



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

June 2013

Reflection

It is so easy to go about our daily business and in our busyness, to forget those who so desperately depend upon us remembering them for basic human needs. In this country where an abundance of food has made obesity a health concern, it is easy to forget that elsewhere people struggle to stay alive because NO food is available. Hunger is extremely painful! Summer is a time to slow down and to reflect. Our basic human needs are so conveniently within reach but for many what we consider a given – food available when we are hungry – is a hope and a prayer waiting to be answered.

Lynda Mischler, President

A Few Words About Charity...

According to the reputable *Charity Navigator*, “Excellent charities succeed because their monetary gifts are not tied up with fundraising.” We are proud to say that 98% of our income from benefactors goes directly to our clients. We want to be upfront and transparent with our benefactors and prospective benefactors. You have a right at any time to question how much of your gift will support our charity’s stated mission. Remember that we pay no salaries or members’ personal expenses. We do have the printing expense of our newsletter however the cost of postage is donated by a board member. We are a totally volunteer charity. The business of charitable soliciting is a very sophisticated business. There are lots of scams out there. So we encourage you, whether you give to our cause or not, to be vigilant, ask questions and then if you are comfortable give.

Michael Craig, founder



Volunteers are needed to join a not-for-profit charity, which focuses on the needs of the destitute elderly in the developing world. Our target population are those who are displaced through war or famine, have no family support as a result of HIV/Aids or who are in need of food, clothing or medical care.

We work through existing reputable charities in eight countries mostly in Africa and Latin America. Our charity is completely run by volunteers; we pay no salaries and as a result 98% of our income goes to our aged.

Our volunteers require no specific skills other than sensitivity to this population and commitment to monthly meetings (third Saturday morning of the month). www.Michaels-House.org

Annual Hawkins Electric Golf Tournament Fundraiser for Michael's House



On May 14, Hawkins Electric held the annual golf tournament at Whiskey Creek Golf Club. Although the day had a chilly start, it warmed up and everyone had a wonderful time. There was an amazing turnout, lots of donated raffle items, and most important the tournament raised a total of **\$18,154** for Michael's House. That will feed a lot of people and fund a lot of projects for our destitute elderly! Thank you to Hawkins Electric, to all the staff at Hawkins Electric who worked tirelessly, to all the participants, and especially to Eric Shatzer, president of Hawkins Electric, for his continued dedication and efforts to make this annual event possible.

Eric Shatzer presents check to Michael Craig, founder



Thanks to our generous sponsors:

Hawkins Electric Service Inc., Hawkins Electrical Construction, Watkins/Meegan, WCS Construction, D'Camera Group, Life Safety Systems, O'Connor Plumbing & Heating, Intelice Solutions, LINQ Services, Signage by: RPG, Chesapeake Mission Critical, and Tanks Direct.

Aid to Rwanda – Manna From Heaven!

We recently heard from Sister Angela of the Medical Missionaries of Mary who is working with the destitute elderly in Kirambi, Rwanda with the support of Michael's House. She states that the people are overjoyed with our support and the photos speak to the success of this project! *“Oh my God they said!! It has never happened like this. God is really there for us even at this age. May his Name be glorified.”*

From Sister Angela, “One of the things that challenged me was the love among the elderly people. They said that they would like to share with their companions that are equally old like them and have no hope at all. What a beautiful thought and feeling for others. Indeed “love your neighbor as yourself” was true among them and I saw it. They sometimes remember the days they were young. We had to divide the food that was meant for four (4) and we managed to give 10 (Ten) elderly people. Among them 6 were women and 4 were men. Those that were able to walk came to collect the food from the project and for some that are too old we had to bring the food to their homes. “

We will be increasing the number of people that we support in Rwanda to 20 and we will supply provisions such as maize flour, beans, rice and soap. We are also looking to fund a project that supplies small solar lamps to help navigate the darkness at night since there is no electricity available to them.



For a Peso

As I was walking the streets of San Miguel
I saw a twisted old woman half sitting,
half lying on the sidewalk,
I stopped to drop a peso In her basket.

As I bent down, she looked up,
her eyes probing mine, pulling me
into her very being.

Did I see the mother she had once been,
her children now scattered and lost to
her?
Had she once been someone's bride,
some young man's passion?

Had her body always been broken,
or had she run with her friends laughing
in the sun?
Had she ever been carefree, giggling,
sharing her dreams and her longings?

Had she held the hands of her brothers
and sisters
as they skipped across the plaza?
In her long life had she ever felt safe,
sheltered, and wholly loved?

Then I saw in those eyes
that she had been all those things.
Was all those things.
Is all those things.

As I finally released the coin
into her basket, she smiled
the sweetest smile, said "gracias."
Then released me to my passing self.

~ Rick Roberts



Sneak Preview of Coming Attractions!

CRS and the Helping Hands Program

Catholic Relief Services along with Helping Hands and Stop Hunger Now are working to provide 10,000 meals for people in the developing world. Michael's House is looking to partner with this project by donating funds toward this goal. The meals are packaged locally by volunteers at designated events, giving them a hands on experience to participate in stopping world- wide hunger. Stop Hunger Now will send a truck with food and supplies and run the event. There will be more information on this exciting project coming soon and available on our web site.

Little Sisters of the Poor

We have received a request from the Little Sisters of the Poor in Nigeria, who care for 50 old, poor and handicapped residents of which 25 need constant protections, being incontinent or completely handicapped and in wheelchairs etc. They really need diapers to assure that they will stay dry and also so that they will not be humiliated, it is very much a question of hygiene, prevention of sores, and keeping their real dignity. Michael's House will be looking into participating in this project.

Honduras

We will be funding a request for a project at Centro Casa Visitacion. This project provides many services such as training health promoters, strengthening health committees, maintaining home pharmacies and home based care for the elderly. They also offer counseling services as domestic violence, HIV and AIDS are significant problems. We will provide food baskets, assist with rent and medical needs.

Kitovu Hospital, Uganda

We have been supporting a group of Grannies in Uganda for quite a while now and just received a request from Dr. Maura Lynch (consultant surgeon) and George William Mutyaba (senior social worker) of Kitovu Hospital, to assist with the medication support of 3 elderly men.



John Batista Kabeeza, 83, suffers with extreme pain of left leg and is sickly. He lives alone and is helped by his 13 year old grandson.



Edmond Kasule 81, is a widower and has hypertension and diabetes. He lives alone with no means of support



Matiya Kibirige, 83 lives with his wife age 73. Both suffer from hypertension. All of their children died of HIV, so they have to manage on their own.



As you can see, we continue to grow and continue to be involved with wonderful projects that really make a difference in the lives of the destitute elderly. If you are aware of a project, that needs funding for the elderly poor in the developing world, please make it known to us. We meet monthly and vote on projects that we can verify and meet the criteria for Michael's House.

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!

**Donate on the web or 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