



NEWSLETTER

August 2009



Hospice Team celebrate with Dr. Anne



Dear Friends,
We greatly thank God for seeing us all through this time.

Our continued challenge lies in matching our donor funding with the needs for patient care and demand for further training at all levels to spread palliative care nationally and in Sub-Saharan Africa.

You can make a very big difference in the lives of our dear patients by participating in our activities e.g. the monthly flea market which takes place at the American Recreation opposite Hospice every 2nd Saturday of the month. When you donate or buy, all proceeds go to our patients and their families. For more information please visit our website.

Dr. Anne Merriman's honorary doctorate

We would like to congratulate Dr. Anne Merriman for being honoured with an honorary Doctorate of Science from Edge Hill University, Liverpool. This honours Dr. Anne's lifetime contribution to bringing affordable morphine to Africa opening the door to palliative care in Uganda and other African countries.



Dr. Anne, sitting on HAU's first vehicle: the 10 year old land rover given by the British High Commission in 1993.

The Hospice team appreciated Dr. Anne with a surprise party at Hospice and great thanks to all those involved to make it a success.

Children's Programme

The Children's Program, set up as a model two years ago, continues to grow in terms of numbers of children receiving palliative care. 452 Children were taken care of on the program compared to 343 last year. This service is now established in the three Hospices and is spreading to other African countries as a true model. The Hospice Team continues to work on improving the quality as well as the competence of the service.

A Child Protection Policy document was drafted and is in the process of being reviewed by a consultant from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development of Uganda. A nurse at MHM, Honest Twinomujuni, was mentored and trained by Rebecca a palliative care nurse from UK, who has now returned to the UK but is keeping in touch. A volunteer play therapist is also in the process of being recruited for Mobile Hospice

Mbarara. This will make the service more child- friendly.

Give a chance project continued to support orphaned children with school fees



The initiation of the “Give a chance” programmes has been made possible by Brentside School in Ealing in London, supporting the orphans left behind by our deceased patients, with school fees. It has been a constant battle to support these orphans and even to reassure the dying patient that Hospice would assist. It is so difficult to get fees for these children from networking organizations so Hospice is now trying to assist them with the initiative from Brentside School.

Brentside School is multicultural and shared their music and their experiences of raising funds for our children when Dr. Anne visited them in December 2008.

Degree Programme Development

The BSc in palliative care will commence with the intake of 20 students in year 1 and 10 students in year 2 in February 2010. The course will have a maximum of 60 students on the course by 2012. Currently the education department is working hard to ensure quality teaching materials are available to the students; as course material, IT support and as library resources. Hospice is also in the process of registering the course with National Council for Higher Education (NCHE).

The Palliative care unit - Mulago

The Education department continues to collaborate with the Palliative care unit at Mulago in the development of the upcoming

degree course, training of undergraduate and postgraduate students attending Makerere.

Specialist palliative care competence built within HIV/AIDS Care Organisations

The first training for HIV/AIDS Care Organisations has been carried out for three major HIV/AIDS service providers- TASO, JCRC and MJAP in three identified regions; Central and South western region. The central region training took place in Jinja due to the Geographical coverage of both TASO and JCRC. The south Western took place in Mbarara where the regional offices for all the three organisations are located. The training gave participants opportunity for hands- on experience on all aspects of pain assessment and management.

Hon. Dr. Miriam Matembe with Ms. Nina Shalita starting a charity walk from Pope Paul Hotel in Ndeeba.



PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 11TH - 16TH MAY 2009

The theme this year was ; “Hospice- Adding life to days, not days to life”.

The palliative care week started with a press conference to highlight activities of the week. Different articles were published during the week including “Patients need peace in the last days of life” which was in the *New Vision* newspaper dated May 14th 2009 and also radio and television talk shows.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude towards Hon. Dr. Miriam Matembe for being our chief walker and also to the management of Pope Paul Hotel for providing us space as a flag off for the charity walk.

The First Achetti Meeting:

This coincided with Father Joseph Achetti leaving Uganda after 47 years service. Father

has been a spiritual motivator among all of Hospice's palliative care services. He was the chaplain to HAU from 1994 up to 2000 when he became the Parish Priest of Mbuya Parish. He is returning home because of ill health.



Some of the people who attended the First Achetti Spiritual Meeting at Hospice



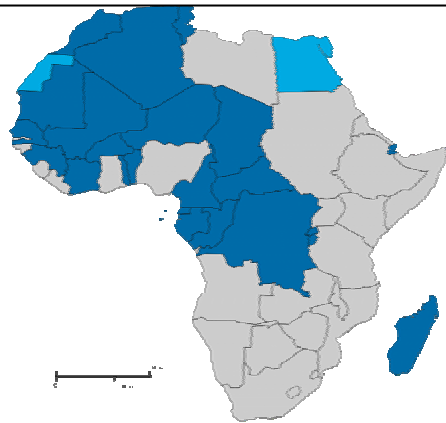
Dr. Anne, Fr. Joseph and Rev David cut the cake in thanksgiving for Fr Achetti

The meeting reviewed the spirituality of carers and how they can share and pray together to become more spiritual in their day to day work with patients.

Annual Report And AGMS in France, UK And Ireland

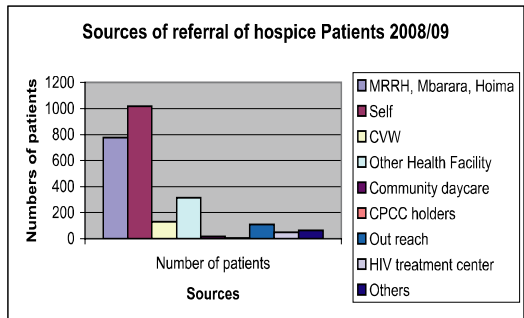
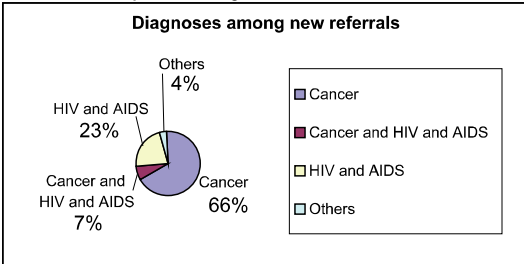
The annual report is out and in case you did not access it during your local AGMs, please contact Hospice on the website for your area (UK, Ireland, USA or France) or if in Uganda, from the offices at Makindye, Mbarara or Hoima for hard copies on the address below. The AGM in France was a first. In Brittany, Jim Bennett has commenced HA SP France. He has brought together many retired Brits living in Brittany to open a charity shop. The aim of HA France is to work towards setting up a model in Francophone countries so that palliative

Francophone and Lucophone countries 2009



care can be delivered there. At the moment none of these countries have palliative care or affordable morphine. There is a lot of work to be done.

One of the interesting observations on this year's annual report is; 2,630 patients were seen in the period compared to 2396 patients seen last year. Of these 1,653 were new referrals compared to 1514 in the previous year.



It is not the goal of Hospice to increase the patients that are seen, but those that are trained will see more patients and nearer to their homes. However the increase in recent years reflected the problems of pain requiring palliative care approach from the use of ARVS. A sensitization workshop, in which the scope of Hospice Africa Uganda's services was

shared with stakeholders in July last year, is thought to have contributed to the increase in number of appropriate referrals.

60% of the cancer patients of Hospice also have AIDS. Patients are asked to pay 5,000 UgShs (£1.50, \$2, €1.75) per week/patient which is approximately 25% of the cost for care per week which includes medication, consultation and transport. Hospice tries to assist those who can not afford the cost.

Donors in the world are focusing mainly on HIV and very few are helping our suffering cancer patients since most of our donor funds are restricted to HIV only.



HA(SP)France members, with Ugandan beads



The Charity Shop in Brittany, France
And below, Jim Bennett, founder with customers



If you are moved by the needs of Hospice patients and their families and would like to assist with a contribution to the work of Hospice, then just click onto the website, www.justgiving.com/hospiceafrica

Greetings, prayers & gratitude from
The Hospice Team

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