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A REPORT ON MEDICARE FOUNDATION'S IMPACTFUL HEALTH OUTREACH INITIATIVES IN GHANA, 2024.

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OUTLINE

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Medicare Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in Manchester-England, touched down on the shores of the hub of democracy in Africa, Ghana, to embark on a series of transformative health outreach programs. In collaboration with various stakeholders such as the Visionary Norman Foundation, the Ghana Institute of Clinical Genetics, and the Ghana National Blood Service, through passion and a commitment to improving community health, organized various initiatives to address critical health concerns, including sickle cell awareness, blood donation advocacy, and general health promotion. This report highlights the key activities, outcomes, and lessons learned from the Foundation's efforts, underscoring their far-reaching impact.

2.0 THE HEALTH FAIR AND BLOOD DRIVE: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

A standout activity of the Medicare Foundation's visit was the Health Fair and Blood Drive, held on Saturday, November 2nd, 2024, at Adabraka, Accra. This event successfully combined education, health screenings, and blood donation, organized in partnership with the National Blood Service Ghana, the Ghana Institute of Clinical Genetics, and the Visionary Norman Foundation. The fair attracted over 200 participants, including healthcare professionals, volunteers, and community members. Key activities included:

2.1 Educational Sessions

Expert-led talks by Dr. Alpha Oteng from the Ghana Institute of Clinical Genetics and Dr. Williams Ansah Otu provided insights into the early detection and management of sickle cell disease and the significance of regular blood donation.



2.2 Interactive Q&A

Participants engaged directly with experts, addressing personal health concerns and learning actionable steps to improve their well-being.



2.3 Blood Donation Drive

Motivated by compelling stories of how blood donation saves lives, especially for sickle cell patients, many attendees contributed to the drive, resulting in 60 units of blood collected.



3.0 ENGAGING THE MEDIA TO AMPLIFY THE MISSION

The Foundation leveraged media platforms to extend its reach and visibility. The team shared its mission and activities in a live interview on Channel One TV. The founder and CEO, Mrs. Naana Hagan-Cherry, emphasized the need for increased blood donation rates in the Black community and greater awareness about sickle cell disease. Co-founder, Mr Alexander Hagan-Cherry provided updates on the team's activities in Ghana, including visits to health facilities and the donation of essential medical supplies. Prayer lead, Mr. Frederick Boampong Gyenti, highlighted the spiritual foundation of the organization, explaining how prayer underpins their efforts and drives their success.

This engagement sparked interest among viewers, with many expressing support for the Foundation's cause.



4.0 WIDESPREAD IMPACT ACROSS REGIONS

The Foundation's activities extended beyond Accra to other regions, ensuring a broad impact.

4.1 Donations to Health Facilities

Donations of essential medical supplies, such as gloves, syringes, and consumables accompanied visits to the Madina Polyclinic and Adabraka Polyclinic. Discussions with healthcare staff provided insights into their challenges, forming the basis for future collaborations.

4.2 Health Screenings in Akyem-Maase in the Eastern Region

On November 7th, the Foundation conducted a comprehensive health screening in Akyem-Maase, in the Eastern Region, benefiting over 300 residents. Services included eye and ear examinations, breast cancer screening, general health checks, and counseling.

Participants expressed heartfelt gratitude, emphasizing the value of these services, often inaccessible in rural areas. Additional medical supplies were donated to the local health center to enhance its capacity.

4.3 Visit to the Sickle Cell Unit at Korle Bu

The Foundation visited the Sickle Cell Unit at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, engaging with healthcare providers and donating supplies. This gesture reinforced the Foundation's commitment to addressing sickle cell disease holistically.





4.4 Stakeholders' Dinner

On Friday, 8th November 2024, a stakeholders' dinner was organized at the elegant Bex-Event Centre to conclude the organization's activities. The occasion was also graced by distinguished guests such as the Queen-mother of Adabraka, the Assemblyman of Adabraka, and the Chairman of the Ghana Football Association. Invitees shared their insights on the association's mission and pledged their unwavering support to achieve the organization's goals and future activities.



5.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LASTING IMPACT

The Medicare Foundation's outreach left a lasting impression on the communities it served. Beneficiaries praised the combination of education, health services, and spiritual support, noting that the interventions addressed both immediate needs and long-term health education.



6.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

While the outreach was overwhelmingly successful, the team encountered some challenges, including:

- Limited resources to meet the overwhelming demand for health services in rural areas.
- The need for more volunteers to handle large crowds during events.

These experiences underscored the importance of building stronger partnerships and securing additional funding to sustain future initiatives.

7.0 FUTURE PLANS AND CALL TO ACTION

The Foundation remains committed to expanding its reach and impact. Future initiatives will focus on:

- Strengthening partnerships with local health institutions.

- Increasing public education on sickle cell disease and blood donation.
- Organizing larger-scale health fairs with more specialized services.

The Medicare Foundation calls on like-minded individuals, organizations, and volunteers to join hands in creating healthier and more informed communities.

8.0 CONCLUSION

Through its innovative approach, the Medicare Foundation has set a benchmark for community health initiatives in Ghana. Its dedication to advocacy, education, and practical support has left an indelible mark, demonstrating the power of compassion and collaboration.

By addressing health disparities and empowering communities, the Foundation exemplifies what can be achieved when purpose meets action.



THANK YOU



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