



# MICHAEL'S HOUSE

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

September 2010

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, Tanzania, Rwanda and Thailand.

## MICHELMAS

At the beginning of fall, in many parts of the world, there is a Michelmas Day. It might not ring a bell with most of us as a significant day; however, especially in Ireland and England it is a celebration of St. Michael. Remember he is the patron of the destruction of evil. When I was young, it was common for people to buy a Michelmas goose so that they could fatten it up for Christmas dinner. The Michelmas daisy (aster) bloomed courageously everywhere until it was destroyed by frost, offering the much needed nectar to the butterflies, bees and wasps before the onset of winter frost.



It's time for us to celebrate a little on this Michelmas and add a new special day to your year for Michael's House. Take time out and acknowledge the wonderful work you are doing. Maybe you have a parallel in the Michelmas Daisy? For the past six years, often through great individual and collective hardships, through fear and anxiety, and even at times in the face of the negativity of some who thought we were unrealistic, we have succeeded in feeding hundreds of destitute elderly in the onset of the winter of their lives. We have maintained clinics, buried the dead, restored sight to the blind, given back dignity through fistula surgeries, built houses, created community day care, and handcraft training. We also created women's sewing cooperative in Thailand and Rwanda.

Kudos to each and every one who believed! We did not look back once. We put our hand to the plough. We did not look back and turn into pillars of salt. We stayed the course! We are blessed by the resiliency of each other, the joy and collaboration we offer each other. Further, kudos go to the other part of our team, the destitute elderly in our projects who prayed for us daily, prepared, served and delivered meals, cared for the sick, and made handicrafts to sell.

**You are always welcome to come to our meetings, which are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10 AM to noon at St. Steven Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD. (See Web Page for directions.)**

## **Be More Than You Can Be!**

The army advertises for recruits with the slogan, “Be *all* that you can be!” Michael’s House has the philosophy of being more than you can be. How?



Our motto is: “Empowering each other to help the destitute elderly.” That’s the key to being *more* than you can be as an individual. Together we do more good in the world than any of us can do individually. We empower each other as we unite our efforts to help those elderly people in their desperate needs.

When they cannot help themselves, we as “Michael’s House” open our doors and our hearts to assist them to be “all that they can be.” International Aid programs do not help the destitute Elderly. We want them to feel like someone of worth by our assistance. We want to restore a little dignity and hope in their poor lives.

Please come and join with us on the third Saturday of each month (10 AM-Noon) in White Oak, Silver Spring, MD. Let’s help each other feel like we are actually *more* than just one small person in the universe who cannot possibly make much of a difference in such a big problem. It makes all the difference in the world to elderly persons who are too feeble to help themselves, who feel worthless, who sleep on streets, who need medical attention, who are so hungry, and so lonely.

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAR**

One of our elderly guests at Michael’s House in Addis Abba is making handicrafts which will be on sale at the Christmas Bazaars held at St. John the Baptist Church, New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November after Services; and at St. Andrews Church, Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps you have a handcraft skill and have something to offer? For more information call Ann Costello at 301-421-9522 or Kathy Evans at 301-879-2184.



## **CHRISTMAS**

It’s not too early to think of Christmas. Consider giving a gift to Michael’s House designated to the project of your choice in honor of your loved ones. This is the perfect gift for someone who has everything!



*Thank you for my Daily Bread.  
Without you I would have to beg!*



## YOUTH FOR MICHAEL'S HOUSE

Maybe you have a child in high school or college or know a young person who needs to earn community service hours. Maybe you know teens, who just want to meet other people on Facebook? Why don't you consider getting them to join Sean Murphy a student in Ireland, and his friends on Michael's House Facebook. How about a class or school project? Open your mind to friends internationally and perhaps even volunteer abroad? By just signing on to our Facebook wall you can help our destitute elderly.



### Sustainable Donors

In the near future, you will receive a "MISSION CRITICAL" packet with a one-page informational flyer on Michael's House that includes its history, mission, and future goals. Further, the packet will include important information on how you can become a "sustainable donor" who will continue the current mission of Michael's House and provide stability for our future.

**Reality Check: current donations \$1500 monthly, current expenses \$5300**

Please take a few minutes to visit <http://www.michaels-house.org/thailand/index.htm> to see firsthand the wonderful work your money is doing at Baan Suksek in rural Thailand. You can listen to a beautiful and moving interview with one of our guests.



### Tanzania –Cry for Help

Recently, Michael's House had an urgent request from a family in Tanzania, who was willing to provide lifetime care for one of our elderly guests, if we could assist with a shelter. Through the selfless giving of three private donors, we were able to erect a hut adjacent to theirs to accommodate the elderly gentleman. The generosity of the family and private donors is truly appreciated and another example of what we can do together.



### " WE ARE THE WORLD"

We are the world, we are the children  
We are the ones who make a brighter day  
so let's start giving  
There's a choice we're making  
We're saving our own lives  
It's true we'll make a better day  
Just you and me



*We would like to acknowledge and thank those who generously supported our First Annual Michael's House Golf Tournament. You can thank them as well for their generous support by using their services.*

### **Platinum Sponsors**

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