

# BRAVE HEARTS

ETHIOPIA



**Annual Report**

**2020**

[www.braveheartsethiopia.org](http://www.braveheartsethiopia.org)



**Brave Hearts**

**Ethiopian Residents' Charity Organization**

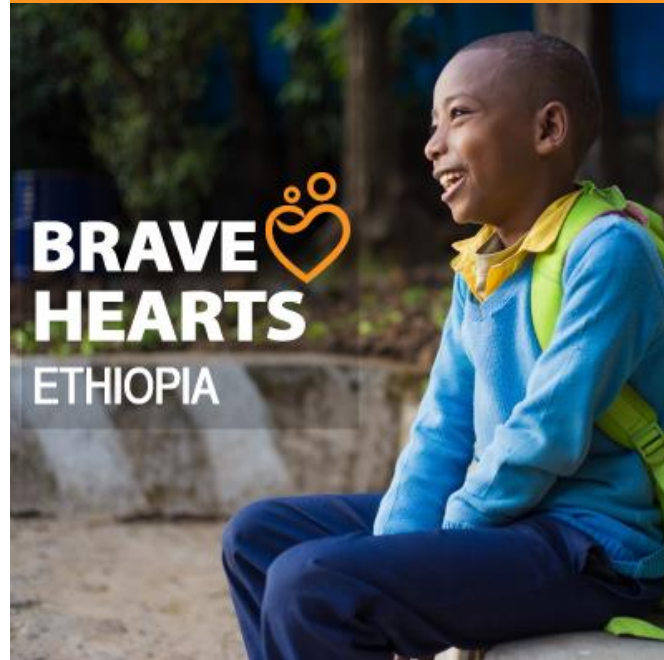
## **BHE 2020 Annual Report** **1 January - 31 December 2020**

*Cover Photo taken by Dawit Abebe  
(Dawit is a graduate of the BHE program)*

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January 2021**

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## Message from the Director

*As 2020 comes to an end, we find ourselves grateful for our health, the people we love and support, and those who support us. The accomplishments we have been able to achieve until now are due to the unwavering kindness and support of our donors.*

*At the BHE drop-in center, we are once again providing our students with daily meals and tutorial sessions after school while maintaining safety measures such as masks, hand washing, social distancing and face shields. This ensures that our children are able to stay safe while actively working to further their learning.*

*All of us at Brave Hearts are immensely proud of Simon, Yonas and Leul, who have all earned outstanding scores in the first semester of the 2019-20 academic year. Furthermore, all five eighth grade students in our program passed their end of year National Exam. Congratulations to Yisak, Yihun, Yibeltal, Jemal and Christian who studied hard and now serve as examples for the younger children that hard work is the key to success. I am also very proud of Faven and Tenaye, two young women who are graduating from our program as self-sufficient young adults. Both have come a long way from young girls to independent women with bright futures ahead of them.*

*On a sad note, we lovingly remember the life of one of our guardians who passed away this quarter. Wro. Amelework was the strong and kind single mother of Teneil, a bright young woman who is a BHE graduate and a self-reliant young adult.*

*I was filled with pride and happiness as the BHE family had a sendoff for my two daughters, Adonna and Elshaddai, who are pursuing their education overseas. They have been volunteering at BHE for the 7 years since its establishment, putting their hearts and minds into supporting the children and improving the program, which they will continue to do so.*

*Amidst the ongoing pandemic, Brave Hearts Ethiopia has received a COVID-19 grant in recognition of our hard-working team's efforts in supporting children and families during this crisis. I am thankful to GlobalGiving and all those who contribute to our program through the amazing platform.*

*We are filled with excitement as we plan for 2021, with the children safely back in school and receiving the holistic support they deserve. BHE has developed a new community outreach program that seeks to support vulnerable children in the community with educational support. Moreover, we will also be focusing on supporting vulnerable and elderly members of the community. We are expanding our staff to strengthen and improve our high quality and professional service delivery so that we can continue to positively impact and improve vulnerable children's lives as well as the lives of those around us.*

*As always, I wish to deeply thank Dean Hanson and the Hanson Family Foundation for their continued commitment and endless support to orphaned and vulnerable children and their families through BHE. Brave Hearts' mission is made possible because of your kindness. I am also immensely grateful to Sharon and George Marshal, Reg Hankey, Tsedenya Mekbib and the rest of the Pittards team, and all our donors, board members, partners, volunteers and staff. We keep you close to our hearts and the support you provide our program during this both challenging and rewarding year is invaluable.*



*(Signed)*

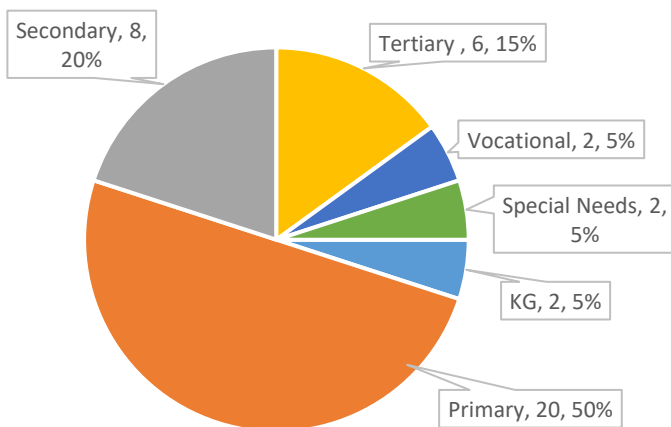
*Konjit Yimer  
Managing Director  
Brave Hearts Ethiopia (BHE)*



## Educational Program and Tutorial Services

BHE is currently supporting one child in pre-school, 20 students in primary, 8 students in secondary and 6 youth in higher education. BHE is also supporting 2 youth in vocational training and 2 youth with special needs support. Five of the students who took the 8<sup>th</sup> grade national exam all passed while three students are waiting to take their 12<sup>th</sup> grade exam soon.

Educational Level Chart



*40 Vulnerable Children & Youth supported in the program*

- ✓ 353 hours of tutorials
- ✓ 50 school visits
- ✓ 2 kids in pre-school (KG)
- ✓ 20 students in primary school
- ✓ 8 students in secondary school
- ✓ 6 youth in higher education
- ✓ 2 youth in vocational training
- ✓ 2 special needs youth

This year we had suspended in person services such as after school meals and tutorials due to COVID-19 and school closure since March 2020. We reopened our services in September 2020 as schools reopened nationwide. We put in place several measures so the students receive their meals and lessons safely. One of our young women, Tigist, is on her final year and will graduate with a degree in Construction Management Engineering soon as classes have resumed.



## COVID-19 Safty Measures

We have provided each child and their family members with masks and soap this year. The children are able to sanitize and wash their hands as they enter the compound, hang their bags separately, have their meals in a distanced sheltered area outside then put on their face shields as they attend their tutorial sessions.

Extra hand washing taps were constructed along with widening the hand basins to enable the children to wash their hands distanced regularly. There are now 5 taps where children and youth can easily wash their hands.



A wood hanger was constructed for hanging the students bags separately to decrease contact and surface exposure for COVID-19. The hanger is made at different heights so that older and taller students can hang their bags at the top and smaller students at the bottom. They can easily access their exercise books and only take what they need into the tutorial room.

BHE received a COVID-19 grant from GlobalGiving in recognition of its effort to support families during the pandemic. Read more about [our effort to keep children learning](#).



## Health and Nutrition

BHE has been supporting families by ensuring their food security and hygiene during COVID-19. BHE has distributed about 1,422 soaps, 43 sanitizers, 132 masks and 129 pads over the year. Since children did not have access to school meals provided in public schools while schools were closed, BHE provided each family with essential food items and additional food allowance. This has been done to ensure the families cope with shortages or increased cost of food supplies and the children continue to receive their daily meals.



BHE restarted its after school meal program as schools reopened while ensuring hygiene and distancing for the students before their tutorial sessions. A bright shade was constructed outside where the children could have their meals distanced from each other and in open air. The children wash their hands before starting their meal and wash after their meal putting their masks back on.

BHE added one kitchen staff to ensure children receive their meals on time, surfaces are well sanitized and study rooms cleaned.



## Psychosocial Activities and Counseling

BHE provides psychosocial services support children and youth to develop life skills and cope with past trauma through group and individual counseling sessions. This year as in person gatherings were interrupted, BHE held 11 Saturday sessions with distancing to help children and youth build their self-confidence, self-expression, develop tolerance and listening to others as well as debate and discussion skills.



While drop in center activities were suspended due to COVID-19, BHE's Social Worker conducted 53 home visits along with follow up calls this quarter. The visits and calls were made to follow the well-being, needs and awareness of each family under the program.

After the reopening of services with safety measures in place, BHE's Social Workers undertook 27 individual counseling sessions. Individual and group session help the children cope with issues they may be facing at school and at home.

The group and individual sessions were conducted with distancing and masks in place. BHE also added its second social worker to its project team to continue and improve its high quality psychosocial services to vulnerable children and youth.



## New Clothes for a New Year & Remembering Wro. Amelework

BHE provided every child and youth in the program with new clothes support. This is done every year so each child develops a sense of self-worth and hygiene as part of our life skills support.



As they came to the drop in center, they had their masks and practiced physical distancing. They also supported each other in sanitizing hands and raising each other's awareness on hand hygiene. The children and youth in our program are now ready for the new year with their new clothes.

We lovingly remember the life of one of our guardians, Wro. Amelework, who passed October 21, 2020. She will be remembered fondly and dearly missed. Wro. Amelework was the strong single mother of Teneil, a bright young woman who previously graduated from our program as a self-reliant young adult. Wro. Alemework was a kind hearted woman filled with gratitude. Read about [two of our elders we are supporting](#).







## Community Support During the Pandemic

BHE has provided families with emergency and additional food support as well as financial support due to rising food prices and disruptions in their livelihoods during COVID-19. BHE identified families in need of emergency food support and provided 350 kg of Teff to vulnerable families. Additionally, 1,050 kg of Teff was distributed to the remaining beneficiaries.



BHE also provided 200 kg of Rice and 100 kg of Teff to the local Woreda for community support. BHE contributed to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam through purchasing Bonds totaling 20,000 Birr to support the infrastructure and development efforts. BHE donated seedlings to support national green environment projects.

BHE also started providing support to vulnerable primary and secondary students in the community with educational materials partnering with organizations working with communities.



## End of the Year Celebrations and Volunteer Sendoff

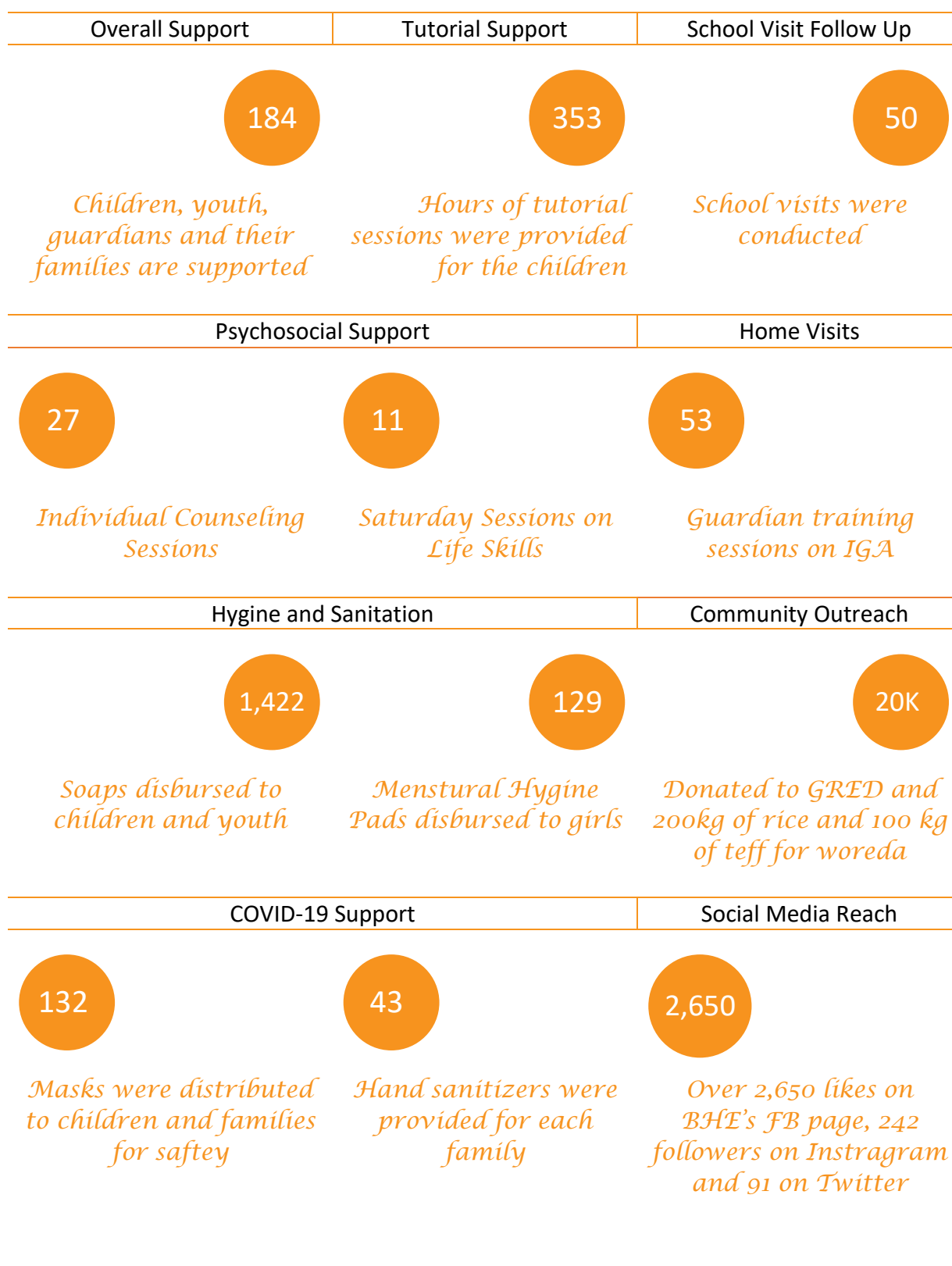
BHE joyously celebrated Christmas with the children, youth, guardians, staff and BHE Board in attendance. Ethiopian traditional coffee, bread, popcorn, cake and sweets were provided to the children, families, staff and guests.

The warm gathering was also an appreciation and send off for its two youth volunteers, Adonna and Elshaddai. Both young girls have significantly contributed to the program by helping establish our library, leading our youth volunteers, tutoring and organising fun activities for our children at BHE.



The BHE Board attended the celebrations and provided cloth gifts for two vulnerable elders BHE supports. Children and youth were excited to receive Christmas gifts which were cloth donations for all ages.

## Our 2020 Operation in Numbers





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