

PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Reuniting with Roberta!

Stories from Roberta about her time in Uganda are numerous, but one from her visit to Uganda this past January stands out. A full circle moment occurred when Roberta reconnected with an old friend, Antoinette, a palliative care nurse who received a scholarship from Center of Hospice Care for her palliative care education in 2012.

Antoinette's healthcare journey started in 1998 when she went to school to earn her certification in nursing. Following in the footsteps of her mother who was also a nurse, Antoinette always knew she wanted to care for patients. She went on to work in many fields, including critical and pediatric care. Palliative care didn't enter Antoinette's life until a few years later when her beloved mother was diagnosed with leukemia. Antoinette provided her care as her mother struggled with the disease for three years before dying in pain in 2006. From that day on, Antoinette swore she never wanted to see another person suffer like her mother did.



Roberta with Antoinette and her brother earlier this year

Soon after her mother's passing, Antoinette learned of an upcoming cancer care training – which included palliative care, and that her medical superintendent was looking for two nurses to attend. Inspired by her mother's story, and remembering her vow to never let another patient experience a painful death, Antoinette attended the training. From that point on, Antoinette's passion for palliative care only grew and she decided it was God's calling for her to continue strengthening her knowledge in palliative care.

[Continue reading this story.](#)

Celebrating Creativity with the Road to Hope Children

PCAU recognizes the Road to Hope (RTH) program as a vital advocacy tool for promoting palliative care, and as their partners, we always look for new, creative ways to support advocacy and awareness through the RTH program. This is how the children's drawing competition – now a regular event at the annual RTH camp – got its start. Sharing the children's art opens the door for new audiences to learn about the RTH program and PCAU's work.



It is also a fun way to tap into the creativity and interest of the RTH children and serves as a way to engage and uplift them. The RTH children's drawing contest captured the children's hearts as they enthusiastically participated in the contest in hopes of winning a prize.

Last year, as a way to foster engagement with CHC staff and involve them in celebrating the children's artwork, PCAU invited CHC staff to be judges for the contest. The top five drawings were later made into greeting cards. This collaboration not only raised awareness about the RTH program but also provided a way for CHC staff to connect with the children and support their creativity.

CHC staff appreciated the opportunity to be part of the judging process. Dr. Matt Misner, a CHC hospice physician, remarked on the exceptional quality of the artwork, expressing "all of these pictures were so good that it was somewhat disappointing to only pick 3!" Kristiana Donahue, CHC's volunteer service manager, echoed this and noted that the RTH children are all "talented and did a great job!"

Building on this enthusiasm, the drawing contest was part of the 2024 RTH camp. CHC staff once again embraced the role of judges to help recognize the children's talent and dedication. The winners of this year's contest are:

1st place: Bounty of natural fruits – by Crispus A.: Crispus' artwork celebrates the abundance of natural fruits and vegetables in Uganda. Crispus (and his brother Tonny) lost their mother, [Claire, in July 2012](#). She was a palliative care nurse supported by our CHC/PCAU partnership and was a true champion of palliative care in the hills of western Uganda. She contracted Ebola treating patients, and PCAU brought the boys on the RTH program shortly after she died. Crispus recently took national exams to complete secondary school, and PCAU and his family are discussing the next step in his educational journey.



2nd place: Beautiful bird in the sun – by Peter O.: Peter's artwork is an abstract depiction of a bird under the bright yellow glare of sun, symbolizing resilience and strength. Last year, Peter (and his brother Paul) lost their mother and are now orphans. PCAU and partners have supported them during this challenging time. They are now living with a neighbor who agreed to take them in and provide a nurturing environment. Peter is a bright student and is finishing his final year of ordinary level secondary school. He hopes to become a doctor.

3rd place: Truck carrying a Christmas tree – by Tonny A.: Tonny's artwork shows a sunny and green Christmas – clearly this is Uganda and not Indiana! Tonny, Crispus' older brother, recently graduated from university in development studies and is volunteering with PCAU to support the RTH program while he looks for a full-time job. He is a great help to the PCAU staff and enjoys giving back to the program that helped him reach where he is today.



The children's artwork, transformed into greeting cards, not only spreads joy but also contributes to sustaining the RTH program through proceeds from sales. We invite you to contact us to purchase these beautiful cards and support our cause.

An Interview with Jaffar on the New PCAU Vehicle

[Mohamed Jaffar](#) is PCAU's driver and plays a crucial role on staff. Jaffar not only manages transportation logistics but also takes on other duties such as maintaining vehicles and travel logs as well as serving as a liaison for banking matters. His role goes beyond driving; he serves as a key link between PCAU and the communities they support, particularly in his interactions with the RTH children and their families. He is a familiar and welcome face in the communities PCAU serves.



With the recent [acquisition of a new vehicle](#), PCAU shared Jaffar's views as the staff member primarily responsible for transportation. In a one-on-one interview, Jaffar offered his thoughts on how the new vehicle has enhanced his job and PCAU's work. The new vehicle has already covered close to 9,320 miles (equivalent to 15,000km) across Uganda in advancing PCAU's mission. Jaffar noted its comfort, durability and flexibility, which align with the many demands of PCAU's work, from technical support to advocacy efforts and support supervision for palliative care initiatives. Thank you, Jaffar, for your outstanding service and dedication to advancing PCAU's mission. You can read Jaffar's full interview on [PCAU's website](#).

We also extend our sincerest appreciation to all our donors whose generosity made the purchase of this vehicle possible!

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 program, please 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?

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