



VINE Initiative Inc

*Volunteering to Intervene for the
Neediest of the Earth*

July 2020
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VINE Newsletter

VINE'S COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Even though Southeastern Nigeria cannot be called one of the epicenters of the Coronavirus, it is being severely affected by this devastating disease. The government is strictly enforcing the stay at home order and allowing violent measures to be used by the military and police on those who are not obedient. The drastic lockdown order by the government has subjected the poor to be unemployed. 75% of the people depend on menial jobs for their livelihood, and without this income, they are dying of hunger. According to the minister of humanitarian services, economic help from the Nigerian federal government is being restricted to the North and leaving the people of the South to suffer greatly. These are the families that need our immediate help.

On April 7, 2020, Father Levi Nkwocha, our VINE Initiative Inc. founder and president, asked the VINE board to approve an immediate plan of action to send money to the southeastern region of Nigeria. The VINE treasurer John Philippsen has worked toward finding a safe way to transfer funds from the VINE bank account to the president's trustworthy contact Father Eustace Okorie's account at The First Bank of Nigeria. The VINE board members were all in favor when the president proposed we send \$2500 to help the neediest in the designated area. Once the treasurer had the plan in place, the first transfer was made, and the VINE Initiative to help the Neediest of the Earth became a reality. Thank you for supporting this great cause.



*For it is
in giving
that we
receive*

*-St. Francis of
Assisi*



Charity Delayed is Charity Denied

VINE MISSION

VINE is committed to a 4 step strategic plan of identifying unfortunate victims of destitution in order to:

1. Provide staple food
2. Sponsor basic medical services
3. Support standard education
4. Empower skill acquisition projects with the assistance of trusted volunteers on site

VINE PRESIDENT NAMES A CONTACT PERSON IN NIGERIA

In a formal letter of endorsement, the VINE president introduced the VINE board to the VINE contact person in Nigeria.

Father Eustace C. Okorie, a Catholic priest at St. Lazarus Chaplaincy of the Archdiocese of Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria, has agreed to risk making the transactions at this precarious time on behalf of VINE, Initiative, Inc. The president describes Father Okorie as a vibrant and transparent man in his early forties who he has known for over 30 years as his teacher turned mentor.

Father Okorie took absolute responsibility in the money transferred and in the purchase of all the goods. He provided the VINE treasurer with purchase receipts, pictures of items, and pictures of distribution. He also sent detailed accounts of rendering his services to VINE to the treasurer along with the number of beneficiaries. The target group Father Okorie distributed to was the poor widows, widowers, orphans, and the handicapped. The VINE board members supported Father Okorie through prayer as movement was considered dangerous due to the Covid-19 lockdown orders.



Father Okorie distributing life saving goods on behalf of VINE Initiative, Inc.

FIRST DISTRIBUTION MISSION A SUCCESS

We finally did it!

On May 8, 2020 Father Okorie, the VINE Initiative, Inc. trusted Nigerian contact, distributed 7,590 pounds of rice and beans to the neediest in Southeastern Nigeria.

It began on May 1st with the transfer of \$2500 from the VINE, Initiative, Inc. bank account at Crossroads Bank to the First Bank of Nigeria account. Father Okorie was able to withdraw the funds and convert into Nigerian currency. He then purchased beans, rice, distribution bags, and a VINE banner to hang at the distribution locations. Father Okorie pinpointed two points of distribution and made the trip from purchase center to distribution areas. Here the goods were divided into individual bags and dispersed among the neediest. Nearly 10 pounds of both rice and beans were given to each of the 387 families.

The president and the VINE Initiative board of directors are so thankful for the contributions of our donors. This humanitarian act could not have happened if it wasn't for their generosity. This is only the beginning of our efforts in Volunteering to Intervene for the Neediest of the Earth.

Father Levi Nkwocha

MISSION TIME TABLE AND DETAILS

May 1—VINE treasurer instructed the transfer of \$2500 from the VINE bank account to designated account in Nigeria.

May 4—Funds were received and withdrawn by Father Okorie. Father was able to convert into Nigerian Naira at a rate of 515 NGN per US dollar.

Father purchased beans, rice, bags, and VINE banner. He also paid for transportation, labor for bagging/ distributing, and gas for car used.

May 8—10 pounds of rice and 10 pounds of beans were distributed to each of the 387 families. Total cost was approximately 32 cents per pound.

For every dollar donated, 92.5 cents went directly to buying food items.



HOW TO DONATE

VINE relies on your generous support to accomplish its goal. A \$25+ donation can feed a family of 5 for a week. Donate today and save a life, through the VINE Initiative Inc. Let us make the mission and vision of VINE work.

It is our goal to provide an online giving option in the near future, but for the time being we ask that you send your check to:

VINE Initiative, Inc.
1533 S. Riverwood Dr.
Wabash, IN 46992

WHO WE ARE

At the invitation of Father Levi Nkwocha, six couples committed to the board membership of VINE Initiative on August 5th 2019.

Board members include: John Philippsen (treasurer), Linda Campbell (secretary), Steve Kroh (funds coordinator), Dewey Smith, Barb Smith, Bob Ross, Andris Ross, Melanie Philippsen, Michael Campbell, Lisa Kroh, Todd Shear, and Angel Shear.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

