USSSU MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT - OCTOBER 2024

INTRODUCTION:

This month, we have carried out several impactful activities, including:

- Checking on the sick
- General follow-up with clients
- Our monthly meeting
- Publicizing the upcoming medical camp

Checking on the Sick:

- Ongoing monitoring of our sick clients remained a priority this month. We are happy to report that Ms. Margaret Namarome is doing well since starting her psychiatric therapy. She is now under the care of her daughter, who shares that Margaret is relatively settled, though she experiences some body weakness due to the medication. Despite this, the treatment has helped manage her movements, and she seems happy and relaxed. The family has been very supportive in ensuring she receives her medication on time.
- However, the season has brought many challenges, with malaria and colds affecting a large portion of the community. Many individuals are vulnerable due to low immunity and are struggling to access treatment. Sadly, there are a few clients, including **Mzee Paul Khiisa**, **Mzee John Wekwanya**, and **Ms. Keziah Nekesa**, who are in constant pain and unable to reach the hospital. These individuals are some of the most in need, requiring assistance in terms of food, medical care, and clothing. It's imperative that USSSU find ways to support them, particularly in times of illness.

Paul Khiisa

John Wekwanya

Keziah Nekesa

General Follow-Up with Clients:

Routine follow-up was conducted both in person and via phone to ensure we stay connected with each client.

John Wekwanya, whom we resettled into the community, is doing well, though he still requires ongoing support. Thanks to community goodwill, a one-room structure was built for him, but he currently lacks a pit latrine, making life difficult. He may share with neighbors, but due to his mobility challenges, this is not a practical solution. We previously supported the digging of a 15ft hole for the latrine, but the project remains incomplete.

Monthly Meeting:

Our monthly meeting was held to review ongoing projects, including the vegetable-growing initiative. This project has excited many of our clients, with some making up to UGX 20,000 in sales, others UGX 15,000, and some even UGX 10,000. They are grateful that they have not lacked sauce for their meals this season. A few clients plan to replant crops, as the rains continue, though space limitations are a concern for some.

During a monthly meeting session

Publicizing The Forthcoming Medical Camp:

We are excited about the upcoming medical camp. Letters have been sent to various authorities to ensure we receive the necessary support. The **Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)** office has forwarded a letter to the **District Health Officer (DHO)**, who will assist in providing support. Additionally, the in-charge of the local health facility is on board.

To increase awareness, I met with the **Open Gate FM** manager and lobbied for radio announcements. Each announcement will cost UGX 25,000, and they are willing to run more frequent ads if we support a few. However, some of the businesses I approached, like banks and supermarkets, were less responsive.

In a positive turn, the **NSSF** manager expressed support, promising to conduct internal donations for the cause, with this year's CSR efforts focusing on schools. I've also connected with several **Rotary Clubs** in the area, all of whom have shown a positive response. I will continue attending their meetings to keep reminding them of our needs. Below are the Rotary Clubs I've reached out to:

- **Mbale Rotary Club** (Tuesdays, 6-7 PM, Mt. Elgon Hotel)
- **Mbale City Rotary Club** (Wednesdays, 6-7 PM, Courts View Hotel)
- **Mbale Metropolitan Rotary Club** (Thursdays, 6-7 PM, Courts View Hotel)
- **Elgon Maisha Rotary Club** (Fridays, 6-7 PM, Courts View Hotel)
- **With some of the Rotary club members after the meeting**

Lessons Learned:

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- **Vegetable Growing**: The vegetable growing initiative was a significant success. I urge that we continue supporting small-scale projects like this, as they provide great benefits to the community.
- **Support for the Sick**: A small fund to assist the sick with access to medical treatment would go a long way in ensuring that essential medications are available to those in need.
- **Collaboration with Other Organizations**: As a young organization, USSSU must strengthen collaborations with established bodies to gain recognition and build local support. Joining networks like the **Rotary Club** could be a valuable step toward this goal.
- **Networking Opportunities**: There are other organizations working with older persons, such as **Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM)** in Mukono and Western Uganda. Collaborating with them will provide us with learning opportunities and strengthen our lobbying efforts.
- **Increasing Publicity for the Medical Camp**: We need to act quickly with Open Gate FM to expand our reach and raise awareness about the medical camp, as it has the broadest audience in the region.
- **Office Communication**: Currently, we lack an office line to share with those who wish to contact us. This is a pressing need, as the contact details on USSSU documents are not locally active.

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