

ETHIOPIA, AFRICA



**BLESSING THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL**

2265 FRASER ROAD  
KAWKAWLIN, MI 48631

[WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG](http://WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG)

**ADANA CHILDREN CENTER**



# It's no Life for a Child



## Make a Difference – by SENDING

- Make a one-time Donation.
- Give to a Special Need.
- Be a monthly Donor.
- Sponsor a Child.

***A child needs you!***



Enduring childhood in Ethiopia is difficult, being one of the world's poorest countries. But when a child loses their parents, they become the poorest of the poor. The plight of an orphan in Ethiopia is one of hopelessness.

Life expectancy in Ethiopia is just 46 years of age. It's a country composed mostly of children in that 52% of its population is under the age of 18, and over a quarter of those are under five years old. It's no wonder that nearly half of the children are forced into child labor as families try to eke out their existence.

Average income in Ethiopia is less than 25 cents a day, but poverty is defined by more than "how little money one has."

### **Inadequate Food Supply**

One out of two children suffer from being malnourished and underweight, which weakens children's ability to resist attacks of the deadly diseases.

### **No Clean Water to Drink**

Only 11% of the people in urban Ethiopia have access to improved drinking water. This

leaves nine out of ten children drinking unsafe surface water from streams and puddles they share with their animals. Adequate sanitation facilities are worse yet with only 4% of urban Ethiopia having access. Due to these two factors, diarrhea is one of the major causes of death.

### **No Access to Medical Care**

One out of ten children die before reaching their first birthday, and one out of six die before turning five. Ethiopia is one of the countries hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic. Children do not need to have HIV/AIDS to be devastated by it. When HIV/AIDS enters a household by infecting one or both parents, the very fabric of a child's life is torn apart. There are 4 million orphans in Ethiopia, and 20% as a result of AIDS alone. Orphans generally represent the poorest segment of a society and suffer most with no parents to help and guide them in their struggle for survival in an already cruel world.

### **No Access to Education**

Adult literacy (able to read and write their name) is at 39%. Couple that with primary school attendance of only 30%, it's a continuing cycle.

***"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."***

James 1:27

Visiting the work personally is a great experience, but it's not for everyone. You can make as great an impact by sending your support, making it possible to care for the orphans and widows.

### **Special Needs**

Here are special needs that you might consider:

- Provide a complete School Uniform.....\$21  
(Shirt, pants or dress, underwear, belt, socks & shoes.)
- Grocery Blessing (for an impoverished family) .....\$75
- Provide a Bicycle (for a child to get to school).....\$122
- Sport Shoes for 50 children .....\$283
- Polo Shirts (school) for 100 children .....\$336
- Soccer Team's Uniforms (complete) .....\$480
- School Supplies for 35 Students.....\$691  
\$19.75 each: book bag, paper, pencils, ruler, scissors, etc.
- Provide a Teacher for one year .....\$2,820  
\$235/month fully supports a teacher, educating 35 children
- Construct a New Classroom.....\$7,250
- Add a New Wing to a School .....\$43,500
- Build a New Elementary School .....\$94,250

### **Become a Monthly Donor**

Donors giving monthly to 'where needed most' are a vital part of the ministry. Their support allows us to cover unexpected expenses that arise, and to make up any shortfalls in the budget from month to month. Their support also allows us to care for children as they are accepted and waiting for God to supply someone to be their sponsor.

### **Sponsor a Child**

Less than a dollar a day – just \$30 per month – will sponsor an orphaned or abandoned child, providing meals, clothing, education and healthcare. Upon receiving your first month's support, we will send you a profile of your child with a photo and family background. Plus, you will get to know your child more personally as you receive letters written by your child along with progress reports and updates.

It takes three sponsors to fully support a child. Some sponsors choose to be their child's sole support by fully sponsoring them for \$90/month.

### **Start Making a Difference Today**

Every penny given for Ethiopia, goes to Ethiopia. Because Blessing the Children covers its overhead from service revenues, when you give to the projects in Ethiopia, we are able to use 100% of your gift for the ministry in Ethiopia.

Make your check payable to:

**Blessing the Children International  
2265 Fraser Road  
Kawkawlin, MI 48631**

Or call with your credit card donation:

**888-269-2719**

If you prefer, you can ask that we auto-charge your card monthly.



# Make a Difference – by GOING

*Come & Experience Ethiopia.*

- Join one of our scheduled teams.
- Come for a few days or months.
- Serve long-term as a missionary.
- Bring a team from your church.

There are many ways to serve. Coming in person will allow you to experience the ministry firsthand. It's an experience that will change your life and that you'll never forget.

Activities of missionary teams and visitors differ greatly, depending on the individual. Some activities available are:

- Teaching English Classes.
- Organizing an Activity Day for children.
- Clothing and food distribution to the poor.
- Hosting VBS or Bible Study classes.
- Visiting sponsored children's homes.
- Teaching Parenting Classes.
- Construction work (cement work, painting, block laying, landscaping, cleaning).
- Life Skills Training (sewing, farming, food preparation, hygiene, medical care).
- Children Crusades & family fun days.
- Evangelistic Crusades & Special Services.
- Street witnessing and community outreach.

There are a myriad of other opportunities to serve children, build or help in local churches.

See scheduled team trips that you're welcome to join at: [www.BlessingTheChildren.org](http://www.BlessingTheChildren.org) or call 888-269-2719 and request a Mission Trip Kit.

Come on your own, with one of our teams or with your own church group... And you will have an experience of a life-time!



Homeless and impoverished orphans in Ethiopia are in need of care and education.

When children lose their parents to an illness like AIDS, a relative generally attempts to take in the child and care for them. When no relative is able to care for a child, they are forced to live on the street. For that child, all hope is lost. Life is hard enough for a child in Ethiopia, but with no one to care for them; they are the poorest of the poor.

Poverty in childhood is a root cause of poverty in adulthood. Impoverished children often grow up to be impoverished parents who in turn bring up their own children in poverty. To break the generational cycle, we must begin with children.

By helping the absolute poorest of the poor, we can make the greatest impact on society. With childhood being the foundation of the world's future; as orphan's lives are changed... so will it be with the generations that follow them.

**"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."**

— John W. Whitehead, *The Stealing of America*, 1983

Ethiopia has no child welfare programs.

With no governmental infrastructure established to care for orphaned and abandoned children, the local church is attempting to help the children.

However, with congregations comprised of people living on less than a dollar a day, they do not have resources to make a significant impact.



***Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."***

Matthew 19:14





# Hope has Arrived

Blessing the Children began a program in January 2008, to rescue 600 orphaned & impoverished children over the course of five years. We're providing hope for children through:

- A loving home to care for them.
- Food, clothes and school supplies.
- A church family with special programs.
- Complete medical care & checkups.
- Quality Education and English classes.
- Community impact initiatives.

As children are accepted, a loving family is identified to receive and care for them.

## TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY

More than providing a child a home, we work with our foster families to receive land from the government, and provide vocational training to produce a sustainable income for the family. They're also given life-skills training and parental counseling.

While children receive many provisions through the support of their sponsor, we are doing more than **giving** them a fish – we are **teaching** them to fish!

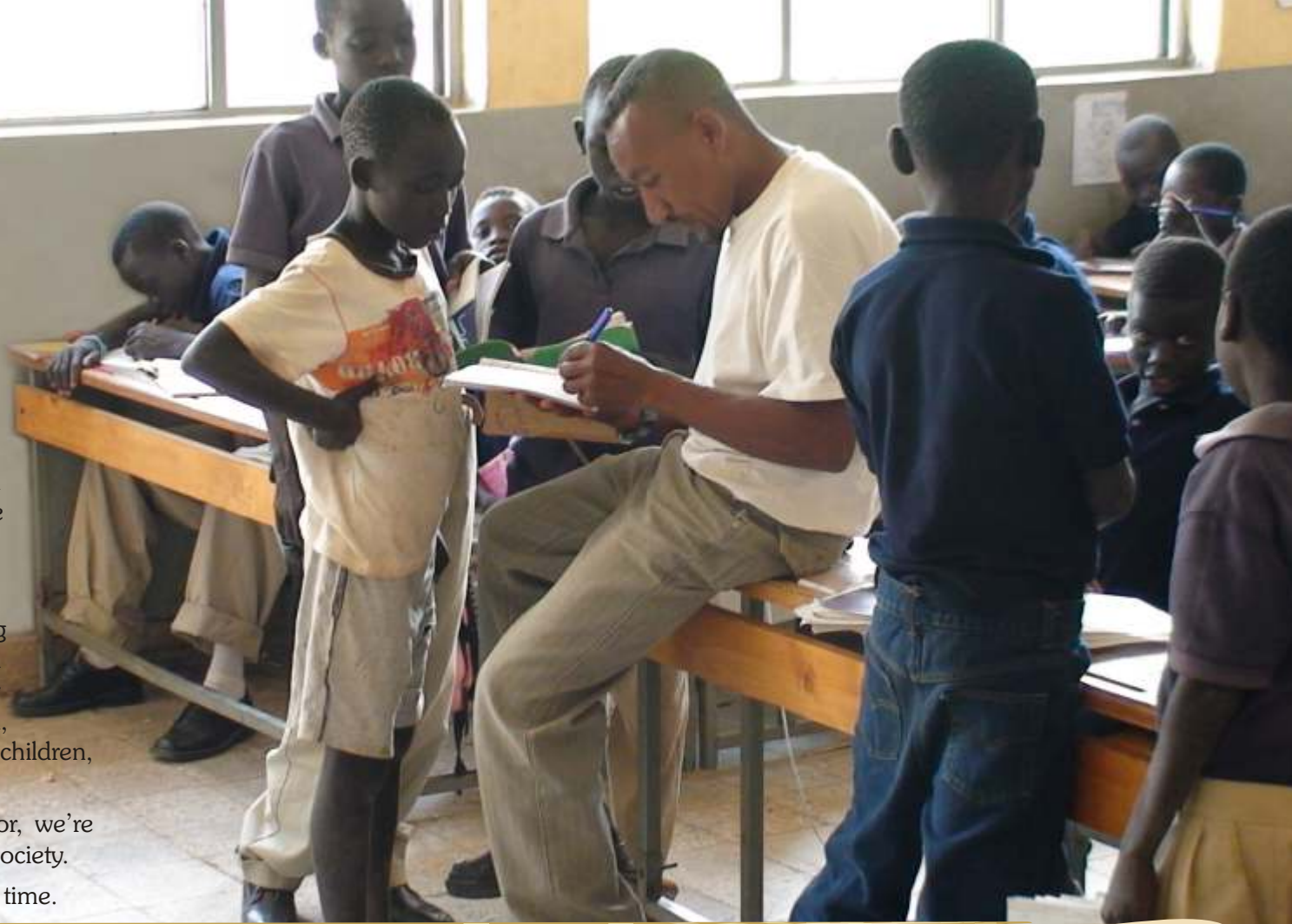
We help families identify micro-enterprize to generate income, and then help them in various aspects to achieve that goal.

## OASIS OF LOVE

The Adana Children Center is being constructed as an oasis of love in a destitute land, on property provided by the government. It will contain a school, community center and housing for children, teams and missionaries.

As we care for the poorest of the poor, we're significantly impacting an impoverished society.

There is hope, working with one child at a time.



## EDUCATION IS KEY

A nation's poverty is best addressed by starting with its children. While children only constitute a third of our population, they are all of our future.

Even with only one out of three children going to school, Ethiopian schools are overcrowded with

70 children per classroom, lack of materials, and poorly trained teachers. A quality education is only available through private schools with higher standards of academic excellence. Unfortunately, private schools are full and have waiting lists.

Attending a private school costs \$15/month, and the quality of education is significantly better than public schools. In order to provide sponsored children the best education possible, they attend a private school or a Blessing the Children school where available. If such a school is not available, they will attend a government school and receive private tutoring to supplement their education.

Regardless of where a sponsored child attends school, missionary volunteers work with children as tutors when they are struggling in school.

In addition, sponsored children also attend special English classes three days a week, taught by English speaking missionaries.

## ASSISTING WIDOWS

In selecting families to care for orphaned children, we've found that the best families are those whose natural children are grown and out of the home.

Widowed mothers also make excellent homes for orphaned children. Not only are the children loved and cared for by her now, but when she is old, the grown children will care for her as their own mother.

## SOCIAL INTEGRATION

A great challenge faced by orphanages is that the children they raise are cut off from their natural community. If they enter the institution early in life, it is the only community they know or that knows them. The young adult is sent out into a society without any roots; no family, no neighbors whom they know or who will help them.

In a third world country, it is much like it was 300 years ago in America. People depend on each

other to raise a barn, bring in a harvest, borrow money for treatment if they become ill, etc. A child raised in an orphanage does not have the family and community relationships to be able to survive. They are aliens among their own people.

The design of the Master was not for a child to be raised by an institution – a child needs a family.

Orphaned and abandoned children raised by loving families, keeps the child integrated into the community (a social support structure).

## THE LOCAL CHURCH

Every child is joined to and becomes active in a local church. We work with all evangelical denominations to reach needy children and give them a church family as well as a foster family.

Missions teams and short-term missionaries work in the local churches of Debre Zeyit, teaching, preaching and helping to evangelize the region.

