

The Gweimen Centre Newsletter

Spring 2023

Give online

www.gweimencentre.org/donations.html

Send your donations

Gweimen Centre
PO Box 1517
Wheaton, IL 60187

The Gweimen Center, Kwoi

P.O Box 28, Kwoi, Jaba
Local Government
08034528644,
08082351255

President's Note

Mary Sytsma

Sacred Spaces

When you think of sacred spaces that have been important in your life, maybe you think about the space where you got married, or the space where you celebrated something important, a family vacation spot filled with happy memories, or a graveside or a hospital room.

One of those spaces for me is the Gweimen Centre. Children are loved there. Families are fed. The gospel is taught and lived. Children receive an education. The very name "Gweimen" suggests this idea of sacred space. Gweimen means both peace and hospitality. Hospitality is deeply valued in Nigeria. Neighbors care for each other. At the Centre, all are welcomed and offered a safe space. Those who are hungry are fed. Those who are alone are enfolded. Those who are sick are cared for. Those who live in conflict are loved. Those who are marginalized are empowered. The world needs more places like Gweimen.

Consider how you might help this important work to continue. You can give through the mail or online.



Widows gathered outside the Gweimen center during the pandemic



OVCs in their Christmas dresses

Announcement

We are rolling out our new website in April.

Please visit us at www.gweimencenter.org

News from the International Director

Dr. Beatrice Kadangs

In the course of the year 2022, Gweimen Centre, by the grace of God, was able to reach out to 388 families through food distribution, medical outreaches and many other support services in the communities in and around Kwoi. We ended the year strong with 140 widows in active programs and 102 OVCs in the Education/Feeding programs.

Grief, too, sadness, too, finds its way into the Gweimen Centre space. Over the course of the past year, the Gweimen family lost eight dearly loved members, some young, some old. They had all been taking ARVs for HIV but eventually their bodies were ravaged by other complicating factors. But at the Gweimen Centre, they were loved. They were known, by names: Josephine, Christiana, Hadiza, Success, and others. They will be missed.

We received a donation of twenty new palm trees, which were planted on the Gweimen compound. Every part of the palm tree can be used to further the ministry of Gweimen. For example, palm oil is very important for cooking and expensive to buy. It will take four years for a tree to produce fruit, but a tree can be productive for 30 years or more. Young leaves can be used to feed goats, and even the brown leaves are used to make brooms, something found in every home.

Highlights

The Gweimen Centre OVCs Christmas party program 2022 was a great feat. Programs of the day included a short exaltation, memory verses, a dancing competition and games. One of the highlights was the full coverage of the program by a crew from National Television Authority in Jos.



PRAYER POINTS

For comfort for the families of our members we lost to the cold hands of death.

For God to use the Gweimen family as a beacon of light for Him this year in the different communities we serve.

For the safety of Gweimen Centre and Nigerians throughout the country. Gunmen with AK-47 rifles kidnap people with so much ease and at will. No part of the country is really immune from this madness anymore.

For a peaceful transition of power after the National elections in Nigeria. Pray for peace and transparency in the new government.

For God's continued supply to meet the growing needs of our OVCs and students. In January, we had a total number of 303 OVCs/children turn out for lunch and after school programs. This is the highest we have ever recorded at the beginning of a new year!

2023 Nigerian Presidential Elections

Dr. Rachel Vander Hill

Nigerians went to the polls to vote for a new president on February 25. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced that Bola Tinubu of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) won with 37% of the vote. However, the two main opposition candidates, Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi of Labour Party, have both promised to challenge the results in court. They cite several problems with the election, including that turnout was only 27% because people struggled to vote due to violence and delayed opening of polling sites. International observers have raised concerns about the transparency of the election process. Any court challenge will take months to resolve; in the meanwhile the inauguration of Mr. Tinubu will move forward in May.

There are also some concerns about the new president-elect, Mr. Tinubu. Mr. Tinubu, the former governor of Lagos, is credited with bringing some improvements to the region and attracting foreign investment. He is known as the "godfather" in Nigerian politics for his role in helping other politicians gain power, including current President Buhari. However, there are multiple allegations of Mr. Tinubu's involvement with corruption, money laundering, and tax evasion—all charges he denies. There are also concerns about his health. During the electoral campaign, he had to post a video of himself riding a bike as "proof of life."

The president-elect, assuming he survives the legal challenges about the election, faces serious challenges in Nigeria. The country is suffering from widespread insecurity, regular kidnappings for ransom, over 20% inflation, and 33% unemployment. In the context of these difficult political and economic crises, Gweimen is providing life-saving food to widows and orphans.



Thank you!

Donors from the Gospelife Church (formerly Crossroads) of Carol Stream purchased this truck for Dr. Kadangs to use as she transports food and other necessities for the centre on rough and sometimes dangerous roads.

This truck has been shipped to Nigeria. We thank God for this great blessing!



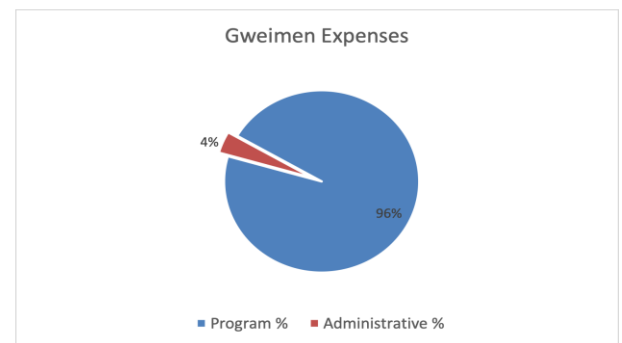
2022 Financial Report

Steve Van Zee - Treasurer

We are very grateful to all of the faithful donors to Gweimen Centre, who have consistently provided for the needs of the vulnerable women and children of Kwoi. 2022 was no different. While giving was around 14% lower than 2021, we still were able to send sufficient funds to Nigeria to satisfy the escalating cost of food, medicine and educational materials that are so critically needed.

Results from 2022 Matching Fund Drive: In the summer of 2022, we announced a matching fund drive where every dollar donated by July 31, 2022 would be matched by Board members, up to \$5,000. We are pleased to announce that we received \$13,890 in gifts, to which \$6,400 was added by Board members. So, the total impact of this initiative was over \$20,000! Thanks very much to everyone that contributed in this highly effective way.

We 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.



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 year ended December 31, 2022:

Program Percentage: 96%

Total Expenses (rounded): \$46,800

The Program % is the percentage of Gweimen's cash budget that was disbursed to Gweimen Nigeria relative to Administrative costs (Fundraising and General Expenses)