



## **Life Saving Call**

### **Young boy hopes to restore his lung disability caused by a pirate vehicle**

### **Artist Chachi Tadesse & Rotarians Embrace His Cause**

His name is Teklu Nokie & comes from the poorest sections of our society in the South, deprived of his parents. His origins are from the regions but at a very early age had to learn the hard reality of street life here in Addis, experiencing whatever kids of his age are destined to withstand. On the streets of Addis only the strong survive. You struggle to eat, you struggle to have some clothing, you struggle to secure a warm place where to avoid the night chill of high placed Addis. Teklu was somehow trying to manage resisting all this hardship in any case. Every body around the Stadium knows him very well because that is where his work place or 'office' is situated. Who knows how many youths live under such circumstances; they are countless and in recent years the number has further increased. Any way, Teklu was somehow managing with his modest life until some tragic episode got into his life and threatened it. One dark morning, a car going with a very fast pace run him down while he was trying to cross the road in front of the crowded area around Nani Building, the tallest in Addis, next to the Ghion. And since that day, Teklu had to live with this severe handicap of losing his voice, a vital element in his living besides suffering from a health disability. Can you imagine a peddler without any voice?

Teklu used to try to carve a living on his own starting at a very early age. He engaged in shoe shining, peddling soft paper and sweets; then he began selling cassettes and CDs. However, his dream of trying to gradually ascend the ladder of social life was thwarted by that pirate motorist. The hit and run vehicle caused Teklu a severe injury to his chest and respiratory-vocal apparatus, such that he still suffers from the wound. His breath is not regular and he is subject to all sorts of health problems due to this; and if you consider the way he earns his livelihood, such condition further jeopardizes his very existence unless some durable remedy is found. But the problem is that such remedy is beyond the capacity of our hospitals and doctors. That is why Teklu should seek medical treatment abroad, and that is what the Board of Doctors has recommended.

Today many, believing that Teklu is a natural deaf and mute, try to communicate with him with gestures and signs but that is not the case! This is known only by all those who saw him grow up around the

National Stadium and the Ghion Hotel area and almost experienced his predicament by the day. In fact that fatal morning, Teklu was fortunate enough not to lose his life altogether, but what is even more distressing is that the pirate motorist was never caught and brought to justice.

Teklu's hope to have his voice back and resume with his regular life was rekindled ever since he met friend of children Artist Chachi Tadesse who embraced his cause. For years she has been trying to come to his rescue by searching avenues of taking him abroad and having him undergo the necessary surgical operation; but for a number of reasons, it could not succeed. And in the meantime Teklu has to continue to scarp a living and along with his younger brother Yonas (Caccia) continued to engage in the peddling of cassettes and videos. Since many people have come to understand his predicament and many know him very well, Teklu managed to survive but his handicap is a big risk not only for his livelihood but also life as well. That is why he desperately needs this medical treatment urgently. In the meantime, his case came to the attention of another friend of children, particularly orphans, Ato Getachew Yemane, Executive Director of Hope for Rural Children & Orphans (HORCO) national NGO that operates here in Ethiopia, and he in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa East began soliciting funds with their members. Together, they devised a strategy of how to raise the necessary funds and proceed to have the medical attention Teklu desperately needed.

Today Chachi having resorted to a number of Rotary Clubs is on the way of meeting the costs necessary for the treatment of Teklu Nokie. There have been several calls of solidarity and pledges for fund raising and Chachi and Getachew are optimists that the youngster could undergo the necessary treatment. But they cannot stop before guaranteeing that all the required funds are in their hands and that is why they are keeping up with the momentum. Chachi has been touring the Rotaries of Addis presenting the case of the young guy to philanthropists, showing Teklu. She is in search of further pledges and funds until the estimated 15,000 USD could be secured. Finally some light is being seen at the end of the dark tunnel, she says and is extremely grateful with all those who gave her consideration and attention.

When the other day she presented the boy at ETV and told his story, people immediately embraced her cause and reacted with admiration and pledges of solidarity. Of course, every body in Ethiopia (particularly children) knows who Artist Chachi is (for she has been a pioneer in trying to come to the rescue of street children with her NGO called Hohete Tesfa, 'the Gate of Hope'). In fact, street children in Addis consider her as their true mother. Teklu, a dynamic youth full of energy is just one of them. Moreover, Getachew along with his contacts in Thailand is negotiating manners of guaranteeing Teklu's stay in Bangkok less burdensome economically. Volunteers and Rotarians are arranging to help him through during the treatment and that is another piece of good news.

There could be thousands of youths in this country needing the assistance of charitable people like Artist Chachi Tadesse and Getachew Yemane and Rotarians, but unfortunately only few could be assisted, for obvious reasons. It is undeniable that Ethiopians, despite their own private problems, have the tradition of helping one another, reaching to the rescue of people such as Teklu, particularly in such tragic circumstances. Teklu, along with Chachi, Getachew and other Rotarians, is now hopeful and confident that he can count on the generosity of countless well meaning citizens who are ready to play their part in this noble cause of saving one youth's life and future.

**May for your bighearted donation in helping Teklu:-**

Bank of Abyssinia, Bole Branch Account #1995 at Rotary Club of Addis Ababa East by **Swift Code**: ABYSETAA

Or [Click](http://www.horco.org/) Hope for Rural Children & Orphans (HORCO) web-site <http://www.horco.org/> and will see **“paypal donate”**

For more information please Call: (251)-091-120-7740 Chachi Tadesse & Getachew Yemane

Thank you very much, and God Bless You!!!,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Milkias T/Giorgis".

Milkias T/Giorgis President  
Rotary Club of Addis Ababa East



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Getachew Yemane".

Getachew Yemane  
Executive Director  
Hope for Rural Children & Orphans (HORCO)