

PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Greetings from Uganda and Happy New Year!

I am currently in Uganda with the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) for three weeks to touch base on several of our partnership initiatives. We are looking forward to the continued growth and impact of our collaborations.

The Road to Hope Program (RTH)

The 55 children who are in the program will come together on Feb 2nd and 3rd for the annual children's camp and empowerment retreat – both are opportunities for them to gather, share, celebrate and learn from one another. Whenever the children meet, there's the component of fun, but counselors and role models are also included in the camp to help nurture the children's well-being. The program continues to transform the lives of the children and their families.



We are also looking forward to implementing a new project to help support vocational schooling and business start-ups for RTH graduates. Over the next few weeks we will be working on the implementation plan for this project.

Palliative Care Nursing Scholarships

The advanced diploma in palliative care nursing (ADPCN) will welcome a new class in February. Between 2010 and 2022, our partnership has provided 93 scholarships to train nurses in palliative care. These nurses have helped extend palliative care services to 107 of the 146 Uganda's districts. The high demand for palliative care providers continues to be at the heart of PCAU's work. CHC/HF's support has been a main pillar in improving access to care for many Ugandans in need.

Improving Data on Palliative Care

This project, more commonly known as our mHealth initiative, has made great progress in generating the evidence base for palliative care services in Uganda. Over the years CHC/HF has supported PCAU in developing a set of indicators that are now integrated within Uganda's national data system at the Ministry of Health. At the end of 2022, the Ministry of Health launched a data dashboard for palliative care in the national electronic data health information system – an exciting development. As the country begins collecting palliative care data in a more organized manner, PCAU looks forward to utilizing this to inform decision making, improve advocacy and guide research. This was the strategic goal when the mHealth project began!

There are many exciting developments and I'm grateful to spend some time with the PCAU team in person. Visiting PCAU always provides a better opportunity to plan, share and reflect on our partnership.

Along with Mark Mwesiga, executive director of PCAU, we wish you and your family a very happy and prosperous New Year. It's a joy working with you to champion PCAU's vision of palliative care for all in Uganda. Each year together evokes hope for a bright, promising future where we will meet this vision. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you in 2023!

Denis Kidde
International Programming Representative

Sponsor Highlight: Judy Porter and Gary Cromer

Judy Porter and Gary Cromer live in Urbandale, Iowa. Judy worked in hospice care for 23 years as a social worker, caring for patients and families, supervising social workers and training hospice staff. Though currently retired, Judy continues to work and train social workers when needed. In 2015, Roberta Spencer introduced the couple to the Road to Hope (RTH) program. After viewing the film, *Road to Hope*, Judy and Gary decided to become sponsors. They first sponsored Morris in secondary school and vocational school where he studied motor vehicle mechanics. He now works as a mechanic in Hoima district of Western Uganda. For Judy and Gary, seeing how the RTH program helped Morris reach his full potential throughout his education and beyond was incredibly meaningful to them.



"I (sponsor) because my heart is filled with gratitude and happiness to be able to be involved as a sponsor. Being a sponsor is about opening your heart to give and receive. It's a beautiful opportunity to love and be loved back. We're sponsors because we know that we're making a difference in someone's life and consequently in their family's life."
- Judy Porter



After Morris' educational journey gave way to the beginnings of a successful business, Judy and Gary sought another opportunity for sponsorship. They now support Sanyu who, along with her sisters, helps care for their mother. Sanyu is thirteen and dreams of continuing her studies to become a doctor. She says, "I have hope that after my studies I will travel all countries treating people – I hope to be an international doctor."

[Read more about Judy and Gary](#)

Uganda is Now Ebola Free!

On January 11, 2023, Uganda declared an end to the Ebola virus outbreak that emerged in September 2022 and claimed the lives of 55 people.

The World Health Organization's (WHO) criteria for declaring an outbreak of Ebola officially ended is when there are no new cases for 42 consecutive days (twice the incubation period of the Ebola virus).

Uganda's Health Minister, Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, said "January 11 marked 113 days since the start of the epidemic. Uganda put a swift end to the Ebola outbreak by ramping up key control measures such as surveillance, contact tracing and infection prevention and control."

In total, there were 142 confirmed cases and 56 confirmed deaths with children among the victims. According to health officials, the last confirmed Ebola patient was discharged from hospital on November 30, and in between over 4,000 contacts were followed up for up to 21 days.



In a statement from the director-general of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Uganda was praised for its response to this outbreak: "Uganda has shown that Ebola can be defeated when the whole system works together, from having an alert system in place, to finding and caring for people affected and their contacts, to gaining the full participation of affected communities in the response."



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!

Thanks to your generous support, we have so far raised 71% of our goal (\$85,000) to help PCAU buy a new vehicle. This cause is very important to PCAU in advancing its mission – crisscrossing Uganda to support hospices, transport Road to Hope children to school and attending government meetings – all of which are central to PCAU's work.

PCAU's current 2010 Toyota Landcruiser (a donation from USAID in 2010) has now traveled over 270,000 km and 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.

A gift of any amount will help us reach 100% of our goal. If you decide to donate, please know all donations to this fund go directly toward the purchase of a new vehicle for PCAU.



[Donate to the PCAU Vehicle Fund](#)



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