

PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Exchange Visit: Involving Our Community

Center for Hospice Care/Hospice Foundation (CHC/HF) is hosting the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) for three weeks from October 24 to November 12, 2022 on an [exchange visit](#) – during which time staff from both organizations will participate in meetings and events that promote awareness for hospice and palliative care issues/needs in both the United States and Uganda. PCAU's visit to the USA will be its seventh since 2008 when Global Partners in Care (a national organization that facilitates and supports partnership development between US hospice and palliative care organizations with sister organizations in low-resource settings around the world) initiated the partnership.



PCAU's Mark Mwesiga speaks at a CHC staff meeting during a 2018 exchange visit



The PCAU team had the chance to visit the University of Notre Dame's hockey arena in 2018

Over the years, the exchange visits have not only provided a platform for staff to enhance and deepen relationships when they physically meet, but it has also allowed a better insight in program initiatives. As the partnership grows, it has seen the involvement of other stakeholders in each of our respective communities which support partnership activities and help set goals to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes. This has been the case with both the [Road to Hope program](#) and [mHealth project](#).

One element that contributes to the success of the partnership is the willingness of both CHC/HF and PCAU to learn from each other. Both organizations also have dynamic, strong leadership. The fact that CHC/HF and PCAU share similarities in the scope of work, and in the same industry sector, motivates stakeholders to help strengthen that partnership. This led to the formation of the [Friends of Uganda Network](#), a group of individuals and organizations in the Michiana area that either directly or indirectly engage in development efforts in Uganda. The group meets regularly to establish synergies, share best practices and lessons learned while doing work in Uganda and has opened doors to relationships and resources.



As preparations are underway to host PCAU staff for an exchange visit this October and considering the COVID-19 pandemic deterred such efforts in 2020, it will be a great opportunity to reconnect with our community. Re-engaging with stakeholders and sharing updates about the CHC/HF and PCAU partnership work always adds another layer to the collaboration. It's a reward celebrating the partnership together with our community.

Healing from the Experience of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The annual World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) will be October 8, 2022. This day provides an opportunity across the globe for hospice and palliative care advocates to celebrate, support and raise awareness of the need for palliative care and highlighting good work currently being done. This year's theme is **"Healing Hearts and Communities."** The COVID-19 pandemic has caused grief for many, strained healthcare systems and created social isolation for health workers and caregivers.

In Uganda, the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) is preparing for the week-long commemoration of WHPCD the first week of October. The theme resonates in Uganda, and PCAU hopes that in addition to raising awareness, it will be a time of healing for the participants as well.

PCAU is planning several public activities, including a soccer match between Uganda's legislators and palliative care providers. There will also be press conferences and other media engagements to highlight hospice and palliative care issues in the country.



eHospice, a globally run news and information resource for hospice, palliative and end-of-life care, has PCAU's planned undertakings for WHPCD highlighted in its publication and details can be accessed [here](#).

Visiting with PCAU

We had staff – and interns – doing double duty on a recent, whirlwind trip to Uganda. In addition to participating in the 7th International African Palliative Care conference in Kamapla, staff members Lacey Ahern and Cyndy Searfoss and interns Mariah Horvath and Lydia Thomas, participated in a series of meetings with PCAU staff to advance numerous partnership initiatives, both new and existing. It kicked off with an important meeting at the Uganda Ministry of Health to provide an update on PCAU and the partnership.

Assuring that the partnership's work advances PCAU's latest strategic plan was a theme that ran through each of the meetings. This included thoughtful, deliberate discussions about how to maximize the impact of nursing scholarships, mHealth data management, research, the Road to Hope program, fundraising, and staff development.



A visit to the Jinja region with current Country Director Mark Mwesiga and former Country Director Rose Kiwanuka provided the chance to visit children on the Road to Hope program at their homes, or in the case of brothers Fred and Jeremiah, in the lovely front yard of Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja. Both attend a local boarding school which is close enough to home to allow their stepmother to visit frequently. Jinja also happens to be home of the "Source of the Nile River" which gave Mariah and Lydia a chance to visit the local landmark.



We're looking forward to hosting Mark Mwesiga and Joyce Zalwango, capacity building officer, on their upcoming visit to CHC in October/November to continue our planning for the future of the partnership.



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!

Help Keep PCAU on the Move!

Reaching the outlying districts of Uganda presents a large challenge for PCAU. Not only is the distance great, but the terrain can be very difficult to traverse. In order to reach palliative care patients and facilities in those regions, a reliable four-wheel drive vehicle is essential! PCAU's 2010 Toyota Landcruiser Prado has served them well since it was donated by USAID in 2010, but is on its last leg. They are in critical need of a new vehicle that will allow them to continue traveling across the country and bringing access to palliative care to all.



All donations to this fund will go directly towards the purchase of a new vehicle for PCAU. Every dollar counts!

[Donate to the PCAU Vehicle Fund](#)



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