

UPLIFT HELP INTERNATIONAL INC

Fall, 2017

Hope

Commitment

Building Relationships

Sustainability

Committed to the mission of Uplift Help International Inc., the Board of Directors has worked successfully with each other and with those who have offered their services as volunteers over the past twelve years. A mustard seed was planted and has grown and is now a lovely tree in development. Faithfulness to the mission and the people, planning for sustainability and building relationships has given hope to the people. Confidence, trust and the faith of the people give evidence of their hope.

Through the eyes of Michael Bleggi - Photographer and Volunteer



What made an impression on me during this trip was a conversation I had with one of our security guards. He said that the people have given up all hope in obtaining aid and can only hope that God will help them. He mentioned how moved he was to see the help we were providing, free of charge. A native Nigerian, the security guard said he had never witnessed this level of generosity before. Inspired by our work he said he was happy to work extra hours for free because he wanted to help us. The people are very poor and the lack of food, clean water and health care are very real. They are a very religious people and rely heavily on their faith. So the joy I've witnessed in these people, as our medical mission provides them with basic medicines and medical care, is genuine. They believe God is listening to their prayers and that He has sent us to help them.

I had the opportunity to visit the homes of a few families that attended our clinic. I wanted a better look at how they live and to listen to their stories. A young mother had brought her four year old son in for a hernia operation. The boy was about the weight of an average two year old. The mother also had her baby daughter with her. They all looked malnourished and the children were visibly sick with respiratory ailments. I went back to their home with them and interviewed the mother. She mentioned everyday was a struggle to put food and water on the table. When I asked what were her hopes for the future for her family, she replied, "I just hope that my children don't get sick and that we have enough food to eat". It was sad for me to see such a young family struggling to stay healthy and not starve.

Most of the patients the mission treats are too poor to afford the high cost of a doctor visit or a hospital procedure in the local city. The medical mission provides them free primary medical care and for many of the villagers it will be the only time they get to see a doctor.

From what I have witnessed, UHI Inc. has clearly saved people's lives. One example of this that I witnessed was a man who had a severe laceration to his leg. He came in on crutches with his wound wrapped. His leg was very swollen. He wasn't going to go to a hospital or doctor because it was too expensive. Dr. Marcel Ajah examined him. His leg was likely infected and if he waited much longer he may have needed an amputation or the infection could have spread and even become fatal. The man was given proper treatment, antibiotics and sent to an orthopedic specialist 80 miles away. I believe if this free medical mission was not there at the time, this man could've lost his leg.

In the words of Dr. Marcel Ajah and Father Chux Okochi PhD, "This was the most successful mission to date". Over 1,800 adults and children came to the screenings. In preparations for screening the adults, Dr. Ajah gathered and directed nine native Nigerian doctors who came from neighboring towns to offer their services. Pharmacists and nurses assisted with the distribution of medications, the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd along with volunteers organized the screenings, gathered health information and took vital signs in preparation for the doctor's examination.





Father Chux Okochi PhD has been instrumental in bringing pediatric care to Ishiagu and Ikwo. He has successfully networked with Sr. Karen Schneider RSM, MD from John Hopkins University hospital who has brought a team of pediatricians, surgeons, nurses and lay volunteers to Nigeria for the last four years. This year her team consisted of 14 members. They performed 123 pediatric surgeries. A local doctor has joined them for the past few years and has reached out to help them with their personal needs, like finding a bathroom and having it cleaned for them, and having the clinic area prepared for them. This year he brought his own sterilizer and offered it to them. He is very grateful for all that is done for the children. This team was dependent on the local women and men for their

room and board. It was the people who cared for them, kept them safe and well fed. When asked, what touched you most on this mission, Father Okochi related the story of a family who travelled a great distance to bring their daughter back to the clinic to let the doctors know that she was well after last year's surgery. They were so grateful and needed to say thank you. Their gratefulness and sincerity were very moving.

We are providing for sustainability through networking with the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd, local physicians, leaders and the people themselves, and providing a hospital, a convent and clean water. We provide sustainability through making the needs of the people known to people here in the United States, obtaining volunteers to help on the mission, obtaining free medications and supplies and financial support.



Fruits of Labor and Generosity

We are blessed and know that God is in our midst calling us to this work and helping us every step of the way.



Sr. Dolores and Marisa Palladino

Honorees 2017
Uplift Help International Inc. is grateful to Marisa Palladino and Kenneth Murphy for their generosity of time, talents and treasures which have changed the lives of many. By supporting our mission, they have given the people of Ishiagu and Ikwo, Nigeria a source of help and spirit of hope.



Kenneth Murphy, Dr. Ajah and Fr. Chux Okochi

Current Needs

- **Harnessing water and electricity**
- **Medications**
- **Medical equipment and supplies**
- **Completion of the hospital and Convent**
- **Landscaping and Access Road**
- **Volunteers**
- **Funding**

The Board of Directors.

Dr. Marcel Ajah - Father Chux Okochi
Jennifer Ajah
Sr. Dolores Castellano - Reginald Baron
Rosa Giampietro - Dominique Jean
Thank you for your continued generosity.
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The faithfulness of UHI Inc. and our donors over the twelve years has resulted in the building of trust and relationships that have borne fruit as witnessed in the volunteers who come forth to help and those who come for care. Thank you for your faithful support for this gives us hope.