



Yawenta Children's Center

**Day-Care Center and Kindergarten
for HIV+ and Vulnerable Children
in Shashamane, Ethiopia**

Who we are:

Positive Action Charity Organization is a non-religious charity registered with the Ethiopian government. Its founder, Ms. Isheba Tafari, has been living and working in Shashamane since 1997. Our project, the Yawenta Children's Center, was opened on March 1, 2008.



Opening Party March 1, 2008

Where we are:

Shashamane is a rapidly developing town located 250 km south of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. The main sources of income for its population of now 250,000 are agriculture and trade, while jobs in the industrial sector are few. The majority of the people are poor, and many children suffer from malnutrition and diseases caused by lack of hygiene. Education is unaffordable to those who live as beggars or depend on food aid. In addition, Shashamane, a transit town connecting the



Jony, 5 yrs., 11.5 kg

capital to the eastern and southern regions, has many bars and brothels, leading to a high HIV rate. Some children born from HIV positive mothers are also infected.

Our aims:

1. To ensure the health and survival of HIV positive and other vulnerable children by providing for their medical and nutritional needs;

2. To educate these children to become responsible, independent and self-sufficient adults; and

3. To raise awareness amongst the population concerning health, hygiene and nutrition.

Our beneficiaries:

We started our project in March 2008 with 10 HIV positive children between the ages of 3 and 6. In June, we added another 16 beneficiaries, selected primarily because they come from extremely poor, usually HIV+ families, or are full orphans. By now we cater for 29 children, including 14 HIV positive children and one mentally retarded boy. Two children now live with us, and two more are on the waiting list to be accepted in the project.



Some of our children

What we do:



Playing with building blocks

We provide day-care from Monday to Friday, including kindergarten education by qualified teachers. Our children receive four healthy, balanced meals a day, and we pay for all medical costs. We also provide free transportation to and from the project, occasional field trips, and clothes. We advise the parents of HIV positive children on health issues such as vaccinations, food and hygiene. Most of all, we show the children love and care. Recently, we have started providing temporary shelter for children whose situation at home is not acceptable.

Why we need help:

Taking care of these children properly

takes money. We believe that poor, HIV positive or handicapped children have the same right to proper food and quality education as the children of rich people. Although we can't ensure this right for all children everywhere, we can start somewhere: with these 29 little ones. So far, we have received donations only from private sources, although we have recently applied for funding from the relevant government offices as well. We therefore depend on your support in order to help these children.



Lunch Time

How you can help:

You can contribute by becoming a sponsor for one of our children. For €22 (US\$ 33) a month, we will send you personal information about your child's progress and inform you exactly how the money was spent.



Field trip to Wondo Genet

Differently, you can send any amount you wish to give to the following charity account:

Positive Action Charity Organization

Account Nr.: 00295 1569 8001

Swift Code: DASHETTA

Dashen Bank Shashamane Branch
Shashamane, Ethiopia

Contact address:

Isheba Tafari

P.O. Box 294, Shashamane, Ethiopia

Mobile Phone: 251-911-83 34 63

E-mail: ivision33@yahoo.com