



Spring of Hope CarePoint: Fact Packet

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Love a child.
Strengthen a family.
Transform a community.



CarePoint Fact Packet

- Name: **Spring of Hope CarePoint** ("Burqaa Abdii" in Afan Oromo)
- Location: **Ambo** is located in the Mirab (West) Shewa Zone of the Oromia Region of Ethiopia, about 80 miles west of the capital city of Addis Ababa.
- Elevation: 6,893 ft.
- Population: 78,524
- Language: Afan Oromo (also known as Oromiffa) – *see page 5 for example phrases*
- Site: Gosu Mekane Yesus Church
Denomination: Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)
- CarePoint: **Drop-in center**, a safe place where children in need can come for support, discipleship, and other types of assistance.
- Affiliation: Spring of Hope is a community-to-community partnership between 4others and **Children's HopeChest** (CHC).
The CarePoint is also affiliated with **Stand for Vulnerable Organization** (SVO), an indigenous NGO that works with various denominations within Ethiopia to care for orphaned and vulnerable children.
- Leaders: Courtney Hunt - Sponsorship Coordinator, *4others*
Juree Wilson - Partner Relations Coordinator at *Children's HopeChest, U.S.*
Misganaw Eticha - Executive Director, *SVO*
Rev. Nemera - Pastor, *Gosu Mekane Yesus Church, Ambo*
Tsfatsion Tsegaye - Country Director, *Children's HopeChest, Ethiopia*
- Mission: To care for orphans and vulnerable families by meeting their basic needs, while guiding them to be faithful followers of Christ.
- Goal: To *educate* children, *empower* and train their guardians, and *disciple* their families.
- Strategy: Serve orphans and vulnerable **children** by providing basic needs such as food, clean water, sanitation, education, clothing, appropriate living conditions, and medical care.
- Empower **guardians** of orphans and vulnerable children living in their community with entrepreneurial and vocational training to become self-supporting, ultimately enabling them to provide basic needs and education for the children in their care.
- Provide Christian **evangelism and discipleship**, in partnership with Gosu Mekane Yesus Evangelical Church, guiding our beneficiaries to be faithful followers of Christ.
- Provide **discipleship** opportunities for the 4others community through global missions (child sponsorship, capital campaigns, mission trips, etc.).



Summary:

The local community is affected by a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and limited access to healthcare. Unemployment has increased at an alarming rate due to the influx of immigrants from rural areas. Many families earn a living through daily labor, menial tasks, and through minor trade among its inhabitants; these activities provide only a meager income that is barely enough to sustain them. In addition to these risk factors, sanitation is nearly non-existent. Ambo town lacks suitable latrines and waste disposal causing a health hazard within the region. Despite these hurdles, hope exists and with support from sponsors, the children at Spring of Hope will have the opportunity to grow physically, educationally, spiritually, and emotionally. Sponsored children will also have the benefit of knowing that someone in the United States cares and prays for them.

Development Plan (provided by SVO):

Planned Major Areas of Intervention:

1. **Child Sponsorship:** The main purpose of this project is to enable a child to realize his/her full potential through holistic development. This is accomplished primarily through the provision of an education, as well as other basic (food, clothing, shelter, spiritual counseling, etc.) supplementary services.

Most of the children were not attending school when they started our program. Their guardians could not afford the school fees and costs for uniforms. In addition to meeting basic needs (such as food, shelter, and clothing), Spring of Hope will also provide school fees, uniforms, and workbooks so these children can get an education. The project is planned for 150 orphaned and vulnerable children, beginning with those of greatest need, although there are many more children in need of support.

2. **Family Empowerment** is the primary strategy to facilitate an environment conducive to the holistic development of children. The families/guardians of beneficiary children are therefore organized into self-help business groups, while their children receive support for basic needs. Our job is to empower them to believe in themselves, to train them with entrepreneurial skills to build a sustainable income, and to provide external support to grow their businesses.

Currently, the guardians of 150 registered children at the Spring of Hope CarePoint are organized into 10 self-help groups, each containing 15 members. Members of each of the groups were then encouraged to name their self-help group. The names chosen reflect a rising hope for a better future. The following is a list of the 10 self-help groups (SHGs), along with the English translation of the name from Afan Oromo:



- 1) Kanera - "We are arisen; motivated; decided to move ahead for transformation"
 - 2) Robsan - "Wealth is coming in the form of rain"
 - 3) Tesfa - "Hope"
 - 4) Lalstu - "Becoming Green"
 - 5) Derartu - "Flowering"
 - 6) Bikiltu - "Seedling"
 - 7) Tokuma Hara - "New Unity"
 - 8) Abdi Gudina - "Hope of Development"
 - 9) Badhatu - "Rich"
 - 10) Oliyadi - "Becoming optimistic; having greater hope for the future"
3. **Spiritual Development:** We believe that abundant life only comes through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Thus, if we empower families and educate children, but do not tell them the way to abundant life, we have failed. SVO, too, believes that the holistic development of human beings is realized only when they are served with the Word of God, in addition to other necessities. Therefore, to realize this aspect of development, Spring of Hope is partnered with a local church called Gosu Mekane Yesus Church to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with beneficiary children and their guardians. Biblical teaching is also threaded through the guardians' training.
4. **Community Development:** Next to the family, the development of the surrounding community is essential for creating an optimal environment for child development. This includes the provision of safe water, healthcare services, education, and improved sanitation. Therefore, we have a long-term development plan that includes the provision of water points for the community, building schools (at least elementary) and medical clinics, and providing waste disposal vehicles.

A recent assessment by SVO concluded that the CarePoint area, particularly the school and the neighborhood where the majority of the CarePoint's children are pursuing their education, needs access to safe water. Therefore, the provision of a new water point is a high priority.

The Office of Education informed us that the town needs four additional elementary schools, while the Gosu neighborhood (Spring of Hope location) desperately needs the construction of a new school for the registered children at the CarePoint. The children at the CarePoint must travel more than 3 kms (about 2 miles) on foot to go to school. The Education Office would like the distance to be less than 3 kms.

Another vital service the CarePoint area needs is public toilet facilities. Public toilets are not found in the area, since the CarePoint is located in the slum area of Ambo. Therefore, many people use side streets to dispose of human waste, which can be a cause of many diseases. In addition to these services, the area is in need of medical clinics, resource centers, and libraries.



FAQ:

- 1. How many school-age children are there in Ambo?** 12,134
- 2. How many school-age children are currently attending school?** 8,372
- 3. How many school-age children are currently NOT attending school?** 3,762
- 4. How many orphans (single & double) are there in Ambo?** Over 1,600
- 5. Why are so many children not attending school?** Two primary reasons:
 - A. Their guardians need their labor. The children work as day laborers and support their families with "petty sales" to generate income to feed themselves and their families.
 - B. Since many are orphans (either double or single), they lack the support to pay school fees and other associated expenses. So, economic hardship is the reason for both not attending a school and having to drop out of school.
- 6. Are all 150 children currently enrolled in school?**

Yes, the children were enrolled for the Fall semester using funds provided to CHC Ethiopia from one donor. Those funds have now been depleted. If the children are not sponsored by the end of the year, they will not be able to continue their education, because their guardians will be unable to pay the second semester school fees, due in January 2014. Children were recruited for the Spring of Hope CarePoint from the poorest families in the area.
- 7. What do the children eat, and how often?**

The majority of the CarePoint children must eat their meals "turn by turn"; in other words, each takes a turn eating a different meal. The children and their guardians usually do not have enough food to share every meal together. For example, when one eats breakfast, he or she must usually skip lunch, or even lunch and dinner. The nutritional value and variety of their meals are very poor. Most meals consist of roasted corn or local "injera" (a version made up of mainly corn, rather than teff), and many times eaten without spices.
- 8. How many children are infected with HIV/AIDS in Ambo?** At least 1,100.

It is difficult to be sure of the exact number, since tracking this statistic has become highly politicized. Conservative estimates put the number at not less than 1,100.
- 9. What types of basic health care will sponsored children have access to?**

Since Ambo is a larger town, children are able to get access to basic preventative health services such as vaccinations and bed nets. The most challenging problem facing families in Ambo is not being able to afford treatment at a health center (clinic or hospital). The Spring of Hope sponsorship fund provides access to medical treatment for all sponsored children.



10. What does my \$34 per month sponsorship include?

The sponsored child's education (school & book fees), clothing, supplemental food, medical care, socio-emotional services, and other child-related services.

It should be noted that the socio-economic life of *all* family members is only addressed through subsequent capital campaigns to benefit a supplementary fund designated for the development of income generating activities (microenterprise).

11. How can I sponsor a child?

You can visit our website at www.hope4others.org.

Afan Oromo phrases:

Ebbifami - "Be blessed"

Galatoomaa - "Thank you"

Hope for Ambo - "Abdiin Amboof"

Jesus loves you - "Yesus si jallata"

Maatii - "Family"

Stand for Vulnerable - "Warra miidameef daabadaa"

Waqayyo sii haa'eebbisu - "God bless you"

We love you - "Nuyi si jallanna"