



EMPOWERING EACH OTHER TO  
SERVE THE DESTITUTE ELDERLY  
IN THE THIRD WORLD

June 2007 Newsletter



*"The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart."*

*anonymous*

### **Think Outside the Box**

We all know how difficult it can be to think of a unique gift to give for a wedding anniversary, birthday, graduation, a special holiday or just a thank you for a kindness received. It is also a way to express condolences to a friend who is grieving by giving a memorial in the name of their loved one. At Michael's House Inc., we offer a unique opportunity that both expresses our thoughts at these special moments and at the same time helps the aged poor to improve their meager lives for months if not years to come.

Through a small contribution you can purchase the very practical gift of farm animals that will be given to the elderly to sustain them. In return we will write a letter to your friend telling them that a gift has been given in their name and identify the animals received. The process is simple. Just forward a check and let us know what animals you want to give, the amount you wish to contribute, the name of the recipient and the special occasion. Here is the current price list for animals at Kin-Initiative and our two farms for the elderly in Uganda: A dairy cow to provide milk costs \$163, 1 goat \$13, piglets \$19, 12 laying hens \$33, 1 rooster \$5 and rabbits \$3.75 each.

### **The Good News**

As we write this newsletter we hope we are all enjoying the late spring and anticipating the rejuvenating summer ahead.

Through our little community of Michael's House Inc., we continue to see wonderful accomplishments and transformations in those we serve and ourselves. We see each one of you not as a mere passive donor but as an integral part of our community. Our dreams are being fulfilled by our meal centers feeding hundreds of aged daily. The day care center in Addis Ababa is an extraordinarily busy place that provides health care services, materials for handicrafts and hygiene facilities. Our new overnight shelter for the infirmed homeless, Ann's Shelter, is up and running. In place is our 1-4-1 K pension plan (One For One in Kindness) where for \$10 a month an aged person can be adopted. The farms in Uganda are producing a harvest of essential nutritious crops. (See Photos) They have accomplished much but still have a long way to go.



## “ Amesegnalhu! ” and “Waybale!”

We are changing lives – right now.

It should be quite empowering to us all. We are just a handful of people, and good friends of good friends - tied only by the shared dream that we could succeed where governments and large organizations have failed. That we could bring aid to lives that others have deemed hopeless. But while the G8 is still talking...

Michael’s House is making a difference.

Michael’s House dates back to 2003 when a small feeding program was started in Ethiopia with only \$30! Funded solely through the private donations of our small network of friends and time of volunteers, we have effectively and efficiently created an infrastructure that delivers food and services to deserving elderly in Ethiopia and Uganda. But you are delivering much more. You’ve created a community where families have been lost, replaced loneliness with conversation and street noise with music, restored dignity to lives, and brought laughter back to faces that had forgotten how to smile.

In just a few years, we are impacting people half a world away:

**Community Center in Addis Ababa:** Started as a small feeding program, our center in Ethiopia now feeds over 200 daily. This year, an outpatient medical clinic was established as well as sanitation and personal hygiene facilities. In addition, looms and sewing machines were added to promote craftwork that allows members to earn incomes. In 2007, we added Anne’s Shelter that can now house over 40 of the most needy overnight.

**Farm System in Uganda:** Outside of Kampala, Michael’s House has purchased two farms, Ryan-Rice Farm and Grace Farm to provide nutritious crops, dairy products and meat for the aged.

**One-For-One (141) Pension Program:** Established as a means to provide for the deserving less ambulatory of Michael’s House, the 141 K Program provides a \$10 per month stipend to 173 elderly.

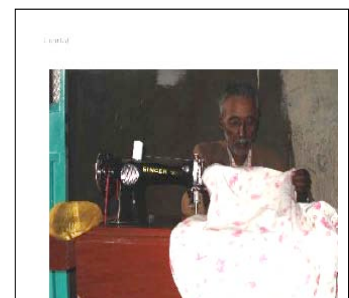
**Agape Fund:** A donor established this special fund to provide glasses, hearing and dental supplies and support.

Michael’s House Inc., has non-profit status dating from February 2006 and is a registered charity. We are now recognized and collaborate with established reputable international charities in Ethiopia and Uganda including Mother Teresa’s Charities in Addis Ababa.

So, from all of us at Michael’s House, **Amesegnalhu! and Waybale! (A heartfelt Thank you from Ethiopia and Uganda)** Karl Kelley, Trustee



Men arrive to sleep at Ann’s Shelter



Working with donated sewing machines

**“I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love”  
Mother Teresa**



# LABOR DAY



We all remember the extremely successful shoe drive last labor day. We were able to buy new shoes for the aged who never had the luxury of new shoes let alone two shoes that matched This year a major concern we have is that we have no reserves for emergency food should a catastrophe occur. We spend as we earn. We need to anticipate that should there be a sudden drop in our income; we will be able to weather the crises without a disruption in our delivery of food to those who desperately depend on it. As most of our aged poor have never been fortunate to earn a living, let alone have a steady job, we thought that those of us who have been otherwise blessed be willing to give the equivalent of one hour's pay for the year to build up our food reserve money. It would amount to roughly .0002 of an average income for a working year. You will receive further details about this fundraiser later.



**“To laugh often and much... To leave the world a better place... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived... this is to have succeeded”**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## The World is not My Boat Alone

There is that old story from centuries ago about three men in a boat, none of whom could swim. When they got out to the middle of the lake one of them took out an augur and began boring a hole in the bottom of the boat. The other two shouted, "What are you doing?"

"Mind your own business," said the one with the augur. "I'm drilling this hole beneath my seat alone. It has nothing to do with you."

"But," shouted the other two men, "we are all in the same boat!"

.As long as we all remember that we are all in the same boat we will all fare well. The Irish have a prayer that says "Help us, our boat is so small and your ocean is so big". Every kind act, every unjust act reverberates through the whole of human kind and ultimately reflects on us as individuals and communities.

*“When I wake up in the mornings I think I can fly because I am so happy. Thanks to big people who send us money I know that I will have food and a bed to sleep in tonight. I am old but very rich now”. Meseret Nnego (Ethiopia)*





## NEWS FLASH...

As this newsletter goes to print we are in the final stage of buying a third farm in Uganda to produce vegetables and crops for the destitute elderly. It will be known as "Audrey's Farm". The purchase of this farm that is already planted with bananas and cassava plants, will open up our two existing side by side farms, i.e., Ryan Rice and Grace farms to a very fertile valley where there is a river. We will share more information on this project in our next newsletter. Right now it is important to say that we are very grateful to the kind benefactor who made this possible.

### St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O, Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



Our progress has been outstanding and your continued support is invaluable... as we grow...so do the needs! There are many ways to help; you can be assured that every donation no matter the amount makes a huge difference in the quality of the daily lives of our destitute elderly! Thank you.

**Please make checks payable to Michael's House Inc. 15779 Columbia Pike, PO Box 250,  
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[www.michaels-house.org](http://www.michaels-house.org)