

230 Park Avenue, Suite 659  
New York, NY 10169

Dear Friends,

As a Trustee of the Helmsley Charitable Trust, I traveled to Ethiopia for the first time six years ago. One of today's fastest growing economies in sub-Saharan Africa, the country is at a promising inflection point, yet poverty remains widespread. And, while poverty is often defined by low income or consumption levels, it is further complicated - and harder to escape - when accompanied by a lack of education, health care, and basic infrastructure.

This multi-dimensional view of poverty, espoused by the World Bank in *Piecing Together the Poverty Puzzle*, highlights the need for holistic interventions and robust investments in human capital. For Helmsley, investing our philanthropic dollars in these kinds of solutions, which will lead to a better future for vulnerable communities, is what drew me to SOS Children's Villages.

In 2014, Helmsley first partnered with SOS Children's Villages to ensure children's health and well-being through education, essential services, and capacity building of caregivers. The \$10 million initiative, EduCare, will impact more than 50,000 people in the Amhara region by 2021. Its first phase in Bahir Dar demonstrated significant gains, including:

- Increases in household savings, a new behavior for 84% of families.
- Shifts to new, or more reliable and profitable, sources of income.
- Lower school dropout and grade repetition rates, and higher promotion rates, than other students at the same schools.
- Widespread engagement and support from a strengthened network of service providers.

This work cannot be done in isolation. The enclosed publication underscores the power of partnership among key stakeholders including government officials, community-based organizations, and public school educators.

I invite you to join us: share your own experiences, support programming to address poverty for vulnerable families in Ethiopia, or connect with SOS Children's Villages to learn more.

Sincerely,



Walter Panzirer  
Trustee, Helmsley Charitable Trust