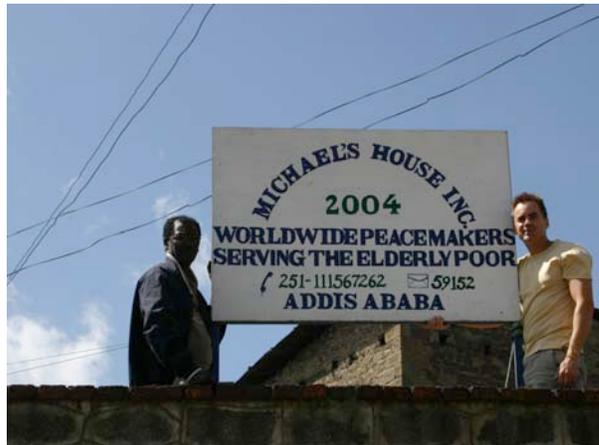
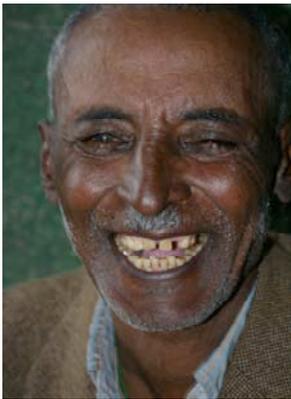




EMPOWERING EACH OTHER  
TO SERVE THE DESTITUTE  
ELDERLY IN THE THIRD  
WORLD

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2007

## A Report on East Africa from our trustee Karl Kelly



## October Site Visit Report

Returning from Africa just last Friday, we were exhausted, but in the best possible way. As a member of the Michael's House Board of Trustees traveling with another MH member, we were excited to see first-hand our operations in both Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in Uganda. I was not disappointed. I found Michael's House not what I expected...it was much more! My only wish is that we could have recorded (and translated!) the almost constant outpouring of thanks, prayers, and well-wishes sent on the behalf of the elderly we are serving half a world away.

One cannot spend 2 minutes at Michael's House in Addis Ababa without feeling like you are in the presence of something uniquely magical. Through the incredible passion and management of Terfa and his team, they have created an oasis of peace and comfort in stark contrast to the chaotic and hard streets just outside its gates. Over the last 2 years, they have transformed a group of 80 to 100 homeless and lonely elderly into a community that feels more like a family. Among the rewards is not only observing how the health of the individuals has improved over this time, but also how their minds have sharpened and their spirits have once again come alive.

In addition to auditing the work plan, we toured the facilities, including the craft shop where beautiful handmade textiles and baskets are being produced on a daily basis for sale. We visited Ann's Shelter, which has proved to be an excellent addition to our program. We also brought over a suitcase full of medical supplies to restock the health clinic. However, the best part was taking part in the serving of our clientele. I'm not sure who enjoyed this more...

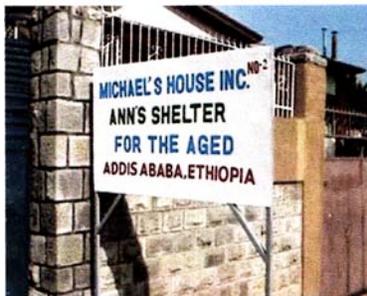
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In Uganda, we found a country decimated by years of corruption, AIDS, and civil war with little family, spiritual, or economic structures remaining. As a result, the need there is immense. While a relatively new program for Michael's House, we are already beginning to make a difference in the lives of the rural elderly living outside of Kampala. While there, we audited the work plan and met with the individuals involved in our outreach program that deals one-on-one with the elderly through weekly visitation. In addition, we toured the new farm program and discussed next steps and met with the nursing assistant to exchange supplies and discuss the best process for ongoing distribution of care.

And throughout our visits were showered with handmade gifts, prayers, thanks, and praises from the extended family that is now Michael's House. But to be sure, these were not meant for us, they were meant for you.

You have made a difference. You are changing lives. Thank you from everyone at Michael's House.

"If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one."  
- Mother Theresa

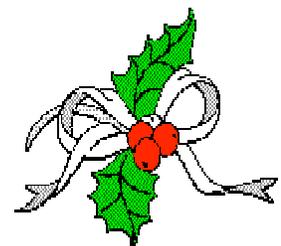


Recently we had a benefactor who generously donated funds for the remaining twenty beds, mattresses, sheets and towels for Ann's Shelter enabling us to double overnight occupancy



Some of our youngest benefactors ages 3 and 5 years old spent a hot summer afternoon at their lemonade stand in Boston raising money for Michael's House. They were able to raise \$14, which was then matched by their parents and they chose to purchase a piglet and some hens for the elderly in Tanzania. Three of their friends (patrons) are pictured with them. They stated that they enjoyed earning money for Michael's House and would do it again next summer!

*The trustees, staff and elderly guests at Michael's House wish to give thanks to you, our benefactors, for your generous and caring spirit. We wish you all a blessed and joyful Holiday*



## 141K PENSION PLAN – ADOPT A GRANDPARENT!

It is difficult for many of us to imagine the degree of poverty experienced by the indigent elderly in Africa, or the gratitude and hope that a modest contribution can provide. With your monthly or annual contribution of

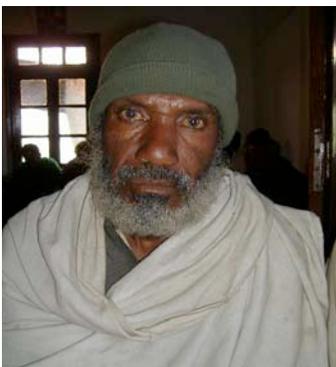
- \$84.00 (\$7.00 per month) can save the life of an elderly person in the rural parts of Africa; or
- \$120.00 (\$10.00 per month) can save the life of an elderly person in the more expensive cities of Africa.
- Your gift not only provides pensioners with one meal a day, but gives them a sense of self-worth knowing they are loved and respected.
- Your gift truly saves the life of an elderly person who has long ago given up all hope.
- Your entire donation goes directly to the recipient and is tax deductible as Michael's House has been designated as a public charity with 501 (c) (3) status.

Please consider this donation as a gift worth giving during this holiday season and the ultimate gift of love to an indigent, elderly person who is someone's grandparent and/or great-grandparent. Below are two examples of those you have helped but more are waiting for your kindness and generosity during the coming year.

### PLEASE OPEN YOUR HEARTS AND GIVE



Mora is an 83 year-old woman who was a secretary at the Italian embassy in Addis for several years. She is a dignified tall woman even in the rags she wears to keep her warm. In her fluent Italian, she explained her spiral downwards to her present sad status. She had five children all of whom died as adults. Her husband got meningitis and as a result was brain damaged. She had to leave her job to take care of him. He lived for several years. When he died she took in her eldest granddaughter who later succumbed to HIV/AIDS. Mora inherited her three great grandchildren who are now aged 8, 5 and 4 years old. She lost the little room she lived in and now lives with the children under a piece of corrugated iron propped up against the wall of a bus shelter. With no pension, health care or even relatives this still dignified woman finds a little support, sustenance and above all respect at Michael's House



Mulnet Agu is an 84 year-old man who in his young days was a soldier in the army of the Emperor Haille Selasie. He never married and has no living relatives. He lives on a soldier's pension of 14 birr a month, which is about \$1.50. His eyesight is very bad and sometimes he gets lost and often mugged. Terfa (a Michael's House Volunteer) found him living in a cardboard box on the street not far from Michael's House. He was desperate, frightened and barely had the strength to fight off the wild dogs that roam the streets. Through your generosity, Michael's House is now able to provide him with one meal a day and the love and respect of community he receives at Michael's House.

**Remember that Michael's House is a registered 501 C3 non-profit charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.**





## GIVING THE GIFT THAT GIVES ALL YEAR LONG



This year, Michael's House would like to suggest that the gift you buy during this Holiday Season could give all year long to your family and friends. Through your previous generosity, Michael's House has been able to provide many services for our guests; however, the needs continue to grow and become more urgent each day. Please consider giving:

- "A Comfort Pack" for \$50 that will include a walking stick, pair of shoes, shawl, blanket, a man or woman's hat, soap, towel and skin lotion.
- "A Pension" for either \$84 or \$120 per year or as little as \$7 or \$10 for a month to assist an elderly person in obtaining food and a sense of well-being.
- "Craft Material Items" for \$20 to provide a guest with the means to create and sell crafts in the market place to earn money for shelter or medical care.
- "Farm Animals" you can buy a goat for \$13, a piglet for \$19, and a hen for \$ 2.75

Make Checks payable to Michael's House, Inc  
15779 Columbia Pike, Box 250, Columbia, MD 20866  
[www.michaels-house.org](http://www.michaels-house.org)

Clip the "Gift Card" below to inform your family and friends of your gift given in their name from your heart.



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

Michael's House Inc. is a non-profit grassroots organization that serves the elderly poor in the third 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)