

## *The Two Cecile's of Rwanda*

Cecile Nyirakariza and Cecile Mukantagara both live outside of Kirambi, a town in remote Southern Rwanda. They live several miles apart and their lives leading to destitution are different. But they share something in common – they have hope for the future **thanks to your Support of Michael's House.**



**Cecile Nyirakariza** was a young woman when in 1960 she broke her back after a fall. There was no medical treatment available and Cecile learned to live with the pain and continued to work the fields to help feed herself, her husband, and children. About 1990, the pain became debilitating and Cecile could no longer work, but her husband's work sustained them.

In 2014, Cecile's husband died and left her unable to provide for herself. Cecile's daughter, Therese and her two children moved to Kirambi to care for Cecile. Therese works the small land the family owns, but the production is not enough to feed the family of four. When Michael's House's care partner manager, Aloysie Mukamana, intervened in 2017, Cecile was physically and emotionally worn down

from pain and hunger. With only a meager supply of food for the family, there was little for Cecile to eat. With the help of Michael's House, Cecile and her family now have food to supplement what their farm produces. While surgery for Cecile's back is not an option, Michael's House provides medicine that Cecile needs to ease her pain. She is very thankful to Michael's House whom she calls *"The People of a Good Heart."*

**Cecile Mukantagara** is 74 years old and is in poor health. Cecile lived with her husband in extreme poverty because the plot of land they owned was so small and infertile. Then Cecile's husband died last year and she could no longer survive on her own.

In April 2018, a neighbor reported Cecile's deteriorating condition. Our care partner responded. Cecile Mukantagara now receives food and the medical care she needs. Her depression and loss of hope have been replaced with the knowledge that you care.



## Elderly Left Behind as Families Flee Violence

We have seen the reports in the news of families fleeing violence in Africa and Central America. What is not commonly reported is the plight of the elderly who are often left behind. Older people are often not strong enough to take the difficult trip and reluctant to leave the only home they know. Not only do the elderly lose the support of younger family members, they often lose contact with their departing relatives amid the turmoil and struggle to survive.

Our Honduran destitute elderly program is located in the town of Choloma which is less than ten miles from San Pedro Sula, the per capita murder capital of the world. The staff at Casa Visitation administer to the elderly despite the danger and chaos faced every day. Late last year, the Casa Visitation was broken into. Computers, camera, telephones, television, microwave and petty cash were stolen and rooms vandalized. It was a terrible loss for our care partner, but they are grateful that items were taken at night so no one was killed or beaten.

Doña Carmen is a resident of Choloma. Her children fled her home to escape the violence leaving her alone and in extreme poverty. Although her neighbors and friends try to help, they have limited means. It is your donations that make the difference in providing for her needed medical care, medications, and food.

In South Sudan, the number of refugees has passed two million and an additional two million people are classified as internally displaced persons (IDP - people fleeing their home and taking shelter in camps or anywhere they believe is safe). It is the largest refugee crisis in Africa. 65 percent of South Sudanese refugees and IDPs are children. Many of the people who remain are elderly. The sorghum mill provided by Michael's House helps feed these needy elderly. Recent reports show the total deaths from the civil war is approaching 400,000.



Chicken provided by Michael's House is taken to Doña Alva Luz. Doña lives alone and has little support except from Michael's House.



Doña Carmen waiting for an appointment in doctor's office.



Graves of people killed in the violence near the Michael's House donated grinding mill in Wau.

**THERE IS  
NO US  
WITHOUT  
YOU**

Our destitute elderly need food to survive every day. They depend on your love and generosity. Please share the story of Michael's House and our programs in Africa and Honduras with family and friends. If you know an organization or group who would like to learn more about Michael's House, let us know and we'll plan a presentation or simply answer questions.

Donate on the web ([www.michaels-house.org](http://www.michaels-house.org)) or make checks payable to: Michael's House Inc., Post Office Box 856, Burtonsville, MD 20866. Michael's House is a U.S. based 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions to Michael's House in the United States are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.



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