

PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Wishing You a Joyful New Year in 2024!

As we embark on another year, we extend our warmest greetings to our cherished community and supporters who have been an integral part of the remarkable journey we have undertaken since the inception of the Center for Hospice Care/Hospice Foundation (CHC/HF) and Palliative Care Association of Uganda's (PCAU) [partnership](#) in 2008.

Our collaboration has thrived on the bedrock of mutual trust and awareness of cultural appropriateness, a cornerstone reflected in [PCAU's strategic plan](#). Over the years, our focus has remained on providing support and resources to assist PCAU in reaching its strategic objectives: capacity building, advocacy and awareness creation, research and information, governance and support functions, and sustainability and financial efficiency. The lasting success of this partnership is a testament to the strong, meaningful relationships nurtured through virtual meetings, correspondence and staff exchange visits.

Understanding that the need for palliative care continues to rise globally and that there is disproportionately less access to palliative care in Sub-Saharan Africa (including Uganda), CHC/HF is committed to supporting PCAU's long-term sustainability. Through technical assistance, financial and operational assistance and knowledge exchange, we aim to bolster PCAU's efforts. This would not be possible without the generous donations received from many of you, which play a pivotal role in advancing this partnership.



Reflecting on the years gone by, several best practices and lessons learned underscore our collaboration:

- Aligned goals and annual tracking:** Both organizations consistently agree on partnership goals and objectives, tracking progress annually.
- Commitment from staff and administration:** The deep commitment and active partnership, not just on paper but in action, are driven by the significant involvement of staff, administration and boards of both organizations.
- Engagement of community partners:** The involvement of other community partners and organizations significantly contributes to the partnership's goals, raising the profile of the partnership.
- Individual relationships for motivation:** While the partnership exists between two organizations, it's the individual people and relationships that power our work. Spending time together in person has been crucial to our success.

As we welcome 2024, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our supporters for your unwavering support. Together, we look forward to another year of shared accomplishments, strengthened relationships and making a lasting impact in supporting PCAU to realize its vision of *"palliative care for all in Uganda."*

Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with joy, prosperity and continued collaboration!



Mark Mwesiga
Executive Director, PCAU



John Mastrojohn III
President and CEO, CHC

Advancements in Palliative Care Training and Advocacy in Uganda

The Ugandan government's progressive step in 2023 towards including [positions for palliative care providers](#) is a commendable move. The [directive for hospitals to allocate space for palliative care services](#) is another positive move acknowledged by PCAU. However, PCAU underscores that with this, there is an increasing demand for qualified palliative care nurses, and the need for more professionals in the field is great.



To put things into perspective, the Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery (MSNM) [graduates](#) only about 20 advanced diploma in palliative care nursing (ADPCN) personnel annually. In 2018, estimates indicated that there were fewer than 200 clinical palliative care practitioners available to care for an estimated 255,000 patients in need.



PCAU is working with the relevant ministries on the integration of the ADPCN program into other training institutions. PCAU has already established a collaboration with the Health Tutors' College Mulago (HTC Mulago), a health tutor training institution, to increase the number of qualified health tutors so they can accommodate more ADPCN students. The goal is to create awareness about the ADPCN program and initiate discussions for partnership training sessions for health tutors. This strategic effort has already borne fruit, with a health tutor from HTC Mulago securing sponsorship from Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) for enrollment in the ADPCN course in 2024.



[Read more about palliative care training](#)

Roberta Returns to Uganda Fostering CHC/HF and PCAU Connections

As we step into the new year, we're delighted to share that [Roberta, a dedicated CHC/HF volunteer](#), is on her way back to Uganda, marking another chapter in the enduring partnership between CHC/HF and PCAU.

Upon her arrival, Roberta will immerse herself in meaningful activities aimed at fostering connections and advancing the partnership. Notably, she will participate in the Children's Camp for the Road to Hope (RTH) program – an initiative particularly dear to her heart. Having been involved since the start of the partnership, Roberta has witnessed [the growth of the children on the program](#). The Children's Camp has always been a highlight for Roberta, as it allows her to connect with the children to foster moments of joy and establish connections that bolster the children's social growth.



Beyond spending time with the children on the RTH program, Roberta is scheduled to attend several meetings crucial to advancing palliative care services in Uganda by engaging with palliative care stakeholders across Uganda. Roberta's presence enhances PCAU's advocacy work, amplifying the impact of their activities and meetings.



We will share updates during Roberta's time in Uganda. Stay tuned to hear more stories on her travels.

Support the Road to Hope Program

The Road to Hope program has 10 unsponsored children. Your support can help an orphaned or deprived child caregiver in Uganda receive an education and other life skills necessary for them to become flourishing young adults. General donations to the program can be made at the link below. If you are interested in sponsoring a child or want to learn more about the program, contact international programs coordinator [Denis Kidde](#).



[Support the Road to Hope](#)



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!



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