



Charity To Cheer

foundation



NEWSLETTER
2nd Quarter of 2020

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A portrait of Dr. Maryam Shehu Mohammed, a woman wearing a purple hijab and a purple garment with a colorful necklace. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

In the most unexpected and unprecedented way, covid-19 has changed our lives forever! The word normal has a whole new meaning and the world is still trying to grapple with the changes covid-19 has brought with it. Like its effect on our personal lives, individuals and corporate organizations alike are still coping with means of surviving the changes or even adapting to life during and after the pandemic. Charity to Cheer Foundation is no exception and as a result has had to postpone some of its projects to a later time when it is practicable to safely carry out elective surgeries, feed people in hospitals, mobilize to sink boreholes and continue with the business of improving lives.

During the second quarter of the year 2020, we have focused on providing relief to people who have suffered gravely from the stay-at-home orders of the Government as feeding became an immense problem for many. The blessed month of Ramadan was also observed during these trying times. While we chose to provide raw food for the beneficiaries, our reach has been amazing with measured resources. Notwithstanding the fact that our core areas of focus are health and education, empowering widows with orphans has been an issue we feel compelled to do as well.

Statistics have shown that the personal protective equipment (PPE) in some hospitals are insufficient, thereby making the medical personnel vulnerable to covid-19 infection. We have started providing hospitals with PPE's in our quest to reduce the number of medical personnel susceptible to being infected with covid-19. It is key to point out that the number of medical personnel are not sufficient to meet the number of patients in need of their services.

While life is gradually returning to normalcy, covid-19 is still out there. Please stay safe, practice social distancing, sanitize, hydrate, exercise and remain healthy.

To the Charity to Cheer Foundation Team, the passion, drive and commitment is amazing, thank you!!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Maryam Shehu Mohammed
President

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ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER - 2020

April 2020

1. Palliatives during Covid-19 lockdown:

With the unexpectedness of the effect of covid-19 and unpreparedness for such an unusual occurrence, untold hardship was suffered by many Nigerians. With N364,000, 130 families received food packages in Abuja, Kaduna and Kano states.



May 2020

1. Ramadan Feeding:

Ramadan in the year 2020 was challenging for most. While we did not provide cooked food at hospitals as was usual, uncooked food was disbursed in different communities within Abuja, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano and Katsina states within Northern Nigeria. We were able to provide foodstuff ranging from rice, beans, corn flour, cooking oil, sorghum, cassava flour, salt, tomato paste, cash and other essentials at the cost of N1,515,000. 1065 food packages were shared among the same number of families in these locations while 1,200 cooked meals were distributed in Katsina.



1. Donation of Personal Protective Equipments to Hospitals

Noting the sad turn of events during the covid-19 pandemic, we took note of the risks frontline officers faced in treating patients and the surging number of infected medical practitioners and as such, Charity to Cheer Foundation in a bid to support the medical practitioners, donated PPE's (face shields, surgical face masks and surgical gloves) with the first recipient being Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika, Zaria.



L-R Dr. Maryam S. Ahmed, handing the PPE's to the HOD, Ophthalmology Department, ABU Teaching Hospital, Zaria

2. Construction of Room for Widow with Orphans

While the virus seemed to ravage the world, it did not in any way, deter us from attending to other requests towards improving livelihoods and resolving incidental issues. A widow was living in a fenced space with no structure, no room, no roof. They now have a roof over their heads now, with ceiling fans, windows, doors and additional funds to start a business with.



3. Support for Jamila Hussein, 34 year old widow with 10 Children

We provided support to rebuild Jamila's fence and floor, renovated her room, secured the release of her deep freezer which was given as security for a loan taken to offset her late husband's medical bill. Her children now live in habitable conditions and she has received a grant to improve her business.

4. Bilkisu Shuaibu

We supplied Bilkisu Shuaibu with another batch of Anti-Epileptic Drugs for free.

5. Donation towards feeding IDP's in Katsina

We donated N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) to a fundraising geared towards providing food for internally displaced persons living within Katsina State.

6. Grants for 21 rural dwellers

A friend of the Charity provided funds to empower 21 rural dwellers and mostly widows with orphans benefited from this donation.

SPOTLIGHT: Hadiza Osori

1. Tell us about yourself

I am Hadiza Osori, an Economist but with an over 12 years' experience in Human Resources. I love to volunteer in my spare time and raises awareness on social problems that are close to my heart such as education, poverty eradication and conflict resolution

2. What is your role within the organisation and what makes you so passionate about being a part of it from the beginning?

I am the Financial Secretary/Treasurer for Charity to Cheer Foundation. My passion stems from my belief that "every little bit counts", that is to say you wouldn't know the value of your actions to the recipient. No act of kindness or charity is inconsequential, at the end of the day, the benefits are immeasurable even if it is as little as smiling at someone or a casual greeting. That could be all that was needed to have an impact on the individual.

3. Tell us the secret of staying together all these years and still doing amazing work. Are there conflicts at all?

Having the same mindset or values and trusting each other is what I believe has kept us together for so many years. There have been no conflicts at all. Every step is democratic – someone makes a suggestion, opinions are heard, we vote in support or against and the project is either carried out or not.

4. Where do you see the Charity in the next two years?

If COVID – 19 allows some sort of normalcy to return, I'm hoping that in 2 years, we would have launched our brand and created awareness on the impact we have made over the years and our commitment to making a difference in the society. We would have carved ourselves a niche and excelled within it, with all the necessary strategies and plans in place for the foundation to thrive even without us at the helm.

5. Tell us about the ongoing restructuring and how it will optimize your operations.

We realized that for the foundation to outlive us, we would need to restructure the foundation and it would be aimed at revitalizing and refocusing. processes and structures would



be put in place to ensure that we achieve our goals on a broader scale, i.e. improving impact, access to funding and creating greater awareness of our brand

6. From your records, it is clear that the Charity has touched thousands of lives but the publicity is minimal. Any reason why?

I would assume that it's because we were more interested in making these differences rather than in taking credit for that difference. We are not seeking fame, we just want to assist as much as we can. Be rest assured that those on whom we have impacted upon, know who we are.

7. What is the age group of members and how do you intend to get millennials on board?

We have a few millennials on board, however we definitely need to get more of them to join the foundation. They are a generation that are ambitious, result-oriented, challenge seekers and would obviously have relevant input to make within the foundation. We are hoping that with the launching of our new and highly interactive website, several membership tiers would be created and hopefully some of them would appeal to the millennials and have them signing up to participate.

8. What more do you want to tell us about working with the charity?

It has been a very humbling experience. I have realized how much I have to be thankful for. To have all my needs met and knowing that should a problem arise that I can't handle, I have a support system that would rally round and assist me, that is a huge blessing.

SPOTLIGHT:

Dr Farouk Garba

1. Tell us about yourself

My name is Dr Farouk Garba. I am an ophthalmologist and lecturer at the Department of Ophthalmology, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria. I like helping people. I admire selfless leadership and best practices. I enjoy research and learning new cultures.

2. What is your role within the organisation and what makes you so passionate about being a part of it?

I double as a member and a medical consultant. The smiles the organisation puts on helpless people in the community makes being part of the organisation worthwhile and rewarding. I am also in awe of the constant sacrifice tirelessly made by our members. I must admit, it is contagious. It makes you want to do more, willingly.

3. You have committed your time and expertise to organize and operate on hundreds of cataract patients for the Charity's outreach, what is your motivation?

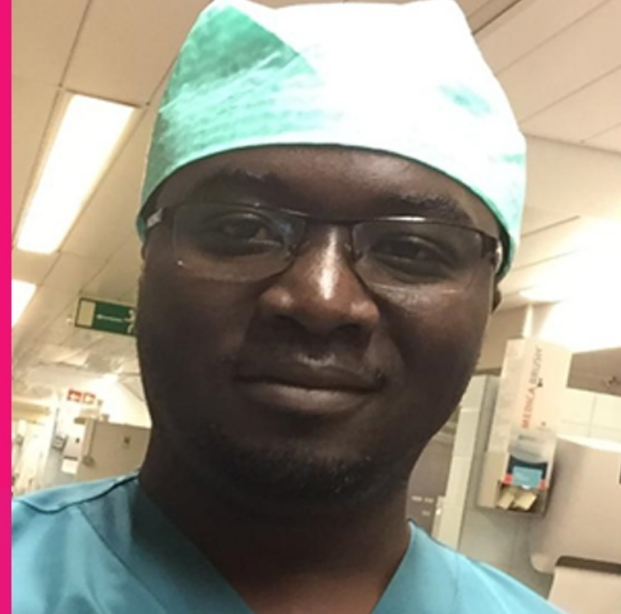
The number of people in our communities blind from cataract is quite remarkable and a lot of these people cannot afford to pay for the surgery. Means of livelihoods have been lost due to this preventable blinding disease and with a successful surgery these individuals have a second chance of becoming independent once again. The joy and relief I see in these people, the satisfaction that we have changed a life for the better can never be quantified and it makes everything worth it.

4. How do you intend to involve more doctors in the Charity and how can you attract those with your kind of drive?

Personally, I think it will take a little effort to do that, with all the great work Charity to Cheer is doing. At the moment I have colleagues that are always ready and happy to volunteer their expertise whenever the need arises.

5. Tell us about the future plans relating to eye care for the charity.

We currently carry out cataract surgeries on a yearly basis, usually to mark the world sight day in October as part of the organisation's effort in the fight against blindness. We have also partnered with other organisations as



part of their corporate social responsibility to do cataract surgeries. Going forward, we want to increase the frequency and number of surgeries we do in a year. We are also looking to partner with more organisations and tackle other eye diseases of public health importance like glaucoma and refractive errors especially in school children.

6. From your records, it is clear that the Charity has touched thousands of lives but the publicity is minimal. Any reason why?

Definitely. We have successfully carried out cataract surgeries not only in Kaduna State but also in Bauchi and Gombe States. The reason why publicity is minimal is because our focus is more on the impact to the people and the community and not which newspaper or radio station carries the news. We want to make every penny count and we rather channel all the resources into our projects. But having said that, publicity is important. It is a means of record keeping and creating visibility which attracts other organisations, philanthropists and even the government to see the good we are doing and key into our projects for the collective benefit of the people.

7. With the current restructuring, where do you see the Charity in the next two years?

I see Charity to Cheer partnering with more organisations both local and international. I see us doing greater things.

8. What more do you want to tell us about working with the charity?

I must commend the leadership and the work ethics of the organisation. The mutual respect for one another and the enthusiasm to change the lives of helpless people in our communities. The way members rally around projects, each wanting to put out his/her best and more is really phenomenal. Kudos to all.

Summary of Impact Within the Quarter

- *Fed 1,195 families*
- *Sheltered 11+*
- *Provided covid-19 protective gear to 50 Doctors*
- *Empowered 16 rural women*
- *Seizure preventing drugs supplied to 1 girl*
- *Donated funds for feeding IDPs in Katsina*
- *Provided cash palliatives to 21 beneficiaries*

News

- *Charity to Cheer Foundation was featured in Lagos Business School's Newsletter*
<https://lbs.edu.ng/ckcrle/discussion/charity-to-cheer-foundation/>
- *Charity to Cheer Foundation's President attended Lagos Business School's Non Profit Leadership and Management Course, watch the video by copying the link below into your browser- <https://youtu.be/OWimpWv4M1k>*

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www.charitytocheer.org