We walk through the path of life with our beneficiaries offering primary health care, education, food security, women empowerment programs, capacity building and social support.

Between 1988 and 2019 we have touched the life of over two million people.
FOSTERING THE HUMAN DESIRE FOR JOY, HOPE AND POSITIVE CHANGE.

Let’s start this journey of brotherhood, love and faith.

Loving Gaze welcomes every single person “at home”, with a loving and caring gaze. We want all our beneficiaries to feel that they are never alone, despite their health condition, their challenges, and difficulties. We recognize each person’s irreducible dignity and uniqueness, which cannot be reduced to her social, economic or health condition. We share a loving gaze that bonds our friendships and eagerness to walk together in life.

We build a concrete friendship with our patients offering the medical care they need, a concrete friendship with our children, helping them to continue their primary and secondary education and with our communities enabling them to cooperate and shape a better future together.

“The problem of the whole world’s existence is the happiness of each single person” (Father Luigi Giussani). Each single person’s happiness goes beyond and above the human contingency, hardship or prosperity, health or sickness.

Loving Gaze aims at offering a true friendship, which embraces professional support and care. We want our beneficiaries to experience love and care whenever they meet us: as patients in our clinics or as students in our schools.

This year’s annual report highlights some of the positive changes which have happened among us, thanks to your support. We often see these changes in a single moment when a patient, a woman, a child feels welcomed with care, and recognizes her own value. Take a moment to read our stories, and then consider the change you can make by becoming part of the solution with Loving Gaze.

Barbara Pepoli
Loving Gaze General Manager
WORKING EVERY DAY TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND FUTURES.

LOVING GAZE
WE CARE. DO YOU?

SOCIAL Services

QUALITY Health Care

WOMEN Empowerment

PRIMARY Education

FOOD Security

CAPACITY Building

RETURNEE Migrants

WORKING EVERY DAY TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND FUTURES.
We touched the lives of 70,000 people

Patients treated in our three St Kizito clinics

8,988 patients vaccinated

Teenagers HIV positive followed by our medical and social service team

HIV tests

Children born in our clinic

Women trained

Students in our four schools

Secondary schools scholarships

SOWING SEEDS OF CHANGE.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29,283</td>
<td>TB tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Infant vaccines administered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,395</td>
<td>Food packages distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>548</td>
<td>Malnourished children treated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>574</td>
<td>Women attending Health Talks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196</td>
<td>Professional health care providers attending our trainings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>Children screened by our dentists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>877</td>
<td>HIV patients received care, support and treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Volunteer Returned Migrants assisted into reintegration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME.

THE CHALLENGE
Children and adolescents in Nigeria represent 45% of the population. The population’s exponential growth has weakened the already fragile country’s infrastructures and limited resources.

In Nigeria around 5 million children do not have access to primary education.

WHAT WE DO
Loving Gaze reaches 1,200 students directly with four schools. We run two schools in Lagos: SS Peter & Paul and St John Schools and two schools in Taraba State: The New Seed and St Monica Schools. We also support 200 secondary school students attending private and public schools in Lagos State.

Even though 60% of our students need support, we encourage all the families to contribute, based on their ability, to their children’s school fees. This enables them to take responsibility and value their children’s education.

In 2019 we kicked off the SS. Peter & Paul Summer time program to offer our children’s families the help they need to take care of the pupils also during the school break.

We enrich our schools’ curriculum with several afternoon and complementary classes, such as: football, art, drama, traditional and classical dance, reading classes and music.

We collaborate with the Loyola Jesuit College of Abuja, hosting their entrance exam and for the first time, some of our students participated in the selection.

We keep enriching our students’ learning experience with reading classes, sports activities and the theatre experience. In 2019 our school children brought on stage the Selfish Giant story.

We support 1,200 students’ studies, from nursery to secondary school.

Our first bamboo school was established in the 90’s.
In 2003 we opened the SS Peter and Paul School (Ikate Waterside) and in 2007 the St Johns School (Ikorodu). We are now at work to build the new SS Peter & Paul School, in Ikate, Lekki, which will offer also the Secondary classes to our students.

Today 60% of our students still need support to continue their studies. All our students in St John School and both schools in Taraba State are supported.

10% of our schools’ students win scholarships to continue their secondary education.
We keep investing in our children and promoting their participation to the secondary schools scholarships’ exams. We are proud to say that our best students from SS Peter & Paul and St John Schools are now enrolled in Daywaterman College, Lagoon School, St Gregory School, Eucharistic Heart College, Christ the King College and Maryhood School.
WITH YOUR HELP WE COULD OPEN OUR NEW SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021!

Since its inception, 30 years ago, Loving Gaze has devoted its efforts towards primary education. Our first bamboo school was established in the 90’s on the shores of Ikate Waterside, Lagos. Since then over 1,000 children graduated from SS Peter & Paul School.

Unfortunately, the rapid urban development around the SS Peter & Paul School has caused severe damages to our buildings. During the rainy season, our premises continue to suffer severe flooding, which disrupts our school activities.

We have invested in continuous and costly maintenance work, but we foresee that in the next couple of years the school will become completely inaccessible.

The only option is to build a new school, within the same compound, sandfilling the ground area and adopting a solid engineering solution.

The new school will allow us to offer a full study-cycle for our children from kindergarten to secondary studies.

We are designing a school having our children’s future at heart, a school that talks of beauty, knowledge and sharing. We will keep grade-level classes together, allowing natural light to fill the spaces. The new school will feature large, modern music, art, STEM and science classrooms, as well as an open library and a new auditorium.

We have already completed the engineering study, and we plan to lay the foundations by the end of 2019, taking advantage of the dry season.

We like to say: “If you want to save good knowledge, and let it fly through the ages, entrust it to children. They are like birds in the forest: they spread good seeds everywhere.” Each child’s essential desire is to be loved and welcomed as a unique person, he needs to be helped and encouraged. Together, we want to raise healthy, joyful and responsible children, ready to walk out in the world with a sincere desire for change.
We are grateful to His Excellency Msgr Antonio Filipazzi, apostolic nuncio to Nigeria, who, on an official visit to Lagos, visited St Kizito Clinic and SS Peter & Paul Nursery and Primary School in Lekki, Lagos.
THE CHALLENGE
Lack of access to quality health care in Nigeria is a fundamental source of many of the society’s ills, resulting in thousands of preventable deaths every year.

TB and HIV are still on the rise and patients need continuous treatment and support. Rarely do poor people have access to quality health care, or medical consultation for safe drugs consumption, and they ignore the basic hygiene, diet and health care principles.

WHAT WE DO
Since 1991 we offer basic health care to the most vulnerable in Lagos, through three clinics in Lagos, all of them located in poor communities: Jakande Housing Estate (Lekki), Idi-Araba (Mushin), Oreta (Ikorodu) and since 2018 in Ibeju Lekki.

We provide support and quality treatment for malaria and tuberculosis, so-called diseases of poverty, which can be fatal if not treated. We implement actions to fight HIV/AIDS, though providing life-long treatment is quite challenging.

Nigeria ranks third among 30-high burden TB countries in the world and the most affected country in Africa. Since 2018, St Kizito Clinic has been the implementing organization of the USAID, SHOPS Plus, TB program, in collaboration with the National TB Leprosy Buruly Ulcer Control Program of Nigeria (NTBLCP).

The project spans across Lagos State, with the establishment and strengthening of 22 private TB networks in Lagos and the support up to 1,000 private health care providers of different cadres (nursing homes, stand-alone laboratories, community pharmacies).

Since the beginning of the project we have run 29,000 TB tests and we have diagnosed 2,709 patients. We support TB care through patients’ counselling, home visits, treatment and follow up services. We organize community health talks to reach out to the most vulnerable with basic hygiene, and health care education.

According to the latest WHO data, life expectancy in Nigeria is only 53 years.

Since 2005 St Kizito Clinic has been a Lagos Health Ministry certified TB/DOT Centre for the fight against Tuberculosis. Since 2007 we have implemented HIV treatment in partnership with USAID and other international bodies. In 2017 APIN extended St Kizito Clinic as a project’s partner in ART for the next five years to contribute towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

In 2019 we organized several health community programs for women and non professional providers in under-served urban communities covering basic hygiene, prevention and treatment of HIV as well as children and new born care.
Only 4 in 10 births are delivered with the assistance of a skilled provider, placing Nigeria among the countries with the highest maternity mortality rate.

Our Maternity Clinic, since 2016, assisted the delivery of almost 1,000 children and referred more critical cases to specialised hospitals.

Our clinics work in close cooperation with Lagos State specialist hospitals and we often receive consulting support from international volunteer doctors.

St Kizito Clinics offer:

- 24-7 Consultation and Pharmacy
- Laboratory, X-ray and Ultrasound
- Immunisation (Vaccines for children and adults)
- Injections and wound dressing
- Nutrition clinics
- Hypertension and Diabetes care
- Lifestyle Modification Class
- Specialist consultations: Dental, Paediatrics, Ophthalmology, Family Planning, Obstetrics
- Screening, counselling and treatment of Hepatitis, HIV and TB
- Corporate and HMOs services
- Ambulance emergency service
- 24-7 maternity home

WOMEN HEALTH CARE
Our clinics, since their inception, deliver health care support to vulnerable women. We offer antenatal and postnatal care, cervical and breast cancer screenings also through mobile outstations. Our gynaecologist and fertility specialist provides family planning and natural fertility treatment. We are an authorized centre for Anti Retroviral Therapy to make sure our HIV patients deliver safely and raise their children free of HIV. We run health talks in the communities to teach women basic hygiene, health and food security measures for babies.

Our St Kizito Clinic outstation in Ibeju Lekki, opened in 2018 thanks to the support of Solidarity Trust Fund, treated 2,351 patients so far.

Our outstation, located in one of the most underdeveloped rural areas (Mosafejo) remains today the only affordable health care provider easy accessible by the local community. We visit patients to prevent and to treat the early stage of common ailments. A dedicated dispatch rider transports laboratory samples from the outstation to our Clinic in Jakande for further investigations.
Empowering women, drivers for change.

**THE CHALLENGE**
Statistically, women invest twice as much of their incomes back into their family than men (80 percent to 40 percent), yet, in Nigeria they are victims of violence, discrimination and stand out as the most vulnerable in the society.

**WHAT WE DO**
We started our women empowerment program in 2011 within the community of Ikate Waterside with vocational trainings and small soft loans. In 2017, thanks to the PEPFAR Small Grant, we were able to train 575 women with our health talks and train the trainers’ programs.

Our educational plan focuses on:
- Hygiene
- HIV Prevention, Testing and Care
- Feeding in context of HIV and safe infants weaning
- Puberty development, self awareness and child abuse
- Hand, dental and environment hygiene

We also reached 112 women in Idi Araba and Oreta, Ikorodu. We periodically run soap making, bakery, catering, tailoring and hair stylist vocational trainings along with the basics of saving and business management.

We encourage women to start their own small activities, to put their talents at work and sustain their families. We support the most talented and motivated ones with the procurement of raw materials and equipment.

At the same time, in cooperation with the Cathingen NGO, we run a soft loan micro-credit program dedicated to the women of our community in Lekki.

We started our women empowerment program in 2011. In 2019 we trained over 200 women in three communities in Lagos.

We run vocational trainings: soap making, baking catering, tailoring and hair stylist.

We provide a micro-credit to a selected number of women to start their own small business.
“I can sustain my family, thanks to the Loving Gaze microcredit.”
Fighting children’s malnutrition.

THE CHALLENGE
An estimated 2.5 million Nigerian children under the age of five suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition every year. This makes children nine times more likely to die from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria.

WHAT WE DO
In 2019 we treated 64 malnourished children in our three St Kizito Clinics’ Nutrition Centres. We offer them emergency support, food and medicines, monitoring them on daily basis during the most critical phase. We distribute over 600 food packages (rice, beans and milk) every year. We teach the mothers how to take care of their babies and how to cook the Tom Brown, a rich pap loved by children. We offer social, medical and psychological support to the children and their families.

Every year we serve 2,380 lunches to the children and their mothers.

We give instant formula exclusively when the mother can not breastfeed.

We offer medical care to malnourished children and support their families with socio-economic help.

With the support of local charities we distribute diapers, clothes and other small commodities to the mothers in need.

Food insecurity is a daily reality among the poorest in Lagos. The high rate of unemployment implies that only fractions of the people living in the city have a consistent source of income. They are therefore vulnerable and constrained from attaining access to sufficient and adequate foods to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Of those that have a consistent source of income, a major proportion of the income is spent on food.

Many households resort to coping strategies such as restricting consumption, eating fewer or smaller meals and engaging in urban agriculture which meets only a small proportion of their food needs. This has severe consequences, especially for small children.
We accompany our children during and after the most critical phase, monitoring their growth, and keeping at bay secondary complications. We also ensure that their mums receive the much needed educational and psychological support.
THE CHALLENGE
There is a lack of advanced education opportunities in the country, and where available, it is often too expensive for the average professionals. Too often senior staff migrates for better working and studying opportunities, draining very much needed professionals from the country.

WHAT WE DO
Capacity building is at the core of our educational effort, whether among primary school teachers, health care professionals or volunteers. Training health personnel is essential for improving and strengthening the quality of care and ability to provide health services.

In addition to what Loving Gaze accomplishes working every day alongside local personnel and local authorities, we run professional development courses.

We have supported field stays, involving some 500 people, including community agents, nurses, obstetricians, doctors, and paramedics. We thank the senior medical professionals who volunteered to lecture at our trainings, the Lagos State National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Program, the Lakeshore Cancer Centre, Alive & Thrive and Sanofi-Aventis Nigeria who sponsored
THE CHALLENGE
In the midst of doing and delivering, we keep discovering and affirming that each “beneficiary” is a unique person with his own needs, challenges, and dignity. While our educational and medical teams work following this guiding principle, our social workers support each beneficiary with a holistic approach, listening to their needs, visiting them at home, offering counselling and sustaining their growth.

WHAT WE DO
Our responsibility is towards the human need of each person we work with. This is why our social service team keeps growing: with 5 social workers (1 of them in Taraba State), two counsellors and one nutritionist. They offer an integrated support to our beneficiaries, verifying their medical, educational and economic needs. Quite often our patients approach us for urgent medical needs and we unveil critical economic and social hurdles.

Domestic violence, alcohol abuse, unstable accommodation, precarious income, teenage pregnancies are among the severe challenges our community endures.

Our social service team tries to tackle them, offering school’s scholarships, supporting their search for a job, involving women in vocational trainings and most of all, listening to their request for help.

They are our people in the field, keeping a close relationship with the communities: in 2019 we carried out 178 home visits, caring for 925 beneficiaries.

“Each person counts.”

“The problem of the whole world’s existence is the happiness of each single person” (Father Luigi Giussani)
Our work in Taraba State.

WE CARE.
Taraba State economy, in the North East of Nigeria, is mainly based on agriculture. We support the communities of Kona and Jalingo since 1988.

We have implemented, in the years, two primary schools programs, a tailoring skill acquisition program for young women and we have a dedicated social worker attending the needs of our communities.

The village life is extremely different from the Nigerian megacities like Lagos, but it can pose several challenges: lack of basic health care, security issues due to the rural setting, and limited access to modern amenities.

We have supported the communities in Jalingo and Kona since 1988. We sustain two nursery and primary schools: St Monica and the New Seed Schools and we have a social worker assisting the needs of our families there.
A new beginning.

THE CHALLENGE
For migrants who need to return home but lack the means to do so, European funded programmes are often the only solution to their immediate plight. We strive to ensure that migrants in need are assisted to return voluntarily, safely and in dignity.

WHAT WE DO
Since May 2019 Loving Gaze cooperates with AVSI/CIR and CIES to assist voluntary return migrants from Italy back to Nigeria. The assistance is articulated in several phases:

• Sustainability evaluation and approval of the Individual Plan of Reintegration
• Coordination calls with the Italian social workers and migrants before departure
• Assistance at the arrival at Lagos airport
• Six months assistance in Nigeria for each beneficiary:

» Social and psychological support
» Intermediary in family reintegration
» Support in setting up the beneficiary’s reintegration plan
» Purchase of goods and tools, rent of space to initiate a small activity
» Regular calls and visits to the beneficiary to monitor the progress of their activity
» Reporting of each beneficiary’s activity and reintegration progress to the International partners

We support the reintegration in Nigeria of Assisted Volunteer Migrants.
Our team.

ITALIAN EXPATRIATES, 200 LOCAL STAFF AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Pepoli
General Manager

Dr Alda Gemmani
St Kizito Clinic
Medical Director

Dr Nididi Nwosu
Community Medical Consultant

Our talented team of 200 people: medical, teaching, logistic and administrative staff and social workers.

TOGETHER.
Our ability to reach the most vulnerable people with love and care, to empower families and communities to build the foundation of good health, primary education and women safety, is possible because of our team.

Dr Alda Gemmani
Medical Director
After almost 30 years of medical practice in Italy as Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Specialist in the major hospital of Rimini, she joined St Kizito Clinic in Lagos in 2009 as Medical Director.

Dr Nididi Nwosu, Consultant
Community Physician
She worked as Senior Registrar at Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and Enugu Teaching Hospital. She joined St. Kizito Clinic in 2009 as Medical Officer and later as Project Manager.

Barbara Pepoli
General Manager
After many years of experience as Financial & Administration Director in private companies in Italy, in 2005 she came to Nigeria and she has been Loving Gaze manager since the beginning.
Thanks to all our friends and donors.

Loving Gaze thanks all the donors who trust our commitment and support our activities:

- All our private donors in Nigeria and abroad who prefer to stay anonymous but provide an irreplaceable help
- Amici di Loving Gaze, a group of friends who keep us in their hearts and minds and help us through several initiatives in Italy
- Fondazione Italia per il Dono Onlus, which offers us their online crowdfunding platform
- National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP) for their continuous cooperation and support
- USAID/SHOPS Plus and the ABT Associates for the support and coordination of the Private Sector Project Plus Programme
- GTBank which supported the refurbishment of our water pump in St Kizito Clinic
- Chevron who supported the upgrade of St Kizito Clinic digital X-ray machine
- Saipem for their continuous support
- Sahel Corporate Shared Value which supported St Kizito Clinic with medical equipment
- Solidarity Trust Fund for their support to kick start St Kizito Outstation Ibeju Lekki
- The 650 Italian families who supported our students through AVSI
- Mauro Giacomazzi from Luigi Giussani Institution of Higher Education which supported our capacity building program towards the medical staff and staff of SS Peter and Paul School
- Alive and Thrive which supports capacity building on Infant and Young Child Feeding
- Ruth for Aid Foundation who is sustaining some of our students at SS Peter & Paul School
- San Vincent de Paul Societies and different parishes who supported children and vulnerable patients at St Kizito Clinics
- Schools in Africa Foundation which is helping us building the new SS Peter & Paul School
- Rotary Club of VGC for the donation of medical equipment to St Kizito Clinic
- Alexis Galleries which supported some of our children at St Kizito Clinic Nutrition Centre in Lekki
- Daywaterman College, Lagoon School, Whitesand School, St Gregory School, Eucharistic Heart College, Christ the King College and Marywood School which offered scholarships to some of our talented former students
- Giorgio Salvatori, for mentioning us in his photography catalogue and for donating to us the proceeds of his exhibition

A special thanks for the trust and continuous support goes to the institutional partners who empower our activities:

- the Consulate of Italy in Lagos
- the Embassy of Italy in Abuja
- the Lagos State Health Ministry
- the Eti-Osa, Mushin, Ikorodu Local Governments
- the APIN Public Health Initiatives
- the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP)
- the Centre for Integrated Health Programs (CIHP)
A special thanks to our international volunteers:

Dr Abiola Sawyerr a medical practitioner who spent a month with us.

Ms Chantal a biologist who spent a month with us working at St Kizito Clinic.