

PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Roberta's Visit to Uganda: A Time of Compassion

In February, former CHC staff member and current volunteer, Roberta Spencer, visited the team at PCAU. During her time with PCAU, Roberta's days were busy, working to advance the goals of PCAU across Uganda in many different, exciting ways. She represented CHC during the graduation celebrations of the newest generation of palliative care providers, many of whom were supported by CHC scholarships. A student we supported years ago, who recently finished her master's degree in palliative care and will become a palliative care leader, also visited Roberta. During their time together, Roberta learned about the student's aspirations and dreams for palliative care in Uganda.



Attending the ADCPC student graduation



Meeting with the SHiNE Child Program (learn more about this program in Roberta's reflection)



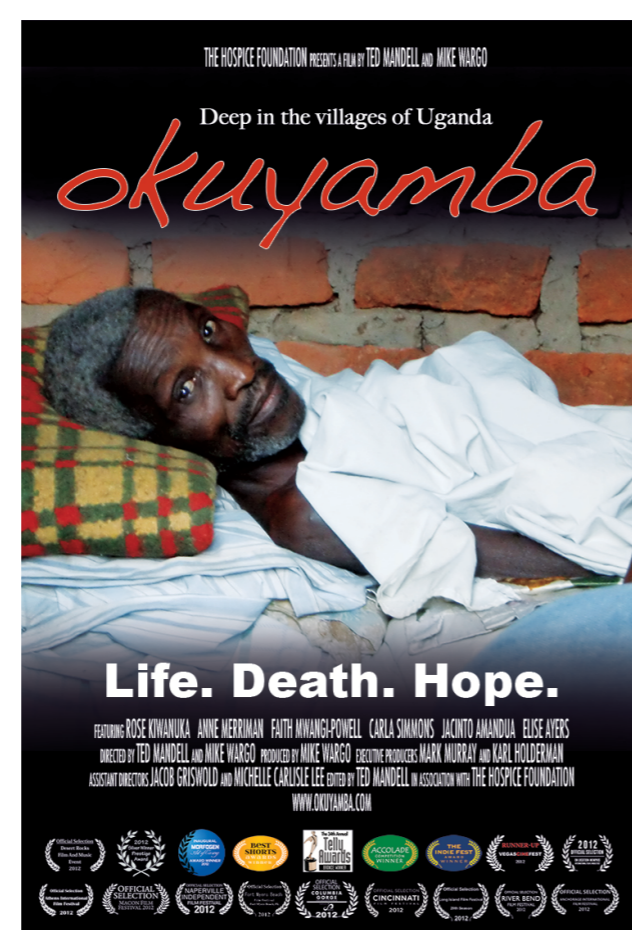
Participating in the Road to Hope Camp

Roberta spent time with children on the Road to Hope (RTH) program by supporting the annual RTH Camp, which had the theme "Compassionate Communities" this year. In addition, she visited three young adults in their final year of the RTH program who are working hard to become thriving young professionals. Despite her busy schedule, she was still able to spend invaluable reflection time with the PCAU team by leading a special retreat for staff and discussing the development of spiritual care in Uganda with them!

[Read Roberta's reflection of her time in Uganda.](#)

Celebrating PCAU's 25 Years of Impact A brief highlight of CHC/PCAU partnership initiatives

This year marks a significant milestone for the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) as it celebrates 25 years of impactful work in advancing palliative care for all in Uganda. Center for Hospice Care's (CHC) [partnership](#) with PCAU is part of this success in transforming the landscape of healthcare in Uganda and enhancing hope for thousands of palliative care patients and their families.



Among the initiatives of the CHC and PCAU partnership was the creation of two compelling documentaries – [Okuyamba](#) and the [Road to Hope film](#). These documentaries have not only served as educational tools but have also played an important role in raising awareness about the importance of hospice and palliative care in Uganda.

[Okuyamba](#) sheds light on the critical role of nurses in delivering palliative care services in Uganda. In response to the need for more trained palliative care nurses, the partnership initiated the [scholarships for nurses](#) in 2010. This initiative has supported the education and training of over 110 nurses in palliative care, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide holistic care to patients in need.



Additionally, the Road to Hope (RTH) program, inspired partially by the observations made in the documentaries, addresses the plight of children caring for their terminally ill parents. Established in 2012, the RTH program helps orphaned or deprived child caregivers receive the education they need to become productive young adults. Today, the RTH program provides support to over 80 child caregivers from 27 districts across Uganda, empowering them with an education for a brighter future. In addition to educational support, which includes vocational training, the program addresses their medical needs, supports their emotional well-being and acts as a conduit for PCAU's advocacy and community-level engagement efforts.

The CHC/PCAU partnership continues to evolve, aligning its efforts with PCAU's [strategic plan and priorities](#). From providing guidance on strategic planning, to supporting initiatives such as the [mHealth Project](#), to facilitating [student internships](#), the partnership engages local communities and other partners such as the University of Notre Dame.



mHealth project project planning meeting



Notre Dame intern Kat Kostolansky in Uganda

As we reflect on PCAU's past 25 years, CHC is filled with gratitude for the opportunity to support their incredible work. Countless lives have been touched and transformed through the work of PCAU, and we are honored to be a small part of it! Together, we look forward to continuing our journey towards a future where quality hospice and palliative care are accessible to all in Uganda.

Spotlighting Dr. Angella Namatovu Capacity Building Officer

Dr. Angella Namatovu, a recent graduate with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) from Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), currently serves as the [capacity building officer](#) at PCAU. In this crucial role, she significantly contributes to advancing PCAU's primary objective of capacity building, aimed at strengthening the capabilities of palliative care providers in Uganda through training support, continuous professional education, mentorship and supervision. Dr. Namatovu is directly involved in the planning and execution of the [Pain-Free Hospital Initiative \(PFHI\)](#) across three national and teaching hospitals in Uganda. Additionally, she oversees PCAU's [SHiNE Child Program](#), an initiative focused on enhancing the care and treatment navigation for children from underprivileged families facing health-related suffering.

Prior to joining the PCAU Secretariat as a staff member, Dr. Namatovu volunteered with the association, supporting the SHiNE Child Program. She was also instrumental in establishing the Students' Palliative Care Reinforcement Program, which engages students and disseminates knowledge about palliative care.



Throughout her professional journey, Dr. Namatovu has been engaged in research efforts and had the privilege of sharing her expertise through presentations at conferences such as the 7th International African Palliative Care Conference and the 4th Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care. Her contributions significantly contribute to the advancement of medical practices and positively impact the lives of countless individuals, positioning her as an invaluable member of the PCAU team.

Dr. Namatovu is passionate about PCAU's work, particularly the opportunity it provides to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals facing challenging health circumstances. She values the dedicated team that surrounds her, with each member driven by a shared passion for palliative care and a genuine desire to effect positive change. PCAU's collaborative environment fosters open dialogue, knowledge sharing and mentorship which enables her to continuously expand her skills and expertise in the field.

Support the Road to Hope Program



Road to Hope Camp 2024

The Road to Hope program currently supports 81 children. Your gift 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 international programs coordinator, [Denis Kidde](#).

[Support the Road to Hope](#)



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