

www.marycare.org
marycareusa@gmail.com

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

MARYCARE®

Spring 2018 Newsletter

Dear Marycare Supporters/Donors:

THE GOOD NEWS

Skill Acquisition Program:

On December 25, 2017, I traveled to Nigeria for a period of three weeks to oversee Marycare projects in Ejemekwuru and to reconnect with family. While on the ground, I had the opportunity to visit our Skill Acquisition Program Candidates at their field placement. I had a one on one meeting with them and their trainers to assess how their training is going and to know how we can provide support to ensure a successful completion. The reviews from the trainers were excellent and each of the candidates is performing above average in their areas of training. The remaining three Candidates in the program have about one year and half to graduate. Chigaemezu Ezeji for example started his apprenticeship for woodwork on 14th March 2016 for a 3-year period. Daniel Onyejiuwa started training on 25th May 2016 to become a motor mechanic in 3 years. Chinemenam Uwandu started his 3-year training in June 2016 to become a motor mechanic. All their training fees have been paid completely and tools were purchased for them as demanded by their trainers. This life changing project would not have been possible without your support. Thank you.

MARYCARE HEALTH CENTER:

I also visited the Health Center on several occasions to meet with the staff and patients. Speaking with the staff and some of the patients, I got the impression that the health center is sailing smoothly as it relates to its mission of saving lives. The nurses reported that the dominant illness is malaria followed by typhoid fever. Arthritis and hypertension were also rampant. They also stated that few cases of HIV showed up. Cases of severe anemia requiring blood transfusion as well as congestive heart failure and kidney failure were referred to the Federal Medical Centre,



Owerri.

The Organization director along with the rest of the staff reported that there was a tremendous increase in the number of patients from July 2017 to December 2017. For example, the month of July 2017 recorded a total of 238 pa-

tients and that number continued a steady increase to 387 in November. According to the Director, the increase in number of patients resulted in the only doctor on duty every Thursday see-

ing nearly 100 patients. In order not to reject a sick patient, a second doctor was engaged temporarily from October till date. On February 1, 2018, Marycare Health Center recorded a total of 3,000 registered patients.

To help ease the problem with seats, I purchased 50 additional chairs (see picture below). Also, to help engage patients while waiting for consultation, a brand-new television was purchased and installed with cable. The lab section has also been completed.



Without your support and donations, this facility would not have been able to provide free primary health services including free medications on a regular basis not only to the people of Ejemekwuru, but also to its neighboring towns and villages. Thank you.

PERSONEL:

The medical doctor in charge has been Dr. Obinna Ihemedu. Dr. Perpetua Okoroama was engaged to provide support when there was a boom in number of patients. Mrs. Anthonia Edoziem has been the Matron since inception in 2014. Miss Olivia Durugbo was engaged as nursing assistant at inception. She has since left for further studies in November 2017 and has been replaced by Mrs. Justina Nwasiole. The other staff includes Mrs. Blessing Anujuo, the house keeper and Mr. Cyril Ndukwu, the day security man. In addition, there are two-night security men.

Health Education service is provided by Mrs. Rosecollet Ndubuaku, a retired director of nursing services, who also supervises nursing services in the health center.

Without your support, we would not have been able to recruit and pay competent local staff for the smooth running of Marycare Health Center. Thank you.

MEDICATION:

Since the beginning, Marycare Health Center has provided free medications to the patients. After consulting with the physicians, our patients fill their prescriptions free of charge at the Marycare pharmacy. Marycare spends annually \$5,200 on medications for the Health Center. The Director stated that the nature of the Nigeria economy has made it difficult for them to stick to the budget for medication. Furthermore, the increase in the number of patients is also a contributing factor. This is because the patients appreciate the free nature of the quality treatment they receive from the health center.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Without your support, these life-changing stories would not have been possible. As a Marycare supporter you have been part of our work and I just want to say thank you.

While report from the skill acquisition program indicates that the candidates are progressing well, the trainers pointed out that attendance is one area of growth. The candidates are required to go to work six days in a week (Monday through Saturday) per their contract. The trainers reported that lately, due to lack of transportation money, the candidates tend to come to work 4 days out of the agreed six days. Unfortunately, it has been difficult sticking to the budget we crafted for this program which included lunch money and transportation fare due to the nature of the Nigeria economy, and the sudden change in the exchange rate since last year that has led to hyperinflation as it concerns transportation and cost of living in Nigeria.

I therefore turn to you our supporters and appeal to the best part of you for grants to help us provide transportation and lunch to these deserving candidates for the remainder of their training.

The three candidates would need all together a total of \$2,496.00 for lunch and transportation a year.

Also, the Health Center needs additional staff, one nurse, one lab technician and a permanent physician to solve the problem of long lines of patients waiting endlessly to see a doctor. To help keep things in perspective, Marycare Health Center Annual Budget is \$19,674.00. Included in this are the salaries of the doctors, nurses and staff as well as the medications and medical supplies.

So, I am appealing to the best part of you as a child of humanity to continue to help us sustain our projects as we provide medical supplies, and staff the Health Center. Let us save a few more lives in this isolated district and its surrounding region.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Please donate today. I have enclosed an envelope to make your giving easier. **If you have not yet given to Marycare's projects in Nigeria, please consider this your opportunity to touch the hearts**

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and change the lives of those living in desperate need in Ejemekwuru. If you have already given, please know that you have given the indescribable, live-saving gift of healthcare to the people of Ejemekwuru.

Thank you! Your sacrificial donations have left the people of Ejemekwuru with loss of words and tears of joy.

May God, bless you and reward you abundantly!

Sincerely,



Rev. Emmanuel Ihemedu
President Marycare Inc. USA

