

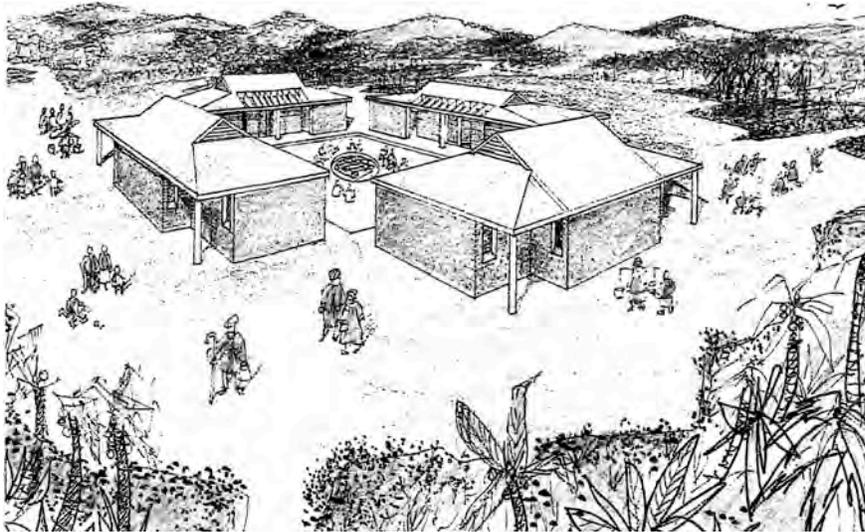


Empowering each other to serve the destitute elderly in the developing world

November 2009

Michael's House is a grassroots organization that is a registered 501 (c) (3) international non-profit charity, whose mission is to aid the elderly poor who have fallen through the cracks. We provide a community day center, hot meals, hygiene facilities, supplies for handicrafts, basic medical care, overnight shelter for the infirmed, pensions, eye glasses, surgeries, working farms with crops and animals, and funds for special projects. Currently we are in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Our Vision for the Elderly in Uganda... It Takes a Village



Working the fields



Currently, in Uganda, Michael's House has three farms. So much has been accomplished on these farms thanks to the generous donations of our benefactors. Michael's House has been able to raise crops and animals to provide both food and a sense of pride to the elderly and volunteers who help work the land.

Our next major project, "...it takes a Village" is to further utilize the farms by providing on site housing for some of the elderly who continue to sleep on the streets of Kampala. Through the kindness of John Tseronis, an architect and volunteer for Michael's House, the picture shown above will be brought to life through your generous donations.

For as little as \$100, you can build a one-room shelter that will house one or more of the elderly and it will also become part of the larger village compound. Your name or that of a loved one can be placed over the entrance to commemorate your generosity.

If you wish to participate in this project, please specify "it takes a village" project on your donation.

Inside this issue we have included a form to use for your gift giving during the holidays. For those who "have everything" and are difficult to buy for, consider giving a donation to Michael's House in their name. It truly is the gift that keeps on giving!



WHY I GIVE TO MICHAEL'S HOUSE: a letter from a donor

I give financial gifts and gifts of time to Michael's House because I don't know of a more deserving charity, one which also strives for true justice. I will give until I find one more deserving, though I have already looked, and this is why:

98% of our gifts go directly to those in need –to those destitute elderly in our human family who lack any physical means to provide for themselves, much less, repay these gifts. Pure gift is rare – even among family members, but Michaels House raises money in our more affluent country and transfers it directly for food, medicines, shelter, day care services, surgeries and community building in the developing countries of Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda.

Pure gift comes only from the creator, but the mission of Michael's House approaches perfection, with a few concerned people, providing sustenance to hundreds more in our global family. There is virtually no involvement from institutions or systems of corporate charity, NGOs, governments or even denominational “religious” institutions, and so, there is zero “legal skimming.” Elderly people in developing nations, with no one else to care for them, get fed, get clothed and receive health care. This comes from the surplus of those of us in this blessed nation, who have heard the cry of the poor and responded.

I like that; sharing without fanfare and without expectation of physical repayment. For me, giving to Michael's House is a test of faith – something outside the purely rational. It is how I answer the question, “When did we see you, Lord?”

Matt R.
Takoma Park, MD

A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER FOR MICHAEL'S HOUSE - Dr. Maura Lynch who performs surgeries in Uganda

Dr. Maura Lynch, entered Medical School in 1958. She completed a Diploma in Obstetrics in Gynecology from the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists in London in 1967. She was assigned to Chiulo Mission Hospital in Angola in South West Africa where, for the next 17 years, she shared the entire work of the 200 - bed hospital with just one other doctor.



Dr. Lynch with her indefatigable drive, resilience and good humor, returned to Ireland and completed additional surgical training and in 1987 she took up duty as Consultant Surgeon/Obstetrician Gynecologist in Kitova Mission Hospital, Uganda.

Her particular achievement in the subsequent twenty years that she has spent in Uganda has been the pioneering Obstetric Fistula Repair Program that she introduced. She had identified post-Obstetric Pelvic trauma as a huge medical and social problem in Africa. As a result of seeing first hand the physical, psychological and social isolation endured by African women, she became a champion of Dignity and Justice for Women in the Developing World. She saw this as one of her life-goals and she was responsible for conducting over a thousand vesico-vaginal fistula repairs between 1993 and 2007 – an astonishing record that, one can confidently say will never be bettered. The transformation of African women's lives achieved as a result of her expertise is incalculable.

We at Michael's House are very blessed to have her on our team of volunteers!

Please remember our new mailing address **PO Box 856
Burtonsville, Maryland 20866**





NAMWANDU
KAGALANI



COSTANCE
NABULIME



TEKERA
SSERUNKUMA



XGATTI
NAMATOVU-KIKAZJA



EMIRINA
NAMULEME KIGONGO

RE: APPRECIATION FOR THE GRANNIES FUND

On behalf of the sponsored grannies and the Community of Kitovu Hospital, we extend our sincere gratitude to you for the love, concern, generosity and continued support for the Grannies! May God reward you abundantly! Thank you also, for channeling the money through Dr. Maura; a true humanitarian with compassionate love for all, especially the most vulnerable, needy and the elderly!

I am pleased to inform you that all the twenty Grannies whose photographs were sent to you, are doing well. They all come to our Hospital through the Social workers' office. They have sight, hearing and hypertension problems and Dr. Maura caters for the full cost of medication. I am also happy to inform you that, three of these Grannies are permanently cured of VVF by Fistula Repairs, which was done in Kitovu Hospital! They are happy and enjoying life to the full! The sponsored grannies really depend a lot on you for their livelihood!

Thanks. May God bless you.

George William, **Senior Social Worker, Kitovu Hospital**



FINANCIAL UPDATE:

In our efforts to be transparent, we like to share with you an overview of our income and expenses. We do not pay salaries and 99% of our income goes directly to our elderly poor. To pay our expenses we need \$5050 by the 25th of each month. This covers. pensions, daily food for 200 plus people, clothing, medicine, eyeglasses, handicrafts, funeral costs and utilities. Ann's shelter costs \$10,000 a year and is paid for by a generous benefactor. The expenses for the doctor and nurse in Addis Ababa are paid for by a generous grant from St. John's Episcopal Church in Olney, MD. During the past 6 months in this struggling economy, we begin each month with a meager balance of about \$10 and hope and pray that the donations will come in and enable us to send the necessary funds to our elderly poor. But God continues to bless our work and with your help we just make it.

IN THE END HE WAS NOT POOR - JUST WITHOUT RICHES!

Darius is a 75- year old man who lived on the streets of Addis Ababa for countless years. He was totally alone having been isolated from his relatives in the North of Ethiopia during the war with Eritrea. In 2003 he became one of the first recipients of daily meals at Michael's House in Addis. Recently, Darius became ill and increasingly fragile. His friends were worried and moved him to a bed at Ann's Shelter where he was respectfully cared for by them until he died last week of TB.

His last years of life offer us a concrete example of the supportive family that has evolved among our guests and our volunteer staff at Michael's House and Ann's Shelter in Addis. For weeks before his death, our elderly guests took care of one of their own with little regard for their own danger. The day Darius died the men and women at Ann's Shelter, together with Terfa planned a beautiful and respectful funeral. Immediately after his death, the assembly of guests, which include Muslims, Christians and various other religions offered prayers. The men washed his body while the women collected roughly \$8 and bought a woven cloth to wrap him in. The staff at Michael's House bought a coffin for \$46. Terfa arranged a funeral service at a local Orthodox church. On the day of the funeral his body was placed in Nevin's Van and the assembly of Michael's House and Ann's Shelter processed to the church and the cemetery. Terfa said that "following the funeral we all came home and enjoyed a traditional coffee ceremony. What a testimony!

Trustee Runs for Michael's House – Chicago Marathon Report

First, let me thank all of you that donated to Michael's House on behalf of the Chicago Marathon fundraising effort. Initially, we raised over **\$1,057** in just 3 weeks! Our friends in Africa thank you all.

Approximately 40,000 ran this year's Chicago marathon. It began with a chilly 29 degree start and it was won by a 23 year old Kenyan "Sammy" Wanjiru with a time of 2:05. On the other hand, I proudly finished in the top 25,000!



As a first marathon, this was an accomplishment for me personally, but the effort took on an additional element by running for Michael's House and the elderly poor in Africa. Last year, I had the great opportunity to visit Michael's House in both Ethiopia and Uganda. I continue to be inspired by the warmth and appreciation shown by the elderly and commitment of the MH staff there. While not really a runner, running for Michael's House, kept me motivated and tying my shoelaces, even when the weather (and my knees) suggested otherwise.

During training, I met a number of more seasoned runners that were running for various causes. I am not a natural fundraiser, but the opportunity to support Michael's House seemed obvious. About 3 weeks prior to the marathon, I sent out a message regarding the race and Michael's House to my admittedly small group of Facebook friends and family. I was surprised and encouraged by the response, not only in those willing to donate, but also those that took the time to give Michael's House and our work a closer look. A friend who heard what I was doing offered to match funds through his company and within a few weeks we had raised over **\$2,114** !

The entire experience was rewarding and knowing the impact on our friends Addis Ababa gave the effort a special meaning. I would strongly encourage any others that might be running or know of others running in races to consider Michael's House as a charity sponsor. It's been a week since the marathon, I am still limping a bit, but doing so with a smile on my face!

Twining

The concept of twinning is familiar to all of us. Towns, Cities and often Schools twin with others who have something in common. Everyone benefits and it can be very exciting and mind broadening. At Michael's House Inc. we are reaching out to some group or groups who would be willing to twin with our guests at the two houses in Ethiopia and also with our "Grannies" in Tanzania. You can't begin to imagine the excitement this would bring to their lives. For probably the first time ever they could get birthday, Christmas and postcards! We are making this request in particular to those of you who may be retired and already belong to some group, club or residence. There is no expense involved in this project just a few minutes a month to send greetings from your group to theirs. . Contact Lynda Richards at 301 774 5626.



Your continued support makes it all possible and secures one daily meal for the elderly poor. They have come to depend on the love and generosity from those of us more fortunate on the other side of the world. We cannot let them down!

***Make Checks Payable to: Michael's House Inc, Post Office Box 856
Burtonsville, Maryland, 20866***

Visit us on the web at www.michaels-house.org