

# OPERATION RESCUE CHILDCARE PROJECTS



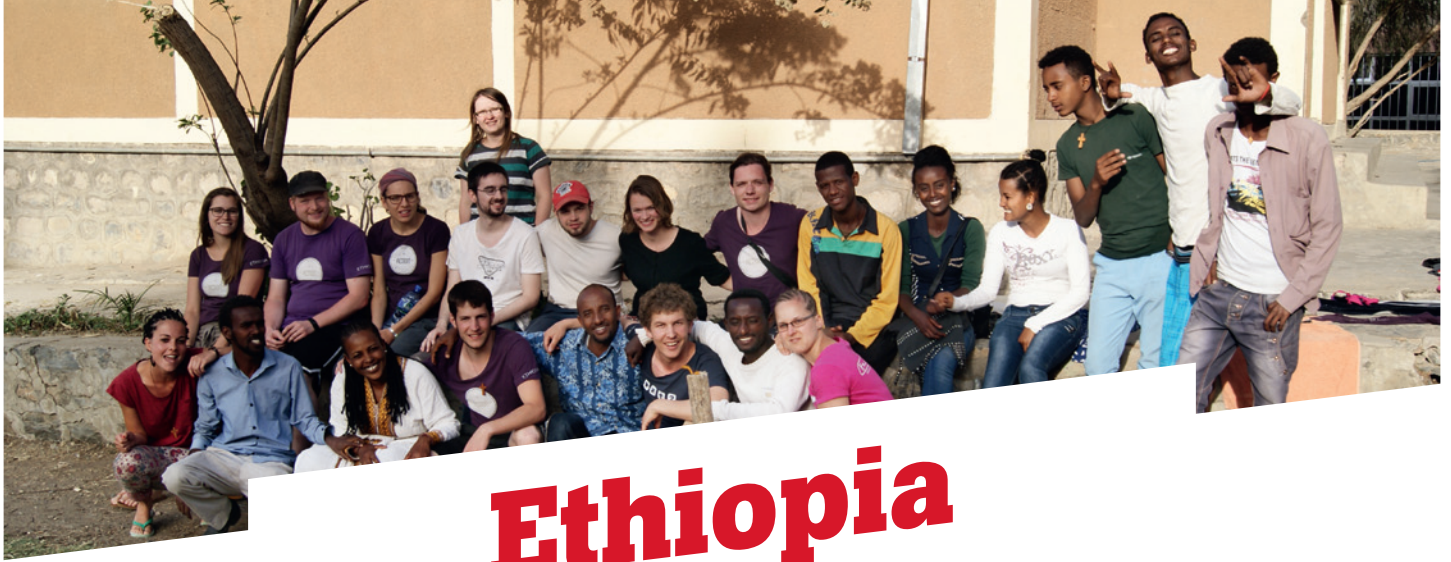
## Newsletter AUGUST 2015

### FROM SWITZERLAND

Patos, 40 degrees. The project is a hive of activity - right in the middle are the two community service workers Michael and Martin. They were so moved by the work, the kids, the project that they decide together to do something for Operation Rescue. A few months later: Rütli ZH, significantly less warm. The two have now implemented their plans and organised one of the biggest fundraisers for Operation Rescue. For one evening visitors bid on items for ORE, they heard stories from the project, enjoyed delicious meals and were even treated to live music. The effort was well worth it: About CHF 8000 came together and many new contacts were created. Thank you to the organizers and all helpers for your wonderful dedication! The larger our projects are becoming, the wider must Operation Rescue be supported. If you see any opportunity where we can present our work - be it for example with a stand or a presentation - we will be more than happy to help with the planning and implementation.



Martin and Michael making an auction for Operation Rescue



# Ethiopia

Operation Rescue Ethiopia is like an anthill: Every day numerous hard working staff and volunteers can be seen buzzing around and helping where help is needed to make sure that something great can arise from our projects. So much is happening that it is difficult for outsiders to keep track. All the more we are impressed again and again, when we notice how well the project managers have everything under control and at a glance!

A part of this great „anthill“ was when again this year a team of 'Factory Switzerland', 24 people engaged over several weeks in various ORE projects. They were occupied in building, teaching and playing sports with the children and also visited families of the children in their homes.

For their mission they had collected money for wood which could be used to build houses. Unfortunately as the wood in Ethiopia proved to be of poor quality for construction they did not build the planned guest house from wood, but instead used it for several other useful things like a roof and a stage which were constructed. However the raised funds were made available for the construction of an Ethiopian style guest house and the work on the foundations is already in full swing.

One group that visited Adigrat, followed the children's example and took a shower in the rain still fully clothed. For them and the children this was a particularly funny and memorable experience.

The visitors were seen as a great asset by the staff and the children, because they actively participated in the events and their talents had a chance to shine in different locations.

In Ethiopia, we employ seven social workers who visit all of our children on a monthly basis. They report that the children generally develop well. Nevertheless, there are always families in need of change and special assistance. Where we can, we offer help either with a single donation of money or material things (for example, food, rent or a mattress). At the moment we support in this way the families of 30 of our children in addition to what they receive in the day-care centre. There are also cases where children have conflicts with their guardians. In these cases, we try to mediate between all parties where they are so that peace can be restored.

Operation Rescue received another visit in Mekele by some eye specialists from the United Kingdom. They examined the eyes of our blind students and the children in the day-care centre. Many received treatment, their eyes were washed and they were given tips on eye care.

From the donated money for the minibus we bought a Toyota SUV. It corresponds more to local needs than a minibus. Due to delivery problems, there was a delay but now the car has finally arrived and is already actively used! Many thanks!

Factory-Team building a stage



A family that is being supported by us







In Adigrat nine of our children who had the best school grades received an award for their efforts. Also Yonas, one of our staff, was honoured for his dedication to Operation Rescue. He gives private lessons and organises a network for children, in which they come together in their living quarters to learn and support each other with their homework. These awards

should motivate the children to work hard for their education. The children of the project centre can join every Friday in the coffee ceremony of the employees. That gives them the opportunity to talk to them about issues, concerns and fears and get valuable advice.



# Brazil

The children are always looking forward to the return of volunteers or community service workers who are coming back the second or even the third time to Patos. Sarah was the seventh Swiss woman who returned for at least the second time to Operation Rescue. With her lively English lessons she brought a change to the daily routine.

Holidays are very special highlights in Brazil: there is, for example, the day of literature. Many people in Patos can neither read nor write - although that is very important to get a job and be able to break out of poverty. Therefore, the project's aim this year is to make books more attractive for the children. For this purpose famous children's stories were theatrically acted

out with beautiful costumes. Red Riding Hood, the Beauty and the Beast and many Brazilian stories were staged by staff and children and were an absolute highlight.

The Mother's Day became also a major event with a celebration for 70 mothers. The theme of the event was „consolation“ and was implemented through decorations and dance performances. The beauty contest especially was a welcome change for the moms from the often difficult conditions of their daily lives. Furthermore, the children and the staff honoured Nilma. Even though she has no children of her own she has become a mother for all children of Operation Rescue.

Sarah's English lessons



Mother's Day with ballet performance







The mothers, our guests at Mother's Day celebration

Due to a water shortage the big water tank on the roof was totally dry in March which is in the middle of the local summer. While water had to be pumped with boilers from the cistern, the opportunity was used to clean the empty container. Because of the intense heat the maintenance of our infrastructure is very labour intensive. In spring roofs, walls and football tables were repaired. Also our children require maintenance of a different kind. Because of the increased demands the sanitary day which was once a month will now be scheduled weekly. Our adolescents are kindly supporting this work which involves cutting the nails, washing the hair and delousing of our youngest kids. This is always a good and funny time. The mood is tremendously peaceful on these days and in general we can say that in recent years much has changed and the atmosphere is much more relaxed and cheerful today. The children now stand in line for their food calm and without jostling, they no longer fight for the provided toys and overall argue less and that despite violence being anchored deeply in these particularly poorer neighbourhoods. These kids have learned from us that they do not have to fight to get enough food or even to be able to use a toy. Some of them are now already a number of years here and have taken a lot of positive things on board, making them models for the younger and newer children.

It is a great development, which is also confirmed by our employees. The effects extend even beyond our walls. Thus, Nilma, Head of Operation Rescue Brazil, overheard a conversation between two boys: one asked the other, how his life would be without Operation Rescue. His response was that he might be dead. He recalled that during the period before Operation Rescue there was a lot of chaos in the neighbourhood; you would go inside and would come out without any clothes left on your body. Some guys who had grown up with him are dead or in jail now. Operation Rescue has changed the favela „Mutirão“. With this perspective, although in most cases we do not need to save the children from starvation, we can say with a clear conscience that due to your help we have saved lives. We are not satisfied to merely secure the survival of our children, instead we want to enable them and thereby also their descendants to opt out of poverty, give them a life of dignity and a bright future. Thank you for your donations which support our daily efforts to fight for this vision and make it possible!



## Financing

The project Operation Rescue is done through donation and sponsorship of families. Sponsoring one family costs Chf 45 | € 30 | £ 20 monthly.

### UK and Ireland:

Nationwide Building Society 19  
High Street Enniskillen BT7 74 7DD  
Account Number: 0949/704 259 263

### USA:

Donate by mail or Pay Pal. For details please refer to the following website:  
[www.fieldsofpromise.org](http://www.fieldsofpromise.org)

### Swiss bank account

AEK Bank Thun – BC 8704 –  
account 161.004.603.08  
IBAN: CH28 0870 4016 1004 6030 8

For payments in other countries please refer to our website:  
[www.operationrescue.ch](http://www.operationrescue.ch)