

**10**ETHIOPIAN  
CHURCH  
PARTNERS**200**FAMILIES CARED  
FOR THROUGH  
HBC PROGRAM**143**ECONOMIC  
EMPOWERMENT  
MEMBERS**3**INDIVIDUALS  
RECEIVED  
MEDICAL CARE**600**FOOD  
BASKETS  
DISTRIBUTED

## ETHIOPIA NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Happy New Year! We're praying 2025 is a year of blessing and deepening faith for you and for the families in our program. Did you know that Ethiopia uses its own unique calendar? In Ethiopia, it's actually the year 2017. And Christmas is celebrated on January 7th!

In October, we took some time to rest and retreat. Our staff, along with all of the church coordinators, took a few days outside of the city, spending time in worship and prayer together. All the kids also got to have a special day of retreat. Each church chooses a fun outing, such as a picnic, a visit to a park, or arcade, and the children get to enjoy a day of fellowship and fun! We are grateful that both the staff and the kids took some time to re-energize!

One story from this past quarter we'd like to share is a testimony of hope and healing. In 2023, we met a mom in the program whose 13 year old son, Robel, had been hit by a car two years prior, and experienced a traumatic brain injury. Since the accident, he has been bed-ridden, unable to speak or move, except for subtle head and hand movements. His mother struggled to care for him, along with her two other kids. She did not know how to meet his specific needs, nor did she have any assistive equipment. Our staff found a nearby physical therapist who could help. At first, the mother was resistant, not wanting to get her hopes up and be disappointed again. But after some encouragement, she agreed to the therapy. In only a few months' time, Robel has shown huge improvement! He's moving

and communicating more, and his mom is now so thankful and filled with hope! We're also providing them with a small washing machine so his mom does not have to wash soiled sheets each day. It's a joy to see the US church coming alongside this family in prayer and support. This is the beauty of church partnership! Renewed hope and transformation.

## Wholistic Care in Ethiopia

Social Worker, Martha Admasu, facilitated reproductive Health and Family Planning training at 2 churches with the caregivers. This training is invaluable in helping the caregivers understand their reproductive cycles and how to avoid pregnancy in seasons where they desire to wait. This knowledge is helping them to delay pregnancies while trying to provide food, medical care, and education for their existing children. Martha also continues to meet with and provide counsel to caregivers and children on an 'as needed' basis.



## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN ETHIOPIA

The caregivers who received loans in September are working hard in their businesses. There are no repayments due in the first 3 months, so December was their first month to make a payment. So far, they are all on track and making progress. Please pray for their continued success!







