

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR CHARITY COMMISSION**

## **For OPERATION RESCUE UK & IRELAND**

**NIC 100397**

### **REGISTERED ADDRESS :**

**51 Mullaghmeen Road**

**Enniskillen**

**Co. Fermanagh**

**BT74 4GH**

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR PERIOD: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

#### **Purposes of the charity**

Operation Rescue [UK & Ireland] was set up to raise funds and channel support to the projects which are run by Operation Rescue, an indigenous NGO which seeks to help HIV/Aids orphans and street children who are living in great poverty in the northern part of Tigray province in Ethiopia.

Currently Operation Rescue runs three community-based day centres in Mekelle, Adigrat and Adwa. During 2017, 200 additional children joined the project in Mekelle bringing the total of children cared for to c660.

#### **ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

As is clear from the accompanying financial report, during 2017 just over £33,000 has been sent to Operation Rescue to enable them to continue with this work. Reference to the grant request forms completed by the General Manager Getachew Tesfay, to which our organisation has responded, gives an indication of the wide usage of the monies which have been sent. They include the following:

- Provision of food for the midday meal
- Education supplies including school uniforms and materials
- School fees for children
- Health care and hygiene expenses
- Sports materials
- University students monthly financial support
- Students' vocational training
- Christmas gifts for the children
- Design and planning costs related to the proposed new centre at Adwa.

The impact of the activities carried out by the project was clearly in evidence to the two students from NI who visited the project in June 2017 [one

student being a trustee] and worked with the staff and young people for a month.

Unmistakable evidence of the loving care of the children and how its work is valued by the beneficiaries themselves was there to be seen.

The needs of the children who are the beneficiaries were laid bare as the students visited the homes of some of the children. The benefits to the children include:

- Receiving a substantial meal each day
- Being given a school uniform and school materials as well as tutorial support to help them make educational progress
- Having access to showers and hygiene materials,
- Having access to the health centre and a trained nurse - a facility open to the children and their families.
- Having access to Bible teaching and advice on moral and ethical issues
- Support from a project social worker who visits each home each month and assesses whether additional support is required.

Other benefits are less easily quantified but all who visit ORE centres testify to the loving care shown to each child and the adherence to the vision of the project to enable each child to develop fully physically, mentally emotionally and spiritually.

It is noteworthy that some young people who have come through the project are now employed by ORE in various capacities and give enthusiastic and committed service. There are also now many students who have emerged since 2000 with third level/vocational training qualifications. Many return on a regular basis and make clear their immense gratitude to the staff at the project. I refer here to an email received from Getachew Tesfay, general manager at ORE in January 2017:

Dear Friends of ORE,

As you all know in the past years many children who grown up in Operation Rescue Ethiopia is graduating from different departments from different universities and Collages in the country and most of them are in good position. As usual this morning we had a graduation ceremony but what it makes special today is a young man called Abrha Woldu graduated as a first medical doctor of our Child Care project Operation Rescue Ethiopia from Mekelle university collage of Medicine. Therefore I would like to say congratulations to all communities of ORE for such kind of achievements and I encourage you to continue all your unlimited supports to keep this victory.

God bless you All

Getachew T

ORE

Operation Rescue welcomes teams from many countries who support the project and come to deliver programmes for the children. For some years they were accommodated in a rented guesthouse which was proving a drain

on finances. Operation Rescue [UK & Ireland] gave considerable assistance, especially during 2016, to enable the building of a guesthouse at the centre which was opened officially in the spring of 2017. One trustee has stayed there and testifies to its value. Having the guesthouse on site allows teams to operate more effectively, provides a source of income as well as employment opportunities.

The year ended with detailed exploration of the option to work towards building a fourth ORE centre in a very needy city called Maichew. The trustees have engaged in fundraising activities such as talks to church and other groups, applications to trusts and to UK Direct and a considerable sum has been raised. [Ref: current bank balance in the annual accounts] The main problem has been the acquisition of a suitable site for the new centre. The Maichew authorities are very keen to see the project established in their area but to date, sites suggested have been deemed unsuitable as children would not have easy access. The alternative option is to rent premises and begin the work in that way, as was the case with the original centre in Mekelle.

Towards the end of 2017, the trustees were made aware of the fact that the rental costs for the centre at Adwa had risen considerably and shortly after that came the news that the Adwa authorities were willing to make available a site for a new centre. Very strict regulations were attached to this offer requiring that the planning process be completed within 3 months and the building constructed within 2 years.

This produced a dilemma for the trustees as they were very keen to support this initiative in Adwa but were aware that much of the money garnered during 2017 was ring fenced in the minds of the donors to be allocated to the building of the new centre in Maichew. After considerable debate it was agreed that we could afford to send £10,000 to the Adwa project and to await the results of discussions held between Getachew Tesfay, General manager of ORE and two trustees Merville and Shannon Boyd who were due to visit ORE in January 2018 before further decisions are made regarding allocation of the monies received.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities during 2017 the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that our activities have helped to achieve the purposes of our charity and provided benefit to the beneficiaries of the charity - the many children supported by Operation Rescue in Ethiopia.

There are no private benefits. There is no harm

Charity Trustees on the date the Annual Report was approved:

Mr Merville Boyd

Miss Shannon Boyd

Miss Sylvia Cooper

Miss Kate Doherty

Dr Irvine Lavery

Mr William Livingstone

Mr Victor Magowan

Mrs Lesley Stewart

The charity is administered according to its constitution [enclosed] which was initially adopted at a meeting of the charity on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012. It was amended in accordance with Article 6 on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 and was further amended in accordance with Article 6 on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Signed:

Kate Doherty

Date 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018

.....  
.....

Chairperson  
Operation Rescue UK & Ireland