

# MICHAEL'S HOUSE, INC.

EMPOWERING EACH OTHER TO SERVE THE POOR IN THE THIRD WORLD!

NOVEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

**A WORD OF THANKS and PLEA FOR HELP** The Board of trustees, the workers, and the elderly would like to say thank you for your continued support and the recent success of many of our projects. It is thrilling to see the growth that we are experiencing and your level of participation, our benefactors! We are however experiencing the pains of outgrowing our current funds. We need to increase our donor base to keep up with our rapid expansion! You have received 2 copies of the newsletter this month; please share one with an individual or business that might join our project. We need everyone to be an active advocate for Michael's House!



After the staff at Michael's House received the funds (\$500 US) raised for our shoe drive, they assisted each of our elderly in purchasing new well fitting shoes. This is a "first time luxury" for most of our guests at Michael's House and they are thrilled!



## EMAIL RECEIVED FROM OUR ON SITE MANAGER, TERFA DINKA, AT MICHAEL'S HOUSE IN ADDIS ABABA

*Today we succeeded to in the first round of distribution of the shoes, we have distributed almost for 78 people and they will come tomorrow to get them, It was really a very exciting moment for all of them as well as for us who are undertaking the work, and when I looked at the happiest heart of these destitute people I was overjoyed and thanking God from the deepest of my heart, For this first round the money you sent is enough, the little difficult we found was just with get the right size for each one of them, and we have succeeded indeed with pleasure with them, I have no words how to explain how much they all were happy when they get the shoes, with best regards and love.*

TERFA DINKA

In early October, Cathy Evans and her 2 daughters, Christine and Emily participated in a craft sale and donated the funds to Michael's House. They spent the summer crocheting blankets, scarves, doll clothes, and bracelets to get ready for the event. And their efforts paid off! It is exciting to see children participating in fundraising and learning the joy of helping others! As a matter of fact, we have many children who have asked to join our project. Their innovative ideas for fund raising are inspiring!



EVANS FAMILY FUND RAISING PROJECT



## THANKSGIVING DAY REFLECTIONS

Although we all have our daily challenges, overall we have so much for which to be grateful. Often in our busyness, we fail to recognize this and we forget to give thanks. One way to say thank you is to acknowledge our blessings by reaching out to another of God's children who may not be so fortunate. A pass on the love and pass it forward way of giving thanks.

This Thanksgiving holiday many of us will spend an extra \$50-\$100 or more to prepare a bountiful meal to be enjoyed on **ONE** day. That same investment will feed a person in Ethiopia **EVERYDAY** for an entire year. What a return on investment! Maybe this year we could try to match our Thanksgiving Day grocery bill with an equal donation to Michael's House. What a beautiful way to celebrate the holiday, and say thank you for all that we have.

*Board of Trustees*



## SHOPPING LIST

15 Lb Turkey	29.80
Stuffing	2.79
Potatoes	3.99
Green beans	4.98
Peas	2.79
Sweet Potatoes	4.95
Dinner Rolls	4.29
Cranberries	3.18
Pumpkin Pie	4.95
Apple pie	4.95
Whipped Cream	2.19

Total	US	\$ 68.81
Ethiopian Birr		599



## OUR BENEFACTORS ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS !

Starting a Giving Circle is easy; to begin, just get a commitment for a contribution from each member of the circle, collect monthly, and send a check to Michael's House Pension Fund. It's just that easy! It's all about helping ordinary people do extraordinary things. It's about empowering each other to respond to global needs in a very intimate and personal way. Following are some creative ways!

- ❑ Vicki, a Montgomery County school bus driver is organizing a giving circle of coworkers and friends to pay pensions for several people.
- ❑ Donna, a Frederick County teacher, is organizing a group of fellow teachers to adopt and pay pensions for several elderly people.
- ❑ The workers at a Silver Spring KFC pledged a dollar a month to pay a pension for two women.
- ❑ John, a retired firefighter in Glasgow, Scotland, gives a part of his own pension each month.
- ❑ Ms. Christine, a Montgomery County school teacher and her class had a 'loose change' drive for the month of October to raise funds. They gave all their loose change at the end of each day and at the end of the month converted it to dollars!
- ❑ Marianne, a 15 year old student in L'Aigle, France is organizing a "Skip-a-Lunch" day each semester to adopt an elderly person.
- ❑ Bill and Elise, a retired couple on a very moderate income in Baltimore, have adopted a "Never-Spend-a-Nickel" approach. They save all their nickels each month, usually about \$25, to support other elderly who are less fortunate than they.
- ❑ Max who is 11 years old and his 8 year old sister Grace are organizing a "Movie Evening" at their home for their peers. Entrance fees and profit from the sales of refreshments will go to support an elderly destitute person.

## E Mail from Ben Ssenoga, on site manager in Uganda...

*Greetings from Michael's House-Uganda!!*

*We want to thank you for all your efforts and all you do to the needy aged. There is a lot of improvement in their lives, thanks a lot. We would like to seek and ask for the help so that we can have our center as well as a farm were we can cater well for the elderly as well we can grow some vegetables and other farming and animal husbandry for the elderly for their betterment .For now we are operating at kinship house for the short time and has emblessed us but we need to have our center as a point of reference for us. Already, your help has touched us and helped improve the lives of these needy and aged ones. Please, we welcome you to our house here in Uganda, come and be part of us for the good and betterment of those whom we do care for. Pray for us and all those being cared for. God bless, Ben Ssenoga.*

## Update from Uganda...

Thanks to a generous benefactor, The Ryan Rice farm in Uganda (purchased 10/20/06) is now in operation and provides nutritional vegetables and in the very near future will provide meat products and milk for the local destitute elderly!



### **Pension Plan**

We currently have several hundred old and destitute people on our waiting list for a pension. \$7 a month or \$84 a year provides a pension for an elderly person in a rural area and \$10 a month or \$120 a year provides for an elderly person in an urban area.

### ***We are growing!***

Michael's House Inc. currently operates four projects in Ethiopia - South, West, Addis and two in Uganda. We have a request to fund projects in Kenya, which hopefully, we will be able to address with your help in 2007.

### **Vision, Dental, and Hearing Fund**

We have \$1800 in a new fund for Vision, Hearing and Dental emergencies.. The glasses are \$20 for simple lenses and \$30 for complex lenses. The AGAPE ("love") Project is for hearing, vision, and dental needs; donations can be identified for this particular project.



**NEVER SPEND A DIME!**  
**Consider never spending your dimes.**  
**Save all of them in a jar for one**  
**month and see what you accumulate**  
**for Michael's House !**



**MORE  
NEWS**



## BREAKING NEWS:



The Ryan Rice Farm (Michael's House in Kampala, Uganda) referenced on page 3 of this newsletter has recently requested help with an urgent need for milk. Ben Ssenoga, our on site manager, has informed us that they were given an extra acre of land totaling 6 acres. With this extra space, Ben wants to acquire livestock to empower the people to contribute to their own support. He has asked that we try to provide:

- ❑ 2 Dairy Cows to provide milk cost 300,000 Uganda Shillings (\$163 each)
- ❑ 1 Calf costs 270000 UGS (\$147)
- ❑ 10 goats cost 25,000 UGS (\$13 each)
- ❑ 6 Piglets cost 35,000 UGS (\$19 each)
- ❑ 20 Hens cost 5,000 UGS (\$2.75 each)
- ❑ 4 Rabbits cost 7000 UGS (\$3.75 each)



This might be a fun way to give a Christmas gift in honor of a family Member. If you participate in this project be sure to designate that your contribution is for the Ryan Rice Farm and which animal you are buying. The gift that gives all year!

## NEW SICK BAYS AT MICHAEL'S HOUSE IN ADDIS ABABA

We have become so well-known that local police and medical workers are sending us the elderly sick. We have now improved three rooms in Michael's house to administer to the sick. If they need more intensive care, we deliver them to Mother Teresa's for medical treatment.

## NEW CRAFTWORK CENTER IN ADDIS ABABA

The elderly are now arriving at Michael's House not only for meals and hygiene, but to complete craft projects for sale in the marketplace. We are seeking funds to purchase items needed for these projects.

- ❑ 2 Sewing machines with a table and chair for each

The total cost for each work center is \$200



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

***Please make checks out to Michael's House Inc. Funds for the Pension Plan should be identified as such. 15779 Columbia Pike, PO Box 250, Burtonsville MD, 20866***