

SPECIAL EDITION | OCTOBER 2025



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OF HOPE
Clean Water for Ethiopian Villages



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About Stream of Hope

Stream of Hope, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization established in 2010 by seven Ethiopian-Americans residing in Dallas, Houston, and Oklahoma. Driven by a shared determination, they united to raise awareness and involve the broader community in addressing the critical issue of inadequate clean water in remote villages in Ethiopia.

Our mission is to provide clean drinking water and proper sanitation to Ethiopian villages, "One Village at a Time!"

The impetus for founding the organization occurred in 2009, following a visit to a remote Ethiopian village that left a lasting impact on Zewge Kagnew. Witnessing a young child drinking contaminated water from a nearby stream, he discovered the absence of clean drinking water for the entire village.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Zewge understood the need for immediate attention. Upon returning to Texas, he shared the distressing story with Eskinder Tamrat, a close friend. Together, they embarked on tireless efforts, giving rise to "Stream of Hope: Clean Water for Ethiopian Villages."

SOH Board Members



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Chairman



Zewge Kagnew
Founder



Girma Negusse
Secretary



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Message from the Chair



Eskender Tamrat

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This evening marks a proud milestone — 15 years of Stream of Hope. Fifteen years of faith, compassion, and action. What began as a humble dream has grown into a powerful mission transforming lives across Ethiopia.

Together, we have built 45 wells and spring expansion projects, and constructed 6 schools, bringing clean water and education to those who once lived without hope. This year alone, we completed 10 new projects in 3 regions, including 2 schools, impacting over 10,000 people directly and 4,500 more indirectly.

Behind every success is a family of dedicated people. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our founder, Zewge Kagne, whose vision continues to guide this mission; to our board members for their steadfast leadership; and to our team members — especially our marketing and social media director Yonas Eshetu, along with Kirubel and our Houston organizing committees — for their tireless dedication and creativity.

And to our volunteers — the true heartbeat of Stream of Hope — your compassion, hard work, and spirit of service inspire us all. We are deeply blessed to have you.

To our supporters, sponsors, and donors, especially the Houston Ethiopian-American community, your generosity has been the bridge between dreams and reality. Because of you, children are learning, mothers are thriving, and communities are flourishing.

As we honor our past and celebrate this milestone, we look forward with renewed determination. There are still villages waiting, still families in need of clean water. Together, we will continue to flow stronger, farther, and deeper — bringing hope where it's needed most.

With deepest gratitude,
Eskender Tamrat
Chair, Stream of Hope Inc.

“Together, We Are a Stream of Hope — Flowing Stronger, Farther, and Deeper.”

Message from the Founder



Zewge Kagnew

Tonight, I stand before you not only as the founder of Stream of Hope but as someone who has witnessed both the pain of scarcity and the joy of renewal. Fifteen years ago, when God placed this vision in my heart—after visiting water-stricken villages near Addis Ababa—I could never have imagined the incredible milestones we would one day celebrate together.

Since 2010, we have completed 45 clean water projects, bringing safe, life-changing water to thousands. Seeing these communities transformed has been one of the most humbling and fulfilling experiences of my life.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude—to the dedicated individuals in Dallas who served as our first board members. You helped turn a vision into reality. And to our chairperson, Ato Eskender Tamrat—thank you for stepping into leadership with wisdom and faith.

I have stood in villages where not a single drop of clean water could be found, and I have returned to witness the joy—the dancing, the laughter, and the tears—when new wells were inaugurated. That joy is why we exist, and that joy is why this mission matters.

I'm equally proud of our current board members and supporters from Houston, Oklahoma, and Dallas. Special thanks to those in Houston whose generosity has kept this mission strong, and to the many working quietly behind the scenes—your impact is felt in every well we build and every life we touch.

Together, we have brought clean water to over 45 villages across Ethiopia—not through governments or big institutions, but through us: a community of believers, Ethiopian-Americans, and friends of Ethiopia across this nation.

Tonight, we celebrate what God has done—and we recommit to what still lies ahead. While 45 villages now have clean water, many more are still waiting—waiting for hope, waiting for life, waiting for us.

Stream of Hope is not just a project—it is a promise.

A promise that as long as one child drinks from a polluted stream, one mother walks miles for water, or one village thirsts for dignity—we will not stop.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing, for giving, and for walking this journey with us. Together, we are not just providing water—we are restoring hope and giving life.

And tonight, I invite you once more—let's make sure the next 45, and the next 450 villages, also drink from the Stream of Hope.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Our Master of Ceremony



Sharron Melton is the Anchor for CW39 Houston's "Htown Morning News", you can see Monday through Friday from 7 AM till 10 AM. A 2 time Emmy nominated and Award Winning Journalist, she has over 25 years of Anchoring, Reporting, and Producing experience. She is a former Morning Anchor for KTRK-TV in Houston, the Weekend Anchor/Reporter at WSVN-TV in Miami, Florida, the 5pm Anchor and Education Reporter at WPMI-TV in Mobile, Alabama. She was also an Anchor/Reporter/Producer at KOBR-TV in Roswell, New Mexico. She even worked as a radio reporter for the Agriculture Communications Network in Texas.

Sharron has been recognized numerous times for her broadcast work. She received the Outstanding Feature Story Award from the South Florida Black Journalists Association, Best Feature Reporting Award from the Press Club in Mobile, Alabama. She is also the recipient of the Alabama Education Media Award, and the New Mexico Broadcasters Association presented her with the Outstanding Newscast Award.

Sharron was named One of the 50 most influential Women in the City of Houston, by Houston Woman's Magazine.

She holds a Master's Degree in Television Communication from Eastern New Mexico University and a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Communication and Journalism from Texas A&M University, in College Station. Sharron has also taught at the University level. She worked as an undergraduate lecturer and instructor in broadcast news fundamentals at the University of South Alabama.

Sharron also has her own interview training company called "Vocal Wish LLC", work with business clients and pageant contestants including R'bonney Gabriel who later became Miss Universe 2022. She's a sought after pageant judge over the last 20 years in the Miss America system, Miss USA and Universe System, Miss Volunteer America Program and many more. Sharron also has her own podcast called "Sharing the Sugar with Sharron".

Sharron is proud of her volunteer work around the country from Emceeing events to taking part in them, she has loved doing the work for decades! She currently is a member of the International Women's Forum, the National Association of Black Journalists, and the Houston Association of Black Journalists. She spent 8 years on the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. She is also a former Member of the Board of Directors of the Family Counseling Center of Mobile, Alabama.

In her spare time, Sharron is heavily involved in volunteer service work, and she loves to Scuba Dive, Belly Dance and Travel.

Our Keynote Speaker



Elfaz Kassa is the Programs Director of Drop of Water (DoW), one of Ethiopia's leading local non-profits committed to delivering clean drinking water and sanitation to rural communities. Joining DoW as volunteer in 2010, just a year after its founding, Elfaz has been the backbone of the organization, laying much of the foundation that shaped DoW from grassroots, student-led initiative into a trusted, locally rooted movement for clean water access in Ethiopia. His leadership and commitment to community-driven solutions have been central to DoW's identity as a truly Ethiopian organization, built by Ethiopians for Ethiopians.

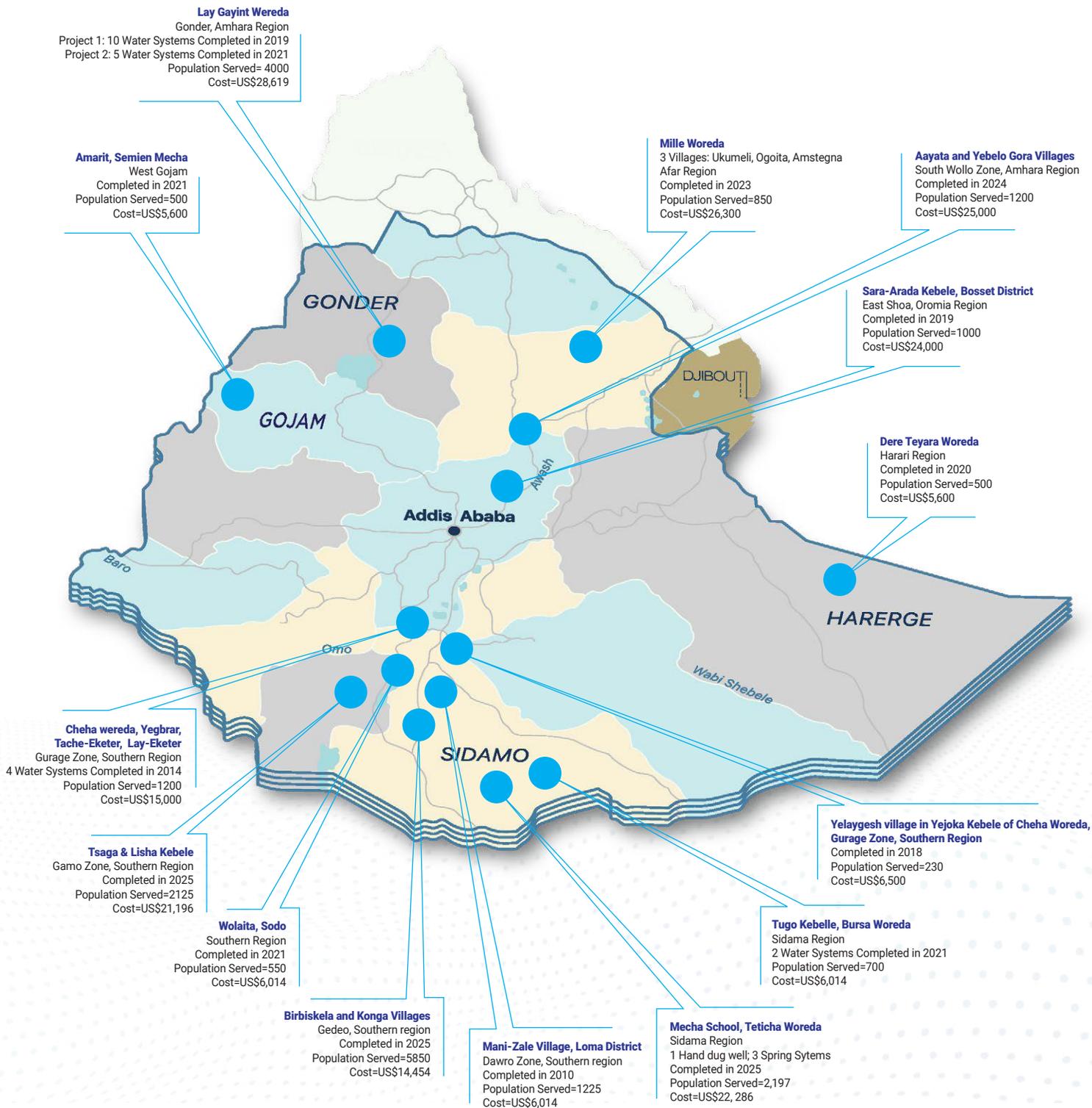
Over the past 15 years, Elfaz has risen from volunteer to visionary leader, overseeing more than 160 clean water projects across seven regions of Ethiopia and transforming the lives of over 90,000 people. His deep expertise in project management, rural community mobilization, and grassroots leadership has made him instrumental in bridging innovation with local realities. Since 2019, he has also served as the lead project manager for Stream of Hope Inc.-financed programs, successfully delivering more than 25 sustainable water supply systems to 25 underserved villages.

A YALI East Africa Civic Leadership Program alumnus, Elfaz represents a new generation of leaders who combine technical expertise with a passion for social impact. He holds a Master's degree in Development Management from Addis Ababa University and two bachelor's degrees from Mekelle University. In recognition of his tireless commitment to advancing WASH services in hard-to-reach areas, he was honored with Blood: Water's Leader of the Year award in 2022.

As part of his leadership at DoW, Elfaz also played a pivotal role in establishing the Ethiopian Chapter of the East African Philanthropy Network, a flagship platform within the African Philanthropy Network. In this role, he helped organize national dialogues that brought together civic society organizations in Ethiopia to explore how they could collaborate more effectively both across the country and through intra-continental partnerships. His leadership in these forums has amplified Ethiopia's voice in East African philanthropy, advancing locally led giving and strengthening solidarity across the continent.

Elfaz's journey is a testament to persistence, vision, and service. His leadership embodies the belief that meaningful change begins with communities themselves and that when empowered, rural communities can break the cycle of water scarcity. Guided by this conviction, he continues to champion sustainable water solutions and inspire a generation of youth leaders who will carry forward Ethiopia's path toward a water-secure future.

Our Water Project Sites



Your Impact by Numbers

YEARS OF IMPACT

20
10



20
25

PROJECTS COMPLETED



45

POPULATION SERVED



22K

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED



\$223K

Our Heros of the Year 2024



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Stories from the Village

Bereket's Joy: A Drop of Hope in Tugo Village

When the Drop of Water team visited Tugo Village in Ethiopia's Sidama region to check on Stream of Hope–sponsored projects, we came across a group of bright-eyed children playing near a newly constructed water source. Their laughter filled the air, and their joy was contagious. Among them were three siblings – Dessalegn (7), Bereket (6), and little Mabrat (2) – happily fetching water and splashing around the well.



It was Bereket, the middle child, who captured our hearts. She eagerly chatted with us through a translator, her smile never fading. When we asked when she started fetching water, she answered confidently, "Since I was three years old. I'm the only girl in the house." Her words were both innocent and profound – a reminder of how early childhood responsibilities begin for so many young girls in rural Ethiopia.

We asked Bereket what she thought of the new well. "The old water was dirty, and it took ten minutes to get there," she said. "But this one is clean – and the place is beautiful!" Her pride was unmistakable. With clean water now close

to home, her family no longer has to risk illness or spend hours collecting unsafe water.

Bereket told us she attends preschool and comes to the water point each morning before class. She loves playing with the neighborhood kids – especially with her brothers, whom she adores. "Our mother used to fetch water before," she said softly, "but now we do it. She doesn't have to anymore. We're happy because of the water."

Before we left, we asked her what she wanted to be when she grows up. Without hesitation, she said, "A doctor – so I can help people."

In Bereket's words and smile, we saw the true ripple effect of clean water – not just in health, but in hope, dignity, and dreams restored.





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We are so humbled and privileged to be part of the Stream of Hope journey.
We have come a long way and yet have so much more to do.
Let's get to work!

Please continue to support this important mission!

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Yared Akalou

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