

## 2007 Overview

### *God's House International, Inc.*

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**"Bridging medical, cultural, social and economical gaps at home and abroad."**

*God's House International, Inc. was started in 2000 by Yvonne Washington-Turay who is a Family Nurse Practitioner and has been working in the medical field for over 20 years. God's House International, Inc. is a vanguard for health consciousness. Currently, we focus strongly on the issues of homelessness, health promotion and disease prevention including HIV/AIDS. We act to decrease the incidence of health disparities that exist, primarily among people of color.*

The year 2007 was a challenging year for God's House. As a result of a familial emergency, Mrs. Turay had to transition out of St. Thomas to Maryland. The task of organizing God's House events in St. Thomas was assigned to our Volunteer staff, however, due to the lack of management, many planned events were not carried out. In addition, for legal reasons, Mrs. Turay transitioned from the Board of Directors Chair to solely maintaining the position of CEO of the organization. One of the two other Board of Directors who was in the position of Vice-chair, ran for a political position in St. Thomas during 2007 and resigned from the organization. We currently have one Board Member in the position of Secretary.

As a result, we are revamping our services in The Virgin Islands and looking for volunteers who are willing to continue our Homeless and HIV/AIDS awareness programs. We are also working to recruit a new set of Board of Directors.

The God's House CEO and Executive Assistant also spent many hours on compiling documentation in order to obtain 501 (c)(3) non-profit status from the IRS. The application has been return several times, with most questions referencing activities carried out in Sierra Leone. We are still in the process of pursuing federal non-profit status.

Amongst the main tasks that God's House engages in, in order to carry out its mission are:

1. Providing medical care, food and clothing to Sierra Leonean refugees living in Gambia, Guinea, and Senegal.
2. Providing HIV/AIDS Outreach, medical care, food and clothing to native Sierra Leoneans in the City of Freetown.
3. Providing HIV/AIDS Outreach medical care, food and clothing to native Sierra Leoneans in the villages of Rukupr, and Gbendembu.
4. Providing HIV/AIDS Outreach, medical care, food and clothing to the homeless in St. Thomas, USVI
5. Providing home care to the elderly living in St. Thomas, USVI.
6. Providing health education to individuals, and the community at large, in St. Thomas, USVI and globally.

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### 7. Construction of God's House International clinic in Freetown, Sierra Leone:

*This facility is an outpatient, basic medical treatment facility with housing units to accommodate the transient workers who will assist with the care in the clinic. Visit the God's House website at: [www.GodsHouseInternational.org/GodsHouseClinic](http://www.GodsHouseInternational.org/GodsHouseClinic) to view our progress to date.*

With all of the challenges faced in 2007, the God's House missions forged forward and the following events were held:

#### **Events in St. Thomas, USVI:**

- God' House Fundraiser, Ramage Sale, January 2007
- National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week, November 2007
  - Over 100 food bags given out with the assistance of the community
- National Woman and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness day
- National Homeless Memorial Day, December 21, 2007
- 3 Community Feedings (1 every 4 months)

#### **Events in Sierra Leone, February 2007:**

- HIV/AIDS Outreach
  - Ahmadiyya Secondar School, Rukupr
  - Magbema Secondary School, Rukupr
  - Brothel
- Community Feeding, Freetown and Rukupr