



GWEIMEN CENTRE NEWSLETTER

A Self-Sufficiency Centre for
Widows and Orphans of HIV/AIDS
Fall 2016



THE BRIEF TESTIMONY OF MRS HELEN AUDU

I am from Bitaro Kwoi, Jaba Local Government Council, Kaduna State, Nigeria. I have been a widow since my husband died in 2005. We had seven children but only one is still alive. Life was very difficult for me after my husband died.

I joined Gweimen Centre in 2012 with my daughter but she died in 2014. When I joined Gweimen Centre, I received help with food to feed my family and other things like clothes and school fees. In 2015, I enrolled in the bakery section of the skills training unit and learned how to bake. Now I bake cakes and bread for sale. My only surviving daughter is being helped with scholarship from Gweimen Centre. She is studying to become a nurse.

I am grateful to Gweimen Centre for helping me. I now have a business that is sustaining me. I am also encouraging other widows like me to come and join the Gweimen Centre. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE 5th ANNUAL GWEIMEN CENTRE AUCTION October 7th

Come join us for a live and silent auction supporting the women and children of the Gweimen Centre. Doors open at 7pm at Crossroads Community Church

1N100 Gary Ave, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Results from 2016 Matching Fund Drive: In our last newsletter, we announced a matching fund drive where every dollar donated by July 31, 2016 would be matched by Board members. We are pleased to announce that we received **\$4,130** in donations, which will be doubled so that the total impact is \$8,260! Thanks very much to everyone that contributed in this highly effective way!

AN INTERVIEW WITH BEATRICE KANDANGS

Director of Gweimen Centre, Nigeria

Q: Can you describe what an “average” day looks like at Gweimen?

A: The Gweimen staff report for work at 9AM and the cooks begin to prepare lunch. When school is done the children come back to Gweimen by 2:00 pm and eat lunch. After lunch, the children have tutorials, Bible lessons, health talks or play games. At 5:00 pm the children receive dinner. All activities end by 5:30 pm, when the children are taken home via our bus.

Q: How many children and widows is Gweimen currently helping?

A: Gweimen is . . .

1. Feeding 90 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs).
2. Helping deliver medication to 229 HIV positive widows and orphans
3. Providing scholarships to 139 OVCs
4. Running skills training for 28 widows
5. Food assistance given to 600+ widows, orphans and caregivers

Q: What is the current security situation like around Gweimen? Have you been able to make progress on building the wall?

A: Security is good in and around Kwoi, where the Gweimen Centre is located. Yes, we have made some progress on building the wall around the Centre. There is a big metal gate ready to be mounted at the entrance and after that a final layer of bricks will be put in place on the wall.

Q: You had previously talked about Gweimen’s work on conflict resolution. How is that program helping the communities in which you work?

A: The Alternative Disputes Resolution program is helping settle family disputes over property and land rights, especially aiding widows in retaining ownership of their deceased husband’s property [editor’s note: In Nigeria widows often lose most of their property and sometimes even their houses to their deceased husband’s family. This is a common cause of poverty for Nigerian women]. There have also been cases of reconciliations of estranged family members. In addition, we do advocacy on behalf of widows and orphans with government and traditional leaders.

Q: What are some of the challenges Gweimen is facing today?

A: Transportation of the children: we need a reliable, large bus for transporting the children to and from school. New Feeding Centres: We need to establish two more feeding centres to reach needy children and widows, especially as during the rainy season it is difficult for people to travel. Financial: support from the Nigerian government has drastically dropped due to the poor economic situation.

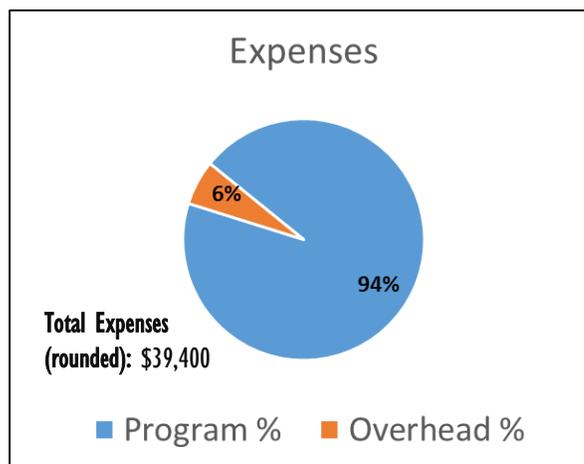
Q: Is there anything else you would like people to know about the activities at Gweimen?

A: On a positive note, there has been an increase in awareness of the work of Gweimen. However, the increased demand means that we need more support.

A FINANCIAL UPDATE...

Directors of Gweimen Centre Ltd. (USA) know that donors have many options when considering where to contribute their money, and that efficiency of charitable organizations can have an impact in the decision-making process. In an effort to assist our donors with this, and to be as transparent as possible, we would like to provide the following information with respect to the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2015:

Program Percentage: 94%



The Program % is the percentage of Gweimen’s cash budget that was disbursed to Gweimen Nigeria relative to Overheads (Fundraising and General Expenses).

Cost to Raise \$100: 4.05



Cost to Raise \$100 signifies how many dollars are spent on Fundraising to raise each \$100 of Contributions.

www.gweimencentre.org | 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

BOARD MEMBERS : Jacquelyn Adkins, Greg Bendle, Shari Buma, Kathy Carwell, Kelsey David, Rick Johnson (Secretary), Heather Loss, Janna Piersma, Mary Sytsma (President), Rachel Vander Hill, and Steve Van Zee (Treasurer)