

Statement by Chachi Tadesse.

Thank you on behalf of Hohete Tesfa for Ethiopian Children Foundation.

Dear friends of Ethiopian street children.

Please allow me to take a few minutes of your time to say a few words about our street children.

We are dedicated to care of disadvantaged and suffering children and to rescue and support the orphans, the poor and desperate street children who are at risk of joining street life in Ethiopia. Typically street children in Ethiopia are ragged, starving, suffering from malnutrition and HIV infected.

They survive only by begging, child prostitution and petty crimes. These children have little hope and are on one downward spiral disaster. The children of Ethiopia cannot be abandoned by any decent society. The tragedy of thousands of street children lining in abject poverty in Addis Ababa and other small cities in Ethiopia cannot be ignored. We must know that we have been created for great things – and not just to be a number in the world. We have been created in order to love and be loved. You will ask, where is that hunger in our country? Where is that nakedness in our country? and where is that homelessness in our country? It may not be just a hunger for a piece of bread every day, but there is a terrible hunger for love. We all experience that in our life once – we all have that. The pain, the loneliness. We have to have the courage to recognize the poor. You may have in your own family. Please let them find you. Love them – put our love for them in loving action, for loving them you are loving God himself. Poverty is not created by God. It is made by you and me because we don't share. Even God will not force us to do good. We must choose to do good. Small things with great love is enough. It is not how much we do – you have given for all the joy, you have given for all the street children.

Thank You,

God bless you & God Bless Ethiopia.