

PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Center for Hospice Care Welcomes Partners

Center for Hospice Care and Hospice Foundation (CHC/HF) hosted the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) on an exchange visit from October 24th – November 12th. Exchange visits are an important aspect of our partnership work; they provide an opportunity to learn and share, facilitating the deepening of CHC/HF and PCAU's relationship. Connecting in-person is vital in building the strong relationships, and it offers staff a way to get directly involved in the partnership. In the community, hosting our partners helps promote awareness for hospice and palliative care, explore new relationships and collaborations and engage in strategic planning for our partnership activities. PCAU's last visit was in 2018 when we [celebrated 10 years of our partnership](#). Normally a team from PCAU visits every two years, but these visits have been on hiatus since the emergence of COVID-19 in 2020. Because of the unique, strong bond we have with PCAU staff, we stayed in touch virtually over the past several years. But there is nothing quite like an in-person meeting and conversation to catalyze our engagement to the next level.

CHC/HF hosted Mark Mwesiga, PCAU's executive director, who has steered the organization successfully through the unprecedented and financially difficult times. In addition to the challenges of the pandemic, the global palliative care field has seen several long-standing funders of hospice and palliative care retract financial support across Africa. Mark has brought strategic vision and leadership to his role to navigate these challenges and bring PCAU to the national spotlight as a leader in palliative care.



Mark was joined on this visit by Joyce Zalwango, PCAU's capacity building officer responsible for coordinating activities aimed at strengthening the development of palliative care work in Uganda. She works closely with Mark in advocating for palliative care and providing general support to all PCAU programs. This was Joyce's first visit to the United States, and she couldn't hide her excitement during her stay. She was eager to meet staff in person, visit new places and try new foods! While meeting with a group in the community, she told them: "getting a US visa is like a miracle. When I got the visa, I was excited and while the many stopover checks I encountered on my way worried me, somehow, I trusted I would make it to USA."

[Read more about Mark and Joyce's Visit](#)

Celebrating Being Together Again

The event that celebrates Center for Hospice Care and Hospice Foundation's partnership with PCAU, **Okuyamba Fest**, returned on October 27 for the first time since 2018. The event coincides with PCAU's exchange visit to the United States so that we can share a night of celebration, Ugandan food, crafts and culture with our partners. Our exchanges visits had been on hiatus since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020.

Mark Mwesiga and Joyce Zalwango made the journey from Uganda to Indiana for three weeks in October/November. Okuyamba Fest allowed them to meet with supporters in the community and talk about the important work they do to reach people in need of palliative care across Uganda. The event featured entertainment by local group **Uzima!** Drum and Dance as well as delicious food and a silent auction featuring a variety of Ugandan arts and crafts.



While Okuyamba Fest is a celebration of our partnership with PCAU, it also helps raises funds to support PCAU's work. Money raised from Okuyamba Fest will go toward the purchase of a new vehicle for PCAU. Their work to reach all in need of palliative care takes them across the country and a sturdy and reliable vehicle is one of the most valuable tools PCAU needs to help realize their vision. Their current vehicle is over 12 years old and has traveled more than 270,000 miles! To continue increasing access to palliative care across Uganda, they need a reliable vehicle capable of traversing the rugged landscape of the outlying districts.



PCAU Shines on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

PCAU held a week-long celebration of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) with activities celebrating and supporting hospice and palliative care under this year's theme of **"Healing Hearts and Communities."** PCAU further shaped the theme to **"Touching Lives, Healing Communities and Transforming Society"** with the objective of not only raising awareness but also signifying a time of healing.

From October 3 – 8, PCAU held activities to advocate, educate and raise awareness that brought many together to support hospice and palliative care. Activities included:

- A soccer match held between palliative care providers and parliamentarians captained by Hon. Moses Magogo, who doubles as the President of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA). The teams lived up to the anticipated excitement and the parliamentarians won 6-2.
- Ten interactive radio and TV talk shows on the significance of palliative care. Listeners and viewers had the opportunity to send in questions for an expert response on issues about palliative care in Uganda.
- A public lecture on the alleviation of health-related suffering held at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences. The event attracted over 125 participants many of whom were doctors, Ministry of Health representatives, researchers and specialists in palliative care as well as students.
- Live streaming on both PCAU and Ministry of Health Twitter handles with information on sickle cell disease, cancer control and access to medicines and supplies essential for palliative care. At least 120 people signed up and listened to the live interactive sessions with palliative care experts.
- A national palliative care walk which brought together over 400 people who participated in the 4km walk raising awareness for palliative care. The walk was graced with the presence of **Dr. Charles Olaro**, Ministry of Health's Director of Clinical Services, who was accompanied by other legislators and CEOs of over 18 organizations.



You can read more about PCAU's WHPCD activities which are highlighted in their [recent quarterly newsletter](#). You can sign up for PCAU's newsletter on their website: <https://pcauganda.org/>.



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!

Crisscrossing Uganda to support hospices, transport Road to Hope children to school and attend government meetings are all central to PCAU's work. PCAU's Toyota Landcruiser has served them well since it was donated by USAID in 2010, but at 270,000 miles, it is on its last leg. PCAU is in critical need of a new vehicle that will allow them to continue traveling across the country to bring access to palliative care to all in Uganda.



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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 {{(Organization Website)}}



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