



Newsletter December 2009



Dear Friends,

As we approach the Christmas season we are reminded of a new child who came into the world and changed it forever. As we receive so many babies into Hospice, some born to the team and some born to our patients, we meditate on the possibilities for this child's life. What will they see? What changes will happen in the world in their life time.

We pray that the Christ Child will bring blessings to all the children struggling to survive in a world not always gentle to them. Where we are born can make such a difference in our future lives. We pray especially for those born into poverty. God bless their Mothers.

Africa's 1st ever Degree in Palliative Medicine

We are very excited to announce that Hospice Africa Uganda in collaboration with our partners in Makerere University and the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) will be launching the 1st



Above: Mother and Child.

ever Degree in Palliative Medicine in Africa specifically designed for providing Palliative Care in a Sub Saharan setting.

Funding for the pilot degree programme was kindly provided by Hospice Africa UK. We would like to thank HAUK and its members for your support.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2009

Members of the Hospice team supported The Palliative Care Association of Uganda in organizing the two country events for the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day which was held on October 10th.

The first event was a parliamentarian workshop with members of the Uganda Parliaments Social services and HIV/AIDS committees.

The workshop introduced MP's from all over Uganda to the concepts of Palliative Care and showed them what they could do to increase the accessibility of palliative care for their constituents.

It was the first ever event of its kind to be held in Africa and the parliamentarians have agreed to champion the need for further integration of palliative care



Above: MP's gather with Palliative Care Advocates in Uganda at the 1st ever parliamentarian workshop for Palliative Care in Africa.



Above: Reach out Mbuya were the eventual winners but the Hospice team are already planning for next year's tournament.

throughout the districts within Uganda.

The second event that was organized was a soccer tournament between 8 palliative care providers based in the greater Kampala area. Each team had to have at least 5 women on the field at any one time and goals scored by women counted as 2. The adjusted rules had the effect of encouraging teamwork amongst all the players in each team.

After being entered into a tough pool the Hospice team finished in joint 3rd place with APCA, having been beaten earlier in the day by the eventual winners Reach out Mbuya.

Road to Care teams up with HAU

Mobile Hospice Mbarara (MHM) has been chosen as the pilot hospice in Uganda by the Canadian charity Road to Care to assist in enabling women who are diagnosed with curable cervical cancer the financial means to pay for treatment at Mulago National referral hospital in Kampala.

Dr. Joda Kuk, a radiation oncology resident (registrar) from Canada and his partner Jennifer Hompoth have set up the new charity. When they visited Mbarara 2 years ago they found that some patients, who had cancer of the cervix and were receiving palliative care from MHM, would benefit from curative radiotherapy in Mulago.

However, the funding to provide for the patients daily needs during their 8 week course of radiotherapy, was not available and therefore palliation was the only treatment available.

Road to Care has teamed up with Hospice and the radiotherapy department in Mulago to fund the treatment, transport and daily care costs for patients who have stage IB2 to IIIB cancer of the cervix.

The first group of patients to benefit departed Mbarara for Kampala on December 3rd and they will be visited regularly by



Above: Members of the MHM team who will work closely with Road to Care to help patients with Cancer of the Cervix

members of the Mulago Palliative Care team.

This new project gives patients who suffer cancer of the cervix in the Mbarara area a chance for curative care whose only other option would be palliative care. All of the funding for the project will be paid for by Road to Care.

Patients Memorial Service

On the 7th of November, Hospice held a patients memorial service for the families and friends of Hospice patients who have died.

The Annual memorial service is for the bereaved families and the team at HAU to come together and share their loss. Memories of loved ones are exchanged and witness to the work of Hospice and how it helped the patient and the family at this special time of life are presented by family members.

Prayers were led by the Christian and Muslim Church leaders. Hymns were sung by the choir of the



Above: *We Love you Daddy*

Church in Busega where we hold a community outreach day care. The Hospice choir sang and again we wept as we listened to the Hospice song...

"my life is finally measured in months, weeks, days and hours
 I want to be free from pain
 Free of indignity
 Free of loneliness
 So give me your hand, give me your understanding
 Give me your love, and let me go peacefully
 And help my family... to understand
 To understand "

May our friends rest in peace. We miss you all...



Above: *Bye Mum. Her Aunty shares looking after her sister with us, as she takes on the orphans*

<p>Hospice Africa c/o Dr & Mrs D. Phipps 16 Arden Close, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 2RR, UK Tel/Fax : +441704573170 hospaf@connectfree.co.uk</p>	<p>Hospice Africa Uganda PO Box 7757 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256-41-510089 (O) 266867 Tel/Fax: 41-510087 (R) info@hospiceafrica.or.ug hospug@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Hospice Africa USA Dr. Judith Hills, President, PO Box 98, South Woodstock, VT 05071 hinshawjd@comcast.net Judithhills@gmail.com</p>
<p>Hospice Africa Ireland Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6, Ireland Tel: +353 1 4068708 acooney@hospiceafrica.ie</p>	<p>Hospice Africa (Soins Palliatifs) France Jim Bennett, Tréhenneuc, 22130 Plancoet France. Tel +33 296830224 jnhbb2003@hotmail.fr</p>	<p>Hospice Africa The Netherlands Joan Kelly Amaliahof 27, 2851 XL Haastrecht The Netherlands Tel: +31 182-509225 joan.kelly@collar.nl</p>