

OPERATION RESCUE CHILDCARE PROJECTS



Good News DECEMBER 2019

CHILDREN ARE BEING PREPARED FOR A LIFE OF POSSIBILITIES



Wonderful change happened in the lives of hundreds of children because of your gifts to Operation Rescue in 2019.

We hope this newsletter brings you joy and encouragement, as you read the stories of the kids who found love, hope and had their lives improved this year.

One of those kids is a girl named Alainy, from Brazil, whose life took a happy turn after she came to Operation Rescue.

In Ethiopia, over 100 children who were living on the streets will have the chance to join the Operation Rescue family in a new project that is coming up.

Those and other inspiring stories can be found in this edition of the Operation Rescue newsletter.

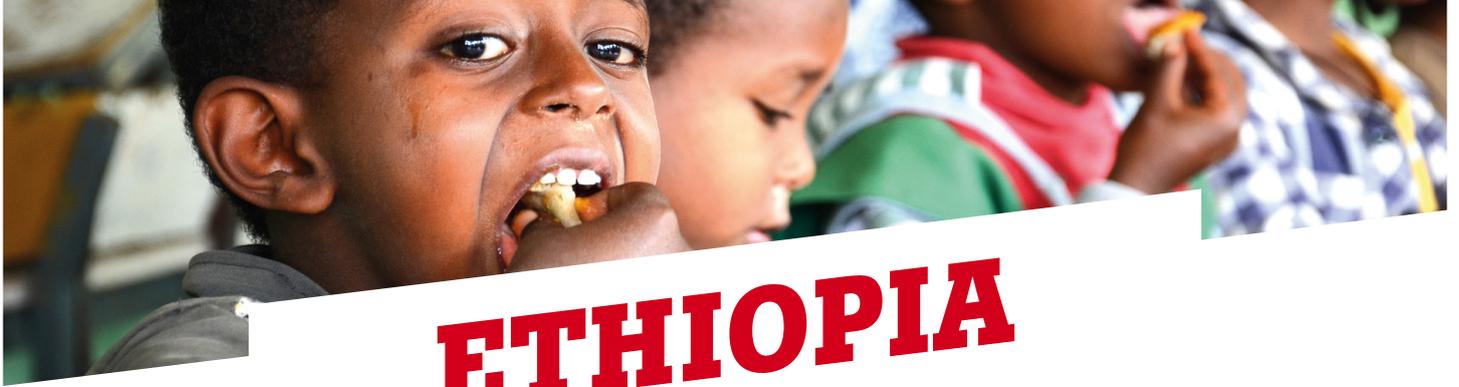
THANK YOU FOR GIVING THE CHILDREN HOPE AND PROSPECTS

Thanks to your loyal support as either donors or volunteers, this year, which is now almost at an end, Operation Rescue has been able to help over 1000 children and their families with whatever they have needed the most: coaching, food on the spot and for the household, basic medical treatment, school equipment and uniforms, a safe environment for Play and fun, a special wheelchair for a child with complex needs, computers and training for sighted and visually impaired children, the rebuilding of a family house which had burnt down – to name but a few examples. Thank you for the hope of not only saving the lives of all these children but enabling a lasting improvement. Thank you for being part of Operation Rescue.

Christian Baumann
Operation Rescue Switzerland

Operation Rescue

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ETHIOPIA

NEW PROJECT FOR STREET CHILDREN

Hundreds of children from the poorest families visit our three Ethiopian centres daily. We're pleased to be opening a new chapter of our story in that we will soon be helping the street children of Mekelle.

The World Bank supports the Ethiopian government specifically with projects which rescue people country wide from poverty and offer them a solid basis for their lives, all of which matches our vision. Thanks to the hard work of the local staff of Operation Rescue, we won the contract for the local implementation of the 'Urban Productive Safety Net Project (UPNSP) in Mekelle. Almost all the NGOs in the Mekelle region who work with children took part in the bid process and Operation Rescue's bid came out with a better average assessment than the others. After a concept/pilot phase a working group comprising members of Operation Rescue and the local social affairs bureau will select 123 street children who have most need of help.

We will check whether these really are street children and where their relatives live. In the next phase each child will be offered the possibility of living in our centre for a month. They will be cared for, well fed, and will receive a basic schooling and psychological support – almost like a rehabilitation stay. Our experience tells us that children are best helped when the whole family receives support as well. Consequently we will consult the families of the street children and offer them help and training. If we gain acceptance from the families, we will then offer the children two further years of education, clothing, medical care and a daily meal. Finally, the parents will be trained in activities which should bring them an income so that they can look after themselves. The families will also receive special support for example for medical reasons.

EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS

Our colleague, Bereket, along with Meredith, one of our volunteers has instituted a weekly meeting to encourage our young girls. They work with books on self-esteem and identity, discussions are held and relationships between them fostered. In this way we're giving them a foundation for the life challenges they will face. It's a great success – the girls like coming and are always pleased with their time together.



Bereket with her girl's group.



Initiators of Northern Ireland on the plot for the new centre in Maichew.

NEW CENTRE IN MAICHEW

We've reported several times on the idea of a fourth centre in Ethiopia and how time consuming the approval process is. In May, after we finally received approval for the centre from the regional government, the local officials granted us 4000 square meters of building land. We've already erected a fence around the plot and are now starting the construction of the groundwork of various buildings.



BRAZIL

THE STORY OF ALAINY

Alainy comes from one of the poorest families of our quarter. Her single mother was unemployed and lived with her 12 children in a house with two small bedrooms. She was simply unable to provide the children with the education and care they needed and so several came into contact with the prevailing problems in our quarter – problems like drugs, criminality and prostitution.

Operation Rescue started working in Patos a good ten years ago to rescue children in such circumstances from these dangers. Luckily Alainy has been visiting our centre since 2009 and is developing well. She speaks about how Operation Rescue has changed her life:

‘My name is Alainy, I’m 16 years old. When I first came to Operation Rescue I realised that they were helping me. My childhood in Operation Rescue was very happy. What my teacher Gabi taught me was especially important for me, and I have a lot to thank the founder, Marciano Teixeira, for. He accepted me and did a lot for me.

Operation Rescue gave me the best childhood in the world. I think all the children and young people who were at Operation Rescue with me were very grateful for all that was done for us – we don’t know how we can repay it. It was, and is, a good time, for which I can only thank Operation Rescue and Marciano. Thank you for taking me in, and thank you that I was able to learn everything I wanted. I can only say ‘thank you- thanks a lot’.



Alainy

GREAT SUCCESS WITH SEWING COURSES

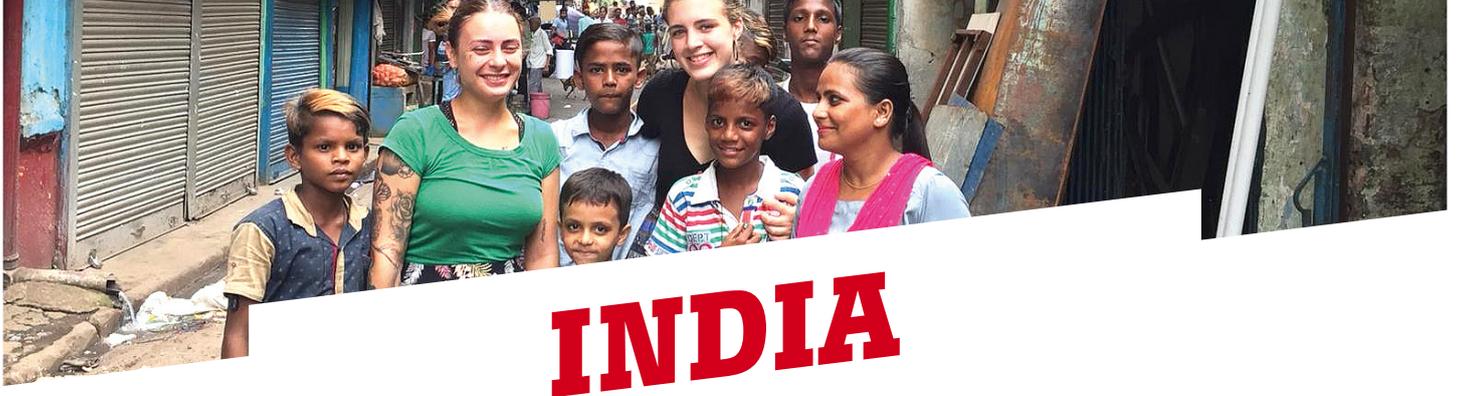
Last year we reported on the new sewing project where, thanks to a Swiss foundation, we were able to buy 6 professional sewing machines and complete our first sewing course. The courses are still successful today. Currently Jacqueline is teaching 15 adult women of different ages, most of them from our quarter. The youngest is 18 and was in Operation Rescue as a child. She is coming along well. She, and most of the others could not even thread a needle when they started; now, after six months, they are sewing cushions, shirts, dolls, towels and table cloths.

Some of the women are already selling the goods they produce, others are supporting themselves offering clothing repairs and alterations. Apart from the fact that they are profiting from what they have learnt, they have here a space where they can develop psychologically and make friends. We’re convinced that these courses represent a huge support and improvement in the lives of the participants.

Jacqueline is happy talking about how the women are developing: ‘in the last months I’ve noticed progress in various areas thanks to the commitment and close concentration of the participants. I see their desire to learn more and together to aim for good results. In addition, sewing can change a life – for some who, for example, have been battling with depression it’s a kind of therapy. We’ve become a family where life and emotions are shared.’



Christina and Marciano Teixeira, founders of Operation Rescue with the course participants.



MORIAH'S OUTREACH IN INDIA – A CHILDHOOD DREAM COME TRUE

“It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts.” Mother Teresa

Since I was a little girl I knew that I wanted to go to India. My heart felt drawn to the culture and the people in a way I will never be able to fully explain. After a trip I was planning to take at 16 years old fell through, I wasn't sure when I would have the opportunity again. In 2018 I was asked to join a trip, with the Church in Action, to go to Operation Rescue India. At this point Operation Rescue India had only been around for one year. When I arrived in Kolkata, I knew in my heart that I would have to keep coming back. The beautiful intensity of India is an experience one can never forget. I remember the way it felt to see the city for the first time, being led by Amit and Alem. We met some of the children from Operation Rescue along the way and I was moved by the joy that they carried. It was a blessing to be able to help carry out the children's program and get to know the local team, and their incredible humility as they give everything to a cause that is important to them: from the talented cook who cooks the tastiest food every day for the lunch meals, to Geeta who grew up on the streets and is now using her life to help lift children out of poverty.

I fell in love with Operation Rescue. I was able to get more involved and go visit the roots of the organization in Mekele this year. Again the energy, joy, and passion of the team was an experience! It moves me deeply and I will continue to support them in every way I can. They have all changed my life and keep a piece of my heart.

Even this year when I went to India for the second time, I was able to notice the development of the organization, team, and children. My heart grows for them each time, and my heart breaks more each time when I drop them off at "home," though I know that each child is being equipped with skills and being loved in a way that will allow them to find the voice and have a leaping platform to their future.

I am encouraged by Operation Rescue and their efforts to bring children, families, and communities out of poverty; for not turning a blind eye and for becoming a helping hand. I hope to help reach out with them for many years to come too.

Moriah – Jane Lorentz



Moriah with Children in India.

Funding

The project Operation Rescue is done through donation and sponsorship of families. Sponsoring one family costs Chf 50 | € 30 | £ 20 monthly.

The independent seal of approval of the Foundation „Code Of Honor“ attests a comprehensive quality of the work and careful handling of donations.



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**For payments in other countries
please refer to our website:
www.operationrescue.ch**