

PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Inaugural ADPCN Graduation at Uganda's Pioneer Nursing Institute

Since the start of the Center for Hospice Care/Hospice Foundation (CHC/HF) partnership with PCAU, the need to train nurses in palliative care has been a priority. In 2010, we began providing scholarships for nursing students to complete a one-year diploma in clinical palliative care (DCPC) course offered at the Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care in Africa (IHPCA). IHPCA is a private institution recognized by the Uganda government which graduates about 15 students per year – [not nearly enough to meet the estimated need for palliative care services in the country.](#) Through 2018, CHC/HF supported a total of 62 students.

During this time, PCAU lobbied the Ugandan government to integrate a similar course at its public nursing schools to increase the number of students which would, in turn, increase access to palliative care. In 2019, the Ugandan government, in collaboration with PCAU and other stakeholders, launched an advanced diploma in palliative care nursing (ADPCN) at its largest nursing school, Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery (MSNM). In the inaugural year of the program, CHC/HF supported 25 students. There were two cohorts accepted that year – the first, which began in January, had 14 students while the second, which began in July, had 11 students. The first cohort completed their studies in December 2019 and were set for graduation in March 2020. When COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns paused all schooling, their graduation was delayed indefinitely, as were the studies of the second cohort. During the lockdown, tutors kept in contact with their students; the second cohort was able to complete the course in 2021.



A combined graduation for both cohorts was held on January 21, 2022. This was a joyous day not only for the MSNM faculty and their inaugural palliative care graduates, but also for those invested in the development of palliative care in Uganda. CHC/HF is very proud of this advancement. Having a national institution graduating palliative care specialists is a big step in enhancing access to palliative care across Uganda.

[Click here for the rest of the story](#)

Impact of the Long School Break on Road to Hope Children

As school resumed in January, a number of Road to Hope (RTH) children decided to pursue vocational education to focus on a trade. Their plan is that in two to three years they will have graduated from school and can quickly start their businesses, generate income and help their families to improve their livelihood.



During the COVID-19 lockdown, Anita from PCAU met with many of the children. Here she is shown in a counseling session with Mugambizi

The RTH program supports vulnerable child caregivers with the educational support they need to enter the job market as productive young adults. They are enrolled in schools that can best meet their educational and psychosocial needs. But their education has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The emergence of COVID-19 and the measures instituted to mitigate its spread exacerbated the many challenges children and their families face for their daily basic and psychosocial needs.

Because schools remained closed for two years in Uganda, the children's stay at home put pressure on the already-stretched household resources. This led to issues like limited food supply, inadequate access to homeschooling materials, concerns of domestic violence, abuse and early pregnancies. While schools were closed, PCAU helped provide extra support to the children and their families – both in terms of basic needs and psychosocial support.

[Click here for the rest of the story](#)

Support the Road to Hope Program

You can help support orphaned or deprived child caregivers in Uganda receive an education and the life skills they need to become flourishing young adults.

- The Road to Hope program currently has 24 unsponsored children. If you are interested in sponsorship, please contact Denis Kidde, international programs coordinator, at KiddeD@cfhcare.org.
- General support for the Road to Hope program is always welcome – no amount is too small. Your contribution will help the PCAU staff provide resources necessary to promote the physical and emotional well-being and personal growth of all the [children](#).



[Donate to Road to Hope Program](#)

