

www.marycare.org  
marycareusa@gmail.com

MARYCARE  
230 Blue Hills Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06112  
860-710-4085

# MARYCARE®

## EJEMEKWURU FMCS

### 2016 Fall/Winter Report

Dear Marycare supporters,

I am happy to share the following report from Pascal O. J. Ihemedu, (Marycare Organization Director). As you will learn, Marycare's projects in Ejemekwuru are in full swing and our mission of *Touching Hearts and Changing Lives* is being fulfilled everyday. None of this could have happened without you. Your generous support sustains our projects and allows them to flourish so that the marginalized are lifted up. Please keep your hearts open and give today.

God bless you for your generosity and faith,

Father Emmanuel Ihemedu,  
Vice President of Marycare, Inc.

#### THE MARYCARE HEALTH CENTRE:

There has been a steady growth of this project. Within the period of this report, a total of 655 patients were treated for various ailments. It has been a success story for the patients that have visited the centre with their ailments. We have maintained our source of drugs, Juhel Nig. Ltd. since our patients attest to the efficacy of their drugs.

The Marycare Health Centre has been very helpful to the less privileged in the society. These young mothers were pictured recently at the health centre with their sick children. They would have trekked a considerable distance (about 6 miles) to Ogbaku where the Imo State University Teaching Hospital has an outreach center.



One of them, Mrs. Ogechi Ahamefule brought two of her children, with fever and a lot of rashes on their skin. Her husband is in the city doing menial jobs and does not find it easy sending money for their upkeep. She says she is a regular visitor to the health centre without which she is not sure what would have happened to her children. She testifies to the efficacy of the drugs she receives and is very grateful to the Marycare group and to Fr. Emmanuel who brought them to Ejemekwuru.



Mrs. Ilojirole Ijeoma, a teacher from Izombe has been attending clinic at Marycare Health Centre since 2014 when she was disappointed at the Imo State University Teaching Hospital at Orlu when she had a life threatening accident.

**Doctors:** We have been lucky to have doctors on every clinic day. However, we need additional doctors but have not been able to pay the requested salary. With continued fundraising adding to our operating budget, we are hopeful that we may be lucky in future postings.

**Staff:** From the look of things at MHC, more hands are needed. It is suggested that an additional auxiliary nurse be employed. Meanwhile the only auxiliary nurse at the health centre takes care of registration of patients, laboratory testing, and keeping of records.

#### ISSUES

With the increasing awareness of the patients from both Ejemekwuru and neighboring communities, doctors have continued to demand for improved laboratory services to aid diagnosis. Tests like full blood count, doctors say, will go a long way to improve their diagnosis of many medical conditions. This requires additional funds for specific laboratory set-up and training.

We have increased our ability to test for certain conditions to the extent possible. Some tests that are done with strips are carried out in the health center's new side lab. These include tests for malaria, HIV, Urinalysis, hepatitis B, VDRL, pregnancy and blood sugar.

#### SKILLS ACQUISITION PROGRAMME



With funding provided by GWAH we were able to touch the hearts and change the lives of Five deserving young people in Ejemekwuru through our Skill Acquisition Program. Currently we have 3 individual enrolled in the program, 1 person awaiting placement, and 1 graduate:

1) Chigaemezu Ezeji - was apprenticed for wood works for a 3-year program. He is learning how to make upholstery seats and

chieftaincy furniture. When his father died two years ago, Chigaemezu was left without opportunity and hope. Thanks to our Skill Acquisition Program, Chigaemezu can hope again.



2) Daniel Onyejiuwa and 3) Chinaemerm Uwandu were apprenticed for auto mechanic for a 3-year program. They are learning how to repair/fix cars. Daniel's father is a local carpenter and his mother is a petit trader in foodstuffs. He could not complete high school because of financial difficulties. Chinaemerem dropped out of high school when his father became ill. He was

forced to choose between school and his father's treatment. His parents rely on farming and petit trading for survival. Daniel & Chinaemerem are thankful for the opportunity and hope this program has provided.

4) Miss Sandra Jirinzuaama a young amputee applied for training in hair dressing and make up. She is awaiting placement.

5) Nduka Onyejiuwa is our first graduate from the program. He was apprenticed for driving school for a period of 4 weeks. He completed has completed his training in driving and his driving license has paid for and obtained. Efforts are being made by Marycare local officials to help Nduka Onyejiuwa secure a driving job which includes leasing out a van to Nduka for commercial purposes.



Quarterly report from the training placements indicate that our trainees are doing very well. The trainers must have concluded as our local recruiters had done early on that these individuals are clearly deserving, bright as well as quick learners. The assessments also attest to our trainees' great respect for those placed in charge of them as well as their gratefulness for the rare opportunity given to them.

#### PEANUT PROJECT:

**With GWAH donation and support,** we were able to touch the hearts and change the lives of some many women through our **Peanut Project**. Marycare local board members purchased peanuts, contracted an agronomist who provided training and workshop on peanut planting for the selected families. The agronomist monitored and supervised the planting process. As part of their motivation, participants were promised that the best harvest will earn an unnamed prize. Seven of the participants brought various quantities of harvested peanut. Most of them complained of destruction of their farms by rodents. These women are forever grateful for the help and support given so that they might put food on the table.



Without hope of reward here and now, your funding of the foregoing projects surely has done some good saving a few more lives in the downtrodden women, men and children of isolated district of Ejemekwuru and their surrounding neighbors. Marycare together with the community of Ejemekwuru is grateful to GWAH for positively empowering our young people by providing them with opportunity, direction and hope.

Paschal O.J. Ihemedu  
Marycare Organization Director

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