kids out there who don't know that life. There are still kids out there deeply longing for the love and stability of a healthy family, who have yet to fully know their God-given dignity and worth. Thank you for being a part of this life-giving, kingdom-building work.

Marisa Stam
Executive Director

Tamrat Kebede
Ethiopian Director

Jim Wasz
Board Chair



MISSION

Selamta brings hope and healing to orphaned and abandoned children by recreating and empowering families.

VISION

Children growing up knowing their God-given dignity and worth through the love of a healthy family.

APPROACH

Selamta has been recreating and empowering families since 2006. Our ability to provide healing and restoration lies in the incorporation of wrap-around care, community integration, and permanency throughout every aspect of our programs. It all begins with an intentional relationship with one individual, one family at a time.

"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

WRAP-AROUND CARE



EDUCATION



PSYCHOSOCIAL



HEALTH



SPIRITUAL

Our holistic approach takes into consideration mind, body, and spirit. With a focus on our four cornerstones, our professional team is able to provide the structure and support necessary for each individual and family to grow and negotiate needs throughout all areas of life. Advocacy, empowerment, and encouragement are central to Selamta's wrap-around care. Approaching this work through a trauma-informed lens allows us to identify the unique needs of each individual and create an environment for healing and learning to take place. From there, extraordinary opportunities exist for our children and families.



"I was not at school before I came to Selamta and I didn't think I'd get the opportunity to learn. But now it is different. I am among the brave students in my school."

Mekdes, Forever Family Youth

"Our Nurse, Tigist, is welcoming and helpful for every inquiry we have. She gives the deserved concern for each child with any health issue. She doesn't immediately refer us to health centers. Instead she helps us using available and necessary resources including home remedies."

Alem, Selamta Mom

"I have benefited so much from the TBRI training; it is applicable for any family setting. I came to understand my kids' behaviors come from a place of survival because of what they have experienced, not willful disobedience. I no longer try to fix it right away or feel angry about it."

Mihret, Forever Family Aunt

"My relationship with God changed a lot since I started learning the Bible. The Bible study helped me to know and understand God as my Creator and Savior."

Hana, Forever Family Youth

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

We were created to live in community. Every community has resources, traditions, and a culture specific to that geographic region. Too often, children who have been orphaned or abandoned are placed in institutions, away from the general public, with little access to the world around them. How is a person supposed to function successfully in society when they haven't grown up in that world? It's simple, they can't. This is why Selamta families are scattered throughout a neighborhood allowing them to leverage local resources and attend local schools and churches. By participating in the daily activities of life alongside neighbors, they are valued members of their community.



"What is unique about our family homes situated in the community is that it makes you feel no different than others. No one would point at you saying, 'here comes the orphan'. You are part of the community just as everyone else."

Tamrat, Ethiopia Director

"I've been really lucky to come across opportunities to give back to my community. Being a volunteer has given me the opportunity to witness what it's like to care for children and their potential. And these opportunities to meet new individuals and network are made possible by such exposures."

Meklit, Selamta Youth

PERMANENCY

Permanency is necessary for felt-safety. It's not enough to know in your mind you're physically safe. You have to feel safe too. It's knowing you can trust and rely on the people and place you come home to at the end of the day. Family is more than the years of childhood, it's forever. There is no end date for Selamta's wrap-around support either. A family's ability to access the network of professional support provided through Selamta's Community Center is also forever. Life is a journey with ups and downs. Selamta is committed to being available to the families we serve throughout their lifespan.



"I am always proud to be part of Selamta. It has a great impact on my life. When I was a kid I was not wise & I didn't use those changes that Selamta gave to me. But still now Selamta supports me in every way. So all the help and support has made me a strong person for the rest of my life."

Mekides A, Launched Selamta Youth

"Before I joined Selamta I used to wonder how many places I would be placed before I have a settled and stable life, but now that changed and I feel like I am staying here forever."

Senayet, Selamta Youth

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

This page may just look like a group of numbers, but these numbers have huge implications. They reflect the immense growth and maturity of Selamta's wrap-around services over the years and our team's ability to track them effectively. They display the comprehensive support our professional team has been able to provide from September 2021 to September 2022 and the deep impact it has had on our Forever Families and Outreach families.

"Our partnership with Selamta has grown in a meaningful way through prayer and encouragement, attending workshops, meetings at various events, and sharing our visions, knowledge, experiences, and resources at different times. As a co-worker and a close friend, I have witnessed the work of Selamta grow in a remarkable way throughout the years under the leadership of Mr. Tamrat Kebede and his team."

Getahun Bezabih, Country Director at Out of the Ashes



EDUCATION

6,167

Tutoring and literacy sessions received by kids and moms

61

Higher education and career readiness training sessions



HEALTH

283

Health visits provided by our on-site nurse

30

Health training sessions including hygiene and reproductive health



PSYCHOSOCIAL

1,100

Hours of trauma healing and counseling sessions delivered to kids

1,672

Parenting and family strengthening sessions delivered to moms, caregivers, and staff



SPIRITUAL

410

Bible studies and prayer meetings attended by kids, moms, and staff

4

Selamta youth serving as Young Life volunteers

COMMUNITY CENTER

Every child deserves the love of a healthy family. However, not every parent grew up in a healthy family themselves. Often this leads to a breakdown in the family unit. The holistic approach of Selamta's Community Wrap-Around Program serves as a support system to prevent family separation and ensure children have a home, forever.

Selamta's Community Wrap-Around Program serves families who have experienced separation, single parents, families at risk of breaking apart, kinship caregivers, and foster/adoptive families. With a holistic approach, Selamta's Community Center and professional team provide relational support in our 4 cornerstone areas.

Selamta's Community Center provides critical training for parents and children. Our team provides advocacy for families, helping them negotiate their needs at home and in the community. At Selamta, family and community come together. It's where children are seen, heard, and valued. It's where parents can learn skills they didn't get growing up, changing negative patterns repeated through generations.

It's where family, dignity, and hope thrive.

"The Community Center is where I can find solutions for my problems. My kids can access the library and learn useful lessons. I also became literate because of the adult education program of the center."

Yeschi, Outreach Mom

"Selamta served us in so many ways from our childhood until now. They gave us the opportunity and provided what we needed to go to school. They gave me a chance to intern at a software company, helping me to be financially stable and gain knowledge."

Samrawit, Outreach Youth





OUT OF INSTITUTIONS

Selamta brings children out of institutions and into Forever Families. When kids come to us through a government referral from institutions or unsafe living conditions, they immediately come into the Kids' Center (KC), which can serve up to 18 children. The KC is staffed 24/7 by our new moms in training and supported by aunties.

It can take 6-18 months to understand a child's history, find any living family, and explore if reunification with their biological family is possible. Many kids come to us without any documentation, not even a birth certificate. Our team performs thorough backgrounding on each child to assess health status, education level, social/emotional needs, establish felt-safety, and create space for hope to take root. These are all critical steps before permanent placement in a family home.

"The KC is a place where kids can transition from institutional care into a family. We also use this time to get to know more about the background of each child. This allows us to see if things like reunification with their biological family is possible."

Habtie, Assistant Director

"Living at the KC was the best time in my life. I loved that year. We all did. That is where I learned that Selamta was a family and I belonged there. Before I lived at Selamta I was alone and people didn't want to be near me. At the KC I played with the kids, watched movies, and the older kids would read to me. That's where I learned that those people were my sisters and brothers. At the KC I started to realize that I was good enough. That I deserved a life like that."

Tizita, Selamta Youth

FOREVER FAMILY

All our Forever Family homes are located within one neighborhood in a suburb of Addis Ababa. Access to local schools, churches, and markets encourages our families to play an integral part in their community.

Proximity to the Community Center and other Forever Families creates an expansive and diverse network of support. Each family has the wrap-around care of our professional staff within walking distance and the camaraderie of neighboring Forever Families who share their lived experience. It's an extended family of brothers and sisters, moms and aunts, who are always there.

This rich environment allows our families to develop lasting relationships. Growing up in a stable home surrounded with the love of a healthy family gives children a strong sense of belonging and hope.



We are excited to announce the establishment of our two newest Forever Families, Arba Minch and Jimma Houses, comprised of the two Selamta trained moms and 18 kids we welcomed into the Kids' Center last year. As our families settle in together, we celebrate the healing that has taken place and relationships they have formed while anticipating what the bright future holds for these new families.

"I am very happy to see new children get a family. They get what I have. I see them dreaming and looking to their future. We have the same past. We have many things in common. They will grow up with a future like me. I will continue to visit them, even when I am living on my own. I will always remember my childhood."

Aschalew, Selamta Youth

LIFELONG NETWORK

At Selamta, no child ages out. Growing up surrounded by a loving family and a stable network of support allows our youth to dream and plan for their future. They have the opportunity to pursue tertiary education or vocational school with a collection of caring adults to guide and encourage them along the way.

When a young adult is ready, regardless of age, they enter Selamta's Pre-Launch Program. During this time of transition, as financial support decreases, we continue to walk with them in relationship as they manage the complexities of living life on their own.

Even as these young adults live independently and support themselves financially, they will always have a safe place to come back to. Whether it's their family home to share a meal and do laundry, or the Community Center to receive wrap-around care from our team, they have a lifelong network of support.

"Most of the boys at the orphanage don't have a goal for the future. When you ask them, they are not aware of what they want to be in the future. Mostly because they don't know if they have a future."

Anonymous, Social Worker in a Government Institution

"I learned a lot from Selamta, like how I take care of my kid and family. Love is the foundation for all kids. So I will be a great mom for my child."

Mekides A, Launched Selamta Youth

"It has been years since I launched from Selamta, but my relationship with my family is always the same. I visit them two or three times a week. Also, I spend every holiday with them, they are part of my life."

Mekides C, Launched Selamta Youth



*"Family is everything.
Happiness, life, it is everything to me."*

Our team recently visited Yordanos, one of our launched youth who now lives in Addis with her husband and three year old daughter. As she opened up and shared about her life, she reflected on the impact Selamta has had over the years from her childhood, her years growing up in a Forever Family, and even now as she plans for her future.

"Before, when I was with my grandma and after she died, my life was so hard. I didn't get a proper education, healthcare, or even food. When I came to Selamta I got these kinds of things: health, love, and even connection."

When she was young, Yordanos and her sisters lived with their grandmother. She shares that her biological mother was unable to care for them, and her father was not present. Their situation only got worse when her grandmother passed, and they were left on their own with an uncertain future.

Like most children who lose their closest relative and caregiver, they could have ended up living on the streets or in an institution. Siblings are often split up and face situations no child should have to experience. Instead, this sibling group was welcomed into a Forever Family with the opportunity to grow up together, forever.

"It is very amazing and happy to grow up with my biological sisters. Selamta is a place where you can get love, big love."



Today Yordanos is married, working in communications and marketing, and has a young daughter to whom she is able to show love. She learned how to be a mom and care for her own home from her Selamta mom, Tiruye.

"I learned from my mom Tiruye, she's a good mom. She taught me what it looks like to be a mother. Every Selamta mom is my role model, because they are so strong, they give us big love, they are very patient. Taking care of all those kids is very hard but they are doing very well and properly, they are my role models. I didn't receive love from my (biological) mom, but my daughter gets that love. She has her mom with her every day."

Surrounded by the love of a family and the support of the Selamta team, Yordanos has been able to grow and create her own beautiful family, stopping the cycle of generational brokenness. She has dreams and goals for her future, and is making plans to achieve them. She has plans to go back to school to get her Masters in Business Administration with the hope to one day start her own business and buy a home. She will always have her family to encourage her and Selamta's team to guide and support her as she works to achieve these goals.

Through Selamta, Yordanos has seen what is possible for herself and other children with a similar history. This allows her to dream of a brighter future for generations to come.

"I hope for every Ethiopian kid to get family, support, and love."



HEART & HOME

Heart & Home Monthly Partners provide the sustainability Selamta families need to thrive. Your monthly gift brings children out of institutions and into Forever Families.

"While in the orphanage I had everything I needed, including medication and good education. But I didn't have a family, which is more important than all those things put together."

Mehari, Selamta Youth

\$25/mo or more

Neighbor

\$125/mo **\$250/mo**

Mentor

Family

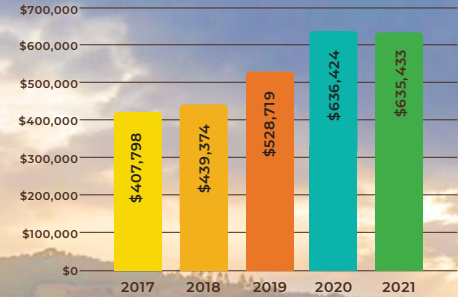
**SCAN
QR CODE
TO JOIN**



FINANCIALS & VISION FORWARD

Looking ahead, we plan to intentionally grow the impact of our programs, serving more orphaned and vulnerable children with excellence. Strategically, this will be done by creating new Forever Families, expanding our Community Wrap-Around Care, and investing in partnerships with like-minded organizations. We aim to see more children growing up in healthy families by empowering vulnerable families, wrapping around adoptive families, and welcoming children into new Forever Families. By keeping families together and bringing children out of institutions, we believe deep healing and restoration is possible, impacting generations to come.

REVENUE GROWTH



Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

DONATE NOW



*"Family - it looks different in every culture
but you recognize it when you see it."*

"This is what kept coming to my mind while filming the work of our partner Selamta Family Project. During my time in Ethiopia, I heard first-hand the stories of those living in orphanages - and those who found a family through Selamta. The difference between these children in their mental, physical, and spiritual well-being was vast. With so many children losing their childhoods and adulthoods due to the negative effects of life on the streets and orphanages, Selamta's family approach is an encouragement to those who look out for the best interest of children in their care."

Samuel Rich, Filmmaker & 1MILLIONHOME Team Member

Huge thanks to Samuel Rich for capturing the beautiful photos inside this report.



Selamta Family Project



SelamtaFamilyProject.org



@SelamtaProject



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