

Welcoming PCAU Colleagues Back to Indiana

Exchange visits are an important aspect in our partnership work – they are an opportunity to learn and share, which deepens CHC/HF and PCAU’s relationship. Connecting in-person is a vital aspect of building the strong relationships, and these visits offer CHC/HF and PCAU staff a way to become involved in the partnership.

A team from CHC/HF last visited Uganda in 2019. During that visit and at the PCAU biannual conference, CHC was recognized as a key partner in the development of palliative care in Uganda since our partnership began in 2008. Mike Wargo, foundation chief operating officer, accepted the award from the country’s Minister of Health, The Honorable Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, for making “outstanding contributions through funding PCAU to extend palliative care services throughout Uganda.”



In 2020, CHC was planning to host an exchange visit from the Uganda team. The visit was to include attending NHPCO’s Leadership and Advocacy Conference with the PCAU country director, [Mark Mwesiga](#), and [Okuyamba Fest](#), a celebration of the CHC/HF and PCAU partnership characterized with international food, drink and art. The COVID-19 pandemic canceled these plans and paused exchange visits for the past two years.

Now that the world is gradually returning to some sense of normalcy, plans are underway to host PCAU for an exchange visit in October – November 2022. During their stay, they will be involved in strategic planning meetings, visiting the University of Notre Dame and Indiana University South Bend as well as engaging with Road to Hope sponsors. Also, preparations for the *Okuyamba Fest* are gearing up, with new arts and crafts slated for sale. We’ll continue to provide updates as we get closer to the event!

PCAU Annual General Meeting

Every year PCAU holds its annual general meeting (AGM) where it shares updates about its work with shareholders and provides a platform for registered members to vote on PCAU issues and elect the association’s board. This year’s AGM was held on May 27.



The AGM allowed PCAU to highlight the high demand for PC services in the country. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one percent of Uganda’s 42.9 million people (2021 mid-year projection) should be benefiting from palliative care services, but only 11% of those who need it are receiving it. According to PCAU Country Director, Mark Mwesiga, limited accessibility is due to the lack of hospices. Uganda currently has only 13 hospices serving the entire country, and additionally, hospitals with integrated palliative care units are few. Another barrier to access palliative care is that many hospital health care workers are not fully oriented to the need for palliative care. While palliative care is included in the curriculum for nurses, medical and clinical officers some training institutions don’t provide palliative care instruction.



Health experts at the AGM advocated for more training and recognition of palliative care providers, urging for more government support, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. PCAU would also like to see that palliative care is taken from health facilities to the community level. They believe that through enhancements in technology palliative care services can be offered remotely and access to care enhanced.

Stakeholders attending the AGM included officials from Uganda’s Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports. PCAU’s AGM was also shown on Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) television. More of Mark’s highlights can be found [here](#) (the relevant section begins at the 11:12 mark).

PCAU Hosts Ministry of Health Official in Charge of Palliative Care

In May, PCAU hosted the newly appointed assistant commissioner in charge of palliative care at Uganda’s Ministry of Health (MOH). It was a proud moment for palliative care development in Uganda to see an appointment made in this position at the MOH. The new appointee’s main job function is to ensure development and coordination of policies and guidelines on palliative care and hospice services in Uganda.

[Read more from PCAU on this visit.](#)

A message of gratitude from a child on the RTH program

Late last year, the Hospice Foundation held its annual holiday sale of Ugandan crafts which was open to all CHC staff and volunteers. All proceeds from the 2021 sale went to support one of the Road to Hope (RTH) families who lost everything in a fire that destroyed their home. Money raised from the sale – along with additional support from the Palliative Care Association of Uganda – have helped the family rebuild their home and purchase essential items. Getrude, one of the three children from this family in the RTH program, shared her gratitude for your support in rebuilding their home. She wrote: **“Dear donors, I and my family really thank you so much for the great work done of building us a new house. Thank you so much, I don’t know how to express our thank you. But may the Lord God bless you all!”**



[Read more from PCAU about the home construction](#)

[Click to see Getrude’s full letter](#)



Do you know someone who might enjoy reading about this partnership and palliative care in Uganda?

Help us spread the word and forward this email to your friends and colleagues. Thank you!

Anyone Can be a Road to Hope Sponsor

You can help support orphaned or deprived child caregivers in Uganda to receive an education and other life skills necessary for them to become flourishing young adults. The Road to Hope program currently has 25 unsponsored children. Sponsors receive periodic updates about their child’s schooling and activities – your support can make a huge difference in the life of a vulnerable child! CHC staff or community members may contact [Denis Kidde](#), international programs coordinator, for more information.



Donate to the Road to Hope Program



Our Contact Information
{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}



{{Unsubscribe}}