



5033 North 85th Street Milwaukee, WI 53225

**The Out-going President's Valedictory Message  
Nile Care AGM; Sept. 3, 2022**

**Committed to Succeed!**

Dear Nile Care family,

Thank you for taking time to attend Nile Care's 2022 AGM on Zoom. If you were not able to attend, I hope you will be able to read this message and any previous ones on our website or Google docs newly created for members.

Nile Care has officially existed as a registered non-profit for 15 years, from 2008 to date. Of those 15 years, I have had the privilege and honor to serve as president from September 2016, to May 2022, a total of 6 years, two years more against my will than the constitution allowed, making three terms instead of two. When I started my second term in 2018 in Milwaukee, I

introduced a number of policies including informing you constantly through News letters, News briefs, News updates, Evaluation of the work we do through surveys etc. The most important of the policies, to me, was the sharing of my feelings about **us** as a community in every AGM: how our community can truly become cohesive and thrive like the other communities do in America.

So, in 2018 in Milwaukee, I gave you a message titled, “**Nile Care, the hope of our Community survival**”. In that message I made the case for Nile Care to endure for our children and us. In 2020, I gave another message of “**Harambee**” (pulling together) that said, “***Together We Stand; Individually We Fall.***”

In September 2021 when I thought I was definitely leaving as President of Nile Care, I gave a message of **Faith and Hope**: That it was possible to become a thriving community like the Polish, Irish, Indian and Mexican communities by pulling together, “**Harambee**”. Now that I do have the chance to address you again as ***President emeritus***, as I end my service as president, I would like to give you a message of “***Commitment for Success***”. We all know at the end, we think of the beginning. So I will go to the beginning of Nile Care because it reveals what commitment looks like.

In 2007, five men went to the Commercial Street restaurant on the Southside of Chicago for breakfast. While there, they shared stories. One of them shared a sad story of a lone Ugandan lady who died in DC area and the challenges two of them faced trying to give her a burial. That sad story awoke them from

complacency and set them thinking about the reality of America - *survival is difficult as an individual in this place. That lady could be me.* That sad story elicited a reaction to form an association of people from home for help in such eventualities. In America you plan your death and burial. Nobody accepts responsibility for you. The five men were so serious about this association that as a show of commitment, they agreed to deposit \$250 per person towards that goal. And they did so that month! That **commitment** gave birth to Nile Care, which was registered in 2009. It has defied all challenges and odds and kicks strongly like a well-nourished child during harvest. Today, we meet to commemorate yet another year of Nile Care kicking, the 15<sup>th</sup> year, and we proudly do so! Does it have challenges? Absolutely! Does it have successes? Plenty!

Despite the challenges, Nile Care has lived up to its aims and objectives: to unite us here in North America for social and economic success; and to help at home in developmental initiatives. You may ask, “How united are we?” I can proudly say, many of us have come to know one another because of Nile Care. We can comfortably and confidently travel to Toronto, Ottawa and Windsor in Canada. There will be people to welcome us there. We can go to Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and San Diego to tour USA. We will have somewhere to rest. We might even ask Sunday to sneak us into Mexico through the “panya” routes from San Diego for some none GMO experience. Nile Care has done this for us. It has brought us together and united us into a confident kinship called the ***Nile Care Family***.

We have also done things at home: over 25 girls have been put through high school; generations of P7 candidates have been tutored for 10 years; Winnie, an orphan girl, has been seen to A level; education program was expanded to five West Nile districts; and Nile Care is now a registered CBO in West Nile with a functional office.

As to trying to do something for us here, we have Lonyi doing its best to find economic pathways for us, we have a Cultural group, and we are trying a Cooperative Society with the first contributions in September. We have restructured Nile Care to serve you better by creating a Working/Executive Board and getting rid of two large administrative bodies running Nile Care. This has consolidated the activities of Nile Care such that reports are made straight to the Board and dealt with right there and then. We now have more people as members instead of officers, waiting to take the challenge as the next officers. We have definitely tried! And we continue to do so. We even came very close to the papacy of the Catholic Church when Pope Francis tried to hand over to Fr. Ruffino and he feared to grab it for us!!! We need to pat ourselves on the back and say, "Well done Nile Care!"

As I transition to the title of President *emeritus* after some unconstitutional two more years at the helm, I need you to know that there were strong families and individuals behind these successes of Nile Care. Without them, Nile Care would have been dead and cremated like many others that started at

the same time. I, therefore, want to recognize and thank, the Orionzi family, the Opiyo family, the Lina family, the Guma family, the Avudria family, the Drametu family, the Chandiga family, the Tom Holmes family, the Colchamiro family, the Ocoko family, the Uzzi family, the Fendru family and the Abiria family for all your input, which continues to keep Nile Care strong. You are the backbone of Nile Care. I also wish to recognize and pay tribute to the following individuals who have contributed a lot to the growth of our organization. These include, Vuks, Dominic, Doreen, Wadri and Michael among others. I also want to heartily thank people who have been constant and active in donating to Nile Care cause. Thank you, Margaret McSheehy, Mary Darnell, Melissa Byrd, Monica and Marty. Lastly, I thank my family and in a special way, my wife, Elizabeth, who is the mother of the Girls' Scholarship funding. She originated the idea, funded the first 8 scholarships from her own donation and wrote the proposal for the then education project. Not only has she continued to give for the education program but has also served as the first Board chair, and she ensured that the project took off. Thank you Elizabeth. The people of West Nile are proud of what you have done.

Six years is too long for one person to head Nile Care, and as I grind towards complete retirement like the two preceding presidents, I can only ask that you continue to give the new team, **the Nile Care Executive Board** under the able leadership of Florence Orionzi, the same support that you gave the Gladys/Charles team. Gladys was a great leader and Nile Care created a number of social and economic programs for our people under her. Thank you Boss. It

was a great pleasure working with you. We proved that two heads are truly better than one.

Doreen, Marty and Dominic are a very welcome, energetic and fresh-blood addition to the new team. They have knowledge and enthusiasm to take this organization to the next level. Let's facilitate the team. Gladys and I have streamlined the organization, adding regular news updates, yearly membership opinion-seeking, proper record keeping of documents, a system of handover, and a period of weaning of new officers to the organization. We have also listened to the opinions of members and expanded education program to new areas and are now operating in five schools. Although this expansion is desirable, it breeds financial challenges that we must all **commit to address**. Dig deeper into your pockets or devise clever ways of raising money so that this organization, which has so far served us well, does not die and embarrass us. Nile Care is all we have, and let us rejuvenate it to thrive more! I look forward to face-to-face AGM, the food and "madiaba".

Thank you, and may God Almighty shower you with blessings, open his treasure stores for you and protect you and your larger families from any tragedy and calamity.

Long Live Nile Care! The struggle Continues!

Charles Chadri.

President emeritus, Nile Care