



DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
St. Mary's Provincial House, P.O. Box 28
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia.



December 4 /2018

Dear friends and benefactors,

Christmas is the time to touch every heart with love and care; it is the time to receive and send blessings. This is a perfect time to thank God for His abundant blessings and to thank all of you, our highly valued benefactors and partners, for the generous support that we have received. Your support and generosity have enabled us to reach out to persons who are poor and whom society has marginalized.

The mission of the Community is to help people maintain and enhance their God-given dignity by making them agents of their own development. This mission is carried out through ministries such as education, health care, women's promotion, pastoral care and youth ministry, service to migrants/refugees, support to homeless people, care for the elderly, support to persons with disabilities, and helping children in difficult situation and children on and off the street. All these are offered in order to protect the dignity of the human person.

Education: The Community of the Daughters of Charity is convinced that education is one of the most powerful instruments that enable individuals and society to reach their potential, empowering them to change the world and make it a better place to live in. Hence, we provide students who come from very poor socio-economic background with good quality education. All the kindergarten schools follow the Montessori system, which ensures the children's holistic development. Besides providing free education, some of our schools serve a simple lunch, particularly to kindergarten pupils. For some children, this is the only meal they receive in the day.

| <i>Institutions for education</i> | No. of pupils |
|---|----------------------|
| <i>Kindergartens (14)</i> | 2100 |
| <i>Primary schools (Grades 1 - 8)</i> | 3198 |
| <i>Secondary school (Grades 9 – 12)</i> | 565 |
| <i>Montessori Training Institute</i> | 96 |
| <i>Skills Training</i> | 690 |
| <i>Sponsored children (pupils)</i> | 1,565 |
| <i>Children with special needs</i> | 12 |
| Total | 8,226 |

Health Care: The Community of the Daughters of Charity runs five institutions providing health care (see table below). These institutions are generally situated at the peripheries and serve very marginalized people 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In the fiscal year 2017, the direct beneficiaries totaled 212,153, and an additional 848,612 people benefited indirectly.

| Health Institutions | No. of patients |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Alitena Health Center | 19,985 |
| Mekelle Eye Clinic | 87,647 |
| St. Mary's Laboratory | 9,596 |
| Alecu General Clinic | 14,725 |
| Danka Poly Clinic and Eye Clinic | 80,200 |
| Total | 212,153 |

As always, activities in these health care institutions also included health education, awareness-raising for prevention, personal and environmental hygiene, and care for the environment. Likewise, laboratory services, counseling, nutrition and child care supports are part and parcel of the health care services provided in both the base clinics and the outreach sites.

All in all, 7,043 people have been helped through different community development and social support services during the 2017 fiscal year. These services include skills training, shelter/housing support, and financial support to start income-generating activities and meet basic needs. The 7,043 direct beneficiaries have 21,129 indirect beneficiaries. These are the family members of the direct beneficiaries who have benefited from your support in one way or another. Refugees and victims of

human trafficking are other categories of beneficiaries who have been supported with regard to their basic needs.

And so, as the Community counts its blessings, we thank God and you whose kindness and generosity have touched the lives of thousands of people. All human beings desire and deserve to live a dignified life. Thank you for enabling us to fulfill this desire for those God has entrusted to our care. May you forever remain in God's blessings and may you continue to be a light in peoples' lives.

We wish you all joy at Christmas and peace at the New Year and throughout 2019.

With my prayerful best wishes and sincere gratitude.

Sr. Hiwot Zewde D.C.

Sister Hiwot Zewde, D.C.

Provincial: Daughters of Charity – Province of Ethiopia