

# ETHIOPIAN IMPACT

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[www.ethiopianimpact.org](http://www.ethiopianimpact.org)



## A PLACE TO CALL HOME: THE STORY OF THE 16TH BATCH OF STREET BOYS AT THE HOPE CENTER

Transformation, resilience, and hope is a testament to the power of love, and faith. The dedicated leaders - Dereje & Ephrem - have created a place to call home and developed a foundation on which young street boys can build a better future. With a compassionate, holistic approach, many young lives are being profoundly affected.



### The Journey Begins:

Long before welcoming new boys into the Center, the Youth Impact team prayerfully prepares the facilities and their hearts for a new batch of boys. The team consists of Dereje, the Senior Counselor & Coordinator; Ephrem, a former street boy in the program, the Housekeeper; Enat & Emebet, the cooks and Tmesgen, the guard. They ensure that the facilities and materials are ready by setting up the administrative structures, facilities and conducting a careful selection process for the new boys.



### SELECTION & ADMISSION:

The selection process is about building relationships as much as evaluating potential candidates. The Hope Center team meets boys at local soccer fields, engaging them in play and slowly building trust. Through the interactions, the team learns about each boy's situation, challenges and aspirations. The careful approach ensures that the selected boys are ready and willing to embrace the opportunity for a new life. In September 2023, 12 street boys were admitted to the Hope Center. Over the following six months, the boys received holistic mentoring services, shelter, food, clothing, character-building lessons, Bible lessons and recreational activities

## A New Beginning

The Hope Center quickly becomes more than just a shelter... it becomes a Home. For many, it is the first place where they have a sense of belonging. Surrounded by a loving family, the boys find stability and hope. They are introduced to the Good News through continuous Bible lessons about The Sermon on the Mount. For over six months, this study leads many to a life transformation and confession of faith then baptism at a local church. The boys regularly attend church and learn fundamental lessons of faith.

## Moving Forward:

By the end of February 2024, all 12 boys successfully completed the six-month in-house mentoring program. Upon departure, each boy left with emotional support and practical assistance such as their mattress, bedsheets, blankets and ETB 15,000 in start-up money for purchasing basic supplies. Youth Impact continues with mentoring and close follow-up support as they transition to independent living.

## A Better Future for Most:

Six months after leaving Hope Center, 11 of the 12 boys are leading stable lives. Seven have embraced independence, finding jobs and securing their own homes. Four boys have successfully re-united with their families and now have better opportunities to learn and grow. One boy's fate is uncertain as he left Addis Ababa upon graduation and Youth Impact has not heard from him.



Dereje, the Hope Center coordinator with Natnael, Desta & Bereket, 2024 graduates of The Hope Center

## The Journey of Natnael, Desta & Bereket

These three boys in the 16th Batch at the Hope Center became rising stars, proving that with faith and hard work, even the most challenging circumstances can be overcome. Immediately after joining the Center, these three became close friends, walking the path of change together and are living together upon graduation. They fully absorbed the lessons taught and discovered newfound sense of purpose. All three decided to make Jesus their Savior, were baptized and are working to follow as disciples of Christ. Within three months of the program, they each started small jobs and were able to save up some money. Natnael, who had no academic background began to learn to read and write. All three are now enrolled in night school and are eagerly catching up on the education they missed when living on the streets.

Six months after completing the program, these three live together in a rented group house and are working hard, meeting their financial needs, providing for their families and saving money monthly. Beyond their financial achievements, the boys are also growing in their faith, attending church regularly and sharing their faith with people in their circles.



## Prayers :

We ask and covet your prayers for the work in Ethiopia:

- Pray for the country as it continues with devastating poverty and unrest due to the civil war & government challenges.
- Pray specifically for the boys in the HOPE CENTER - the ones who have graduated and the ones who are soon to join.
- Pray for the strength of the ministry staff - for patience and faith in their work - that they not become discouraged.
- Pray for our hearts to be open to generosity for this ministry. Youth Impact continues to need monies to keep the programs running.