



# Brothers of Good Works Housing and Construction

Restoring homes and dignity

— Addis Ababa, Ethiopia —



For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

HEBREWS 3:4



## **We are a Catholic ministry**

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



## Project Synopsis

### Description

This project will repair or rebuild homes for the elderly and those suffering from HIV, and will also construct ramps for poor disabled children to make their homes handicapped-accessible.

### Affiliation

Congregation of the Brothers of Good Works.

### Location

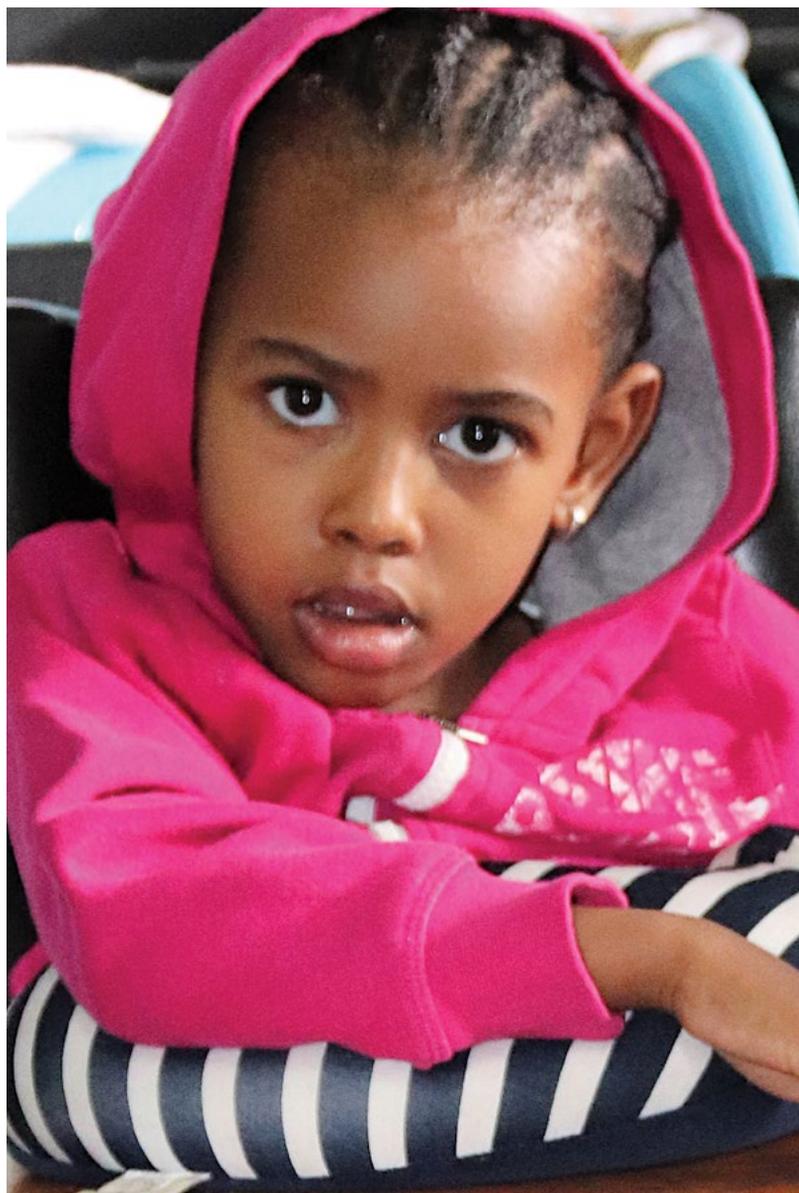
A densely populated district in Addis Ababa — Ethiopia's capital and one of the world's fastest-growing cities.

### Cost

**\$57,600** will cover the costs to **build 1 new home** for impoverished families and the elderly, **repair 44 homes** for families with at-risk individuals with HIV, and **build 3 handicapped-accessible ramps** for children confined to wheelchairs.

### Highlights

- The Brothers of Good Works run a multifaceted ministry to the most vulnerable members of the community.
- One of their many outreaches is providing housing solutions for many of the urban poor who suffer in horrific living conditions. Due to illness or age, they have been too poor to pay for urgently needed house repairs, and are too weak to make the repairs themselves.
- Dilapidated houses are characterized by crumbling walls, leaky roofs and dirt floors. These damp, muddy environments are unsanitary and unsafe, especially for the sick and elderly.
- Disabled children who come from poor families are often trapped in their homes; the simple gift of a wheelchair ramp can help these children regain independence.
- Cross Catholic Outreach is partnering with the Brothers of Good Works to provide dignified housing for some of the most disadvantaged families in the community.
- We seek compassionate Catholics to uphold the dignity of the poor by building new homes or by making the necessary home improvements to improve the quality of their lives.





*Feleku Gurum (left) lives with her children and grandchildren in a dangerously dilapidated home that has a leaky roof.*

## The Need

When Feleku Gurum first moved into her tiny mud-and-straw house more than 30 years ago, it served its purpose well. But now, the roof is leaking. When it rains, water pours into the house, turning its floors into a mud pit. Feluku — who is now 60 years old — tries to save money for repairs, but the income she and her family bring in isn't nearly enough.

Sadly, Feleku's story is not unique. Many of the poor in Addis Ababa are suffering and have been forced to resort to inadequate living conditions. They have no education or professional skills, so they beg on the streets or find work that pays next to nothing. As a result, many live in simple rental homes that, by American standards, would be considered uninhabitable. Families lie awake at night, wet and shivering and exposed to the elements. Water drips from corroded ceilings and seeps in through damp mud floors while the cold air penetrates crumbling walls. Mothers begin each day praying that their houses won't collapse on top of their children and that they won't catch an illness from sharing a single toilet stall with all of their neighbors.

The good news is that they can be helped — and *you can play a part* in giving them the peace of mind they yearn for!

### Ethiopia Fast Facts

- **108 million people** live in Ethiopia. It is the second most populous country in Africa.
- **29.6%** of the population lives below the poverty line.
- **30%** of the current housing stock in Ethiopia is in a fair condition, with the remaining **70%** in need of total replacement.
- Only **20.7%** of the population has access to adequate sanitation.

*Source: CIA World Factbook, UNICEF, 2011*



## The Project

Cross Catholic Outreach has been supporting various programs run by the Brothers of Good Works since 2008, including aiding impoverished families with home repairs and construction.

For the most vulnerable clients, the Brothers of Good Works repair, improve and sometimes totally rebuild their homes. Renovations often entail pouring cement floors, replacing metal roofing, reinforcing and plastering walls, installing sturdy doors and constructing sturdy cement ramps.



*Before repairs were made, this home was totally unprotected from the elements.*



*This is typical of a home renovation. As you can see, it dramatically alters a poor family's quality of life.*

Such a dramatic upgrade to the beneficiaries' homes will dramatically lift their spirits. No longer will they feel ashamed of their houses or be surrounded by decay and squalor. Instead, they can live in dignity, enjoy a healthier environment, and be reminded each day that God loved them enough to send someone to do this kind deed for them.

Please — let God use you to work a miracle in their lives!

### Our Partner

The Brothers of Good Works run three main ministries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- **St. Gabriel Catholic Health Center** — A full-service health center serving the poor.
- **The Counseling and Social Services Center** — A multifaceted program to empower (1) people living with HIV/AIDS, (2) children who are orphaned or vulnerable due to HIV, and (3) people living with a disability. This program includes housing, nutrition, health care, education and microenterprise, as well as community awareness to diminish the stigma of their conditions. Participants graduate from the program empowered to support themselves.
- **The Elderly People Support Project** — Gives elderly people who are homeless a place to shower, wash their clothes and enjoy a hot meal. It also helps the elderly who are on the brink of homelessness by repairing or rebuilding their dilapidated homes.

The Brothers of Good Works refers to beneficiaries of these programs as “clients,” in order to uphold the dignity of the poor and to maintain their own attitude of humility toward those they serve.



## Help Now!

St. Paul reminds us in Colossians 3:11 that, whether rich or poor, American or Ethiopian, raising a family or living alone, we are all precious in God's sight. We are members of Christ's body, and the Holy Spirit works through us to help brothers and sisters in the faith like Feluku Gurum or any of the other suffering poor in Addis Ababa.

By helping Cross Catholic Outreach empower the Brothers of Good Works housing and construction program, you will be bringing blessed relief to those who need assistance. Please — help us make sure no impoverished family, HIV-affected individual or handicapped child is further victimized. Let's use this opportunity to provide safe shelter, and show them they are loved and treasured by God!

It was Jesus who said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

Join with us! Show your wisdom and commitment to the Lord by making this investment today!

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### Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2022, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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