



Empowering Each Other  
To Serve The Destitute  
Elderly in the Developing World

January 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, surgeries, eyeglasses, working farms with crops and animals, and funds for special projects. Currently, we are in Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania.

Please visit our website: [www. Michaels-house.org](http://www.Michaels-house.org)

### HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE TRUSTEES OF MICHAEL'S HOUSE

Everywhere we look, there is work to be done. We will move forward to help increase the medical care to the elderly, feed more of the hungry and house those that we can. It will be with your support and tenacity, that we will be able to accomplish these tasks.

**For this month**, you may wish to consider donating \$20 to purchase eyeglasses so the elderly see more clearly.

#### UGANDA – It Takes a Village

Currently, Michael's House has been using our three farms, Ryan-Rice Farm, Grace Farm, and Audrey's Farm, located two hours from Kampala, to plant crops in the fertile soil, raise and graze animals, and supply the water necessary for all these activities.

A new use for these farms will be the construction of a village that will consist of individual living/sleeping quarters in blocks of six and a communal area that will be used as a kitchen and a social gathering place. This new usage will bring back the elderly who are now begging and sleeping in the streets of Kampala to a village where they will live and work to become self-sustaining and restore a sense of self-worth so long denied.

This project will be separately funded and will not come out of daily operating expenses. The bricks used for construction, are being made by locals at the cost of 7 shillings per brick (2000 shillings to a US dollar).



You can "Buy Some Bricks" with your donation designated to help construct these rural homes for the homeless on our farms in Uganda.

*"The best stock a man can invest in, is the stock of a farm; the best shares are plow shares; and the best banks are the fertile banks of a rural stream; the more these are broken, the better dividends they pay."*

*Henry Ward Beecher*



**URGENT  
ADDRESS CHANGE  
PLEASE NOTE**

**Michael's House, Inc.  
Post Office Box 856  
Burtonsville, Maryland, 20866**

## Medical Clinic Update

News of the medical clinic at Michael's House Community Center in Addis Ababa has spread to the extent that police and other community officials are bringing the wounded or ill elderly from afar to receive our free basic medical services. We are well known and respected in the area, which is both a blessing and a challenge. This is a blessing in that we are able to assist many more elderly than the regular guests we have at Michael's House while it challenges us to "stretch" our dollars that we have allocated to medical expenses. Still, we are pleased to have gained local notoriety and respect!



## African Palms Grant

We are pleased to announce that our \$5000 grant for the medical clinic given by African Palms, [www.stjohnsolney.org/palms/](http://www.stjohnsolney.org/palms/) has been renewed for another 6 months. We are very excited to be partnering with this dynamic outreach project and look forward to an expanded and continued relationship.

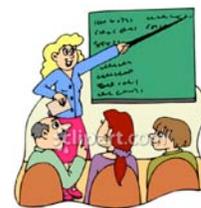


## Water System Installed

During the past several months, Michael's House Community Center in Addis Ababa has been experiencing water shortage and stoppage due to the building of a large hospital in the area. In order to provide water to the center, volunteers have been carrying water by hand from Ann's Shelter that has its own water storage system. Thanks to a generous donation from a supporter and volunteer of Michael's House, we have now been able to erect a new water storage system at the Community Center for which, we are eternally grateful.

## Michael's House Presentations for Groups

Due to our continued growth and success, we need to expand our donor base. We will gladly make a presentation to your group (large or small) and share a slide show and information about various Michael's House projects. Please contact Lynda Richards 301.774.5626 or Mary Ann Atkinson 410.796.5896 for additional information and scheduling.



## Circle of Giving

The Green family of Beltsville, MD, got together recently to celebrate their father's 77th birthday. Realizing that their father had everything he needed, they decided to each give a check in his name to Michael's House. This was a simple solution to gift giving, which thrilled their father on his birthday. Their gift of \$500 is on its way to Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda to people who don't have everything! Thanks to the Green Circle of Giving.

## Support of a Different Kind

Pastor Ann Dwiggins and the Parish Council of St. Stephen ELCA in Silver Spring, MD provide the Michael's House Trustees and its volunteers with a meeting place throughout the year. ([www.sselca.org](http://www.sselca.org)) This is an invaluable gift to us as it is central, convenient and above all a free location. We are deeply grateful to them for their collaboration in our work, and we count them as our friends and supporters.

## Thanks to our Printer

During the past year, we have been very fortunate to have Bob Russell of R & R Associates, Inc. in Columbia, MD, handle the printing for Michael's House including the newsletter. His expertise is greatly appreciated. He can be reached at 410-997-9430 or by email: [brussell@r-r.com](mailto:brussell@r-r.com).



**From this...**

*“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”*

Mahatma Gandhi

The change **you** create with your generous support is powerful!  
Thank you



**To this!**

### **Gift of Church Collections**

Michael’s House will be the grateful recipient of the benevolent giving in the months of January, February and March 2009, from St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Springfield, Virginia. Our sincere thanks go to all the parishioners of St. Marks.

### **A New Van for Ethiopia**

We are extremely grateful to have received the gift of an all-purpose van for use in Ethiopia. This van was generously given to us by Hawkins Electric Service, Inc., a provider of electrical services, to residential and commercial properties throughout the Baltimore-Washington and Northern Virginia area ([www.HawkinsElectric.com](http://www.HawkinsElectric.com)).



We, and our elderly guests have long awaited and prayed hard for this wonderful gift. The van will be used to transport our destitute elderly to and from clinics and hospitals. In addition, we will now be able to deliver meals to homebound elderly as well as emergency medical services, which had often been delivered on foot. The van will also enable the staff in Addis Ababa to travel confidently the vast distances between our projects in the West and South of Ethiopia.

The van will bear the name “Nevin’s Bus” at the request of Eric Shatzer, current owner of Hawkins, who piloted the project in the name of his late father, Nevin Shatzer. Eric humorously says that even though his Dad was a successful businessman, he always had a dream to own a bus. Hence, Nevin’s Bus! Nevin’s wish has finally been granted and he can now look down from above at this gift from his son.

### **A Sincere Thank You**

We are sincerely thankful to Kathy Evans, her daughters Christine and Emily; Ann Costello, and Debra Street all of St. John the Baptist Parish in Silver Spring, MD for their ingenuity and creativity in making crafts over the past several months which were sold at Christmas Bazaars to provide aid to Michael’s House. What foresight!

### **URGENT NOTICE**

### **ADDRESS CHANGE**

**New Mailing Address**

**Michael’s House, Inc.  
Post Office Box 856  
Burtonsville, Maryland 20866**



## WEBSITE UPDATE

Michael's House is pleased to announce our new and improved website! All of us at Michael's House believe it will provide you with more visual and comprehensive information of what has been accomplished with your generous donations and support. Please visit our new website at the same address:

[www.Michaels-House.org](http://www.Michaels-House.org)



(Many thanks to Deb Halpern [[Deb@dlhweb.com](mailto:Deb@dlhweb.com)] and Kevin Richards [[www.stickypieces.com](http://www.stickypieces.com)] for their generous gift of time and expertise.)

When using a computer search engine, please give "Goodsearch.com" powered by YAHOO a try. You can select Michael's House as your charity and we will receive a stipend for each time you use the search engine.

**FOR VALENTINE'S DAY CONSIDER GIVING TO MICHAEL'S HOUSE IN THE NAME OF YOUR LOVED ONE. (YOU CAN INCLUDE THE COUPON BELOW IN YOUR CARD.)**

### WAYS TO GIVE

- \$50 "Comfort Pack" that includes a walking stick, pair of shoes, hat, soap, towel and skin lotion.
- \$10 Pension for a month.
- \$120 Pension for a year
- \$25 Craft supplies so a guest can create and sell crafts in the market place.
- \$35 Cataract surgery to restore sight. (Masaka, Uganda)
- \$90 Fistula surgery to restore a woman's dignity. (Masaka, Uganda)
- \$20 Seven Hundred and fifty bricks to assist in the construction of huts on the farms. (Kampala, Uganda.)

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

**Note New  
Address !**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_, A donation to Michael's House was made  
in your name in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

**Michael's House Inc. is a non-profit grassroots organization that serves the elderly poor in the developing world who have become invisible. Unfortunately, they do not receive funds from government organizations or other large aide foundations. It is through this gift that they now have a face and dignity in their daily lives.**

[www.michaels-house.org](http://www.michaels-house.org)