



**Our Mission**  
To accelerate the provision and integration of palliative care in Uganda's healthcare system through capacity building, advocacy, research, governance and resources mobilization.

**Our Vision**  
Palliative care for All in Uganda

**Goal**  
Universal provision and access to culturally appropriate palliative care in Uganda.

Dear PCAU Members and Friends,  
Greetings from the PCAU Secretariat.

We are grateful for your continued membership and support of the association. Thank you for your generous contributions and attendance at the PCAU Annual Dinner 2022. The dinner was a great success.

At the secretariat, we are in the 2nd year of implementing the PCAU Strategic Plan 2022-2026. We have set out to achieve a lot in 2023. Over the years, we have advocated consistently that the government should appropriately recruit, remunerate, and retain palliative care providers in public service. We are grateful that the government has taken a positive step by considering few positions for palliative care providers in the public service from the National Specialized Hospital up to Health Centre III. This is a milestone.

We would like to request you to mark the important dates of the PCAU AGM 2023 on May 26th and the 4th Uganda conference on Cancer and Palliative Care on September 14th -15th. The PCAU Branches will host physical meetings in their regions after May 26th. We have advertised research grant opportunities and look forward to working with those that qualify. We are also concluding receiving scholarship applications for palliative care training at Diploma and Degree levels.

This month April 2023, we are accomplishing our fundraiser for the New PCAU Motor vehicle. We have received an offer that every amount raised will be 100% matched. We have passed the 80% mark for the monies we need for the vehicle. Every amount we receive means so much. **We will be grateful to receive from you.** Thank you for your generosity.

**Mark Donald Mwesiga,**  
Country Director - PCAU

**From all of us at PCAU**



**Scholarships for the Advanced Diploma in Palliative Care Nursing 2023.**

We have concluded the first phase of the selection and award of scholarships for the Advanced Diploma in Palliative Care Nursing (ADPCN) 2023. This year, we will offer a total of 30 scholarships for the Diploma and Bachelor of Science in Palliative Care (BPC).

The ADPCN is offered at Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery while the BPC is offered at the Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care in Africa affiliated with Makerere University. The PCAU scholarship program is intended to increase the number of palliative care professionals, especially for underserved districts.

Of the 146 Districts and Cities in the country, there are at least 40 districts without a single health facility offering palliative care. This year, the ADPCN scholarships are awarded to applicants from a total of 20 districts. Of these 5 have no single palliative care unit within their districts and we hope to support them to start.

**Pain Management and Palliative Care Data collection Tools Trainings.**

We are implementing the Pain-Free Hospital Initiative (PFHI) in 3 Regional Referral Hospitals: Soroti, Mubende, and Masaka. We are delighted that these series of trainings have yielded so much improvement in management at the facilities. At the 3 hospitals, there is evidence of improved availability of pain medicines, visible pain management information materials, integration of pain assessment and management routine practice and Continuous Medical Education session, and testimonies from patients who had experienced excruciating pain at these facilities before.



We continue to support the Ministry of Health's efforts to train palliative care practitioners, and records officers in districts to utilize the palliative care data collection tools for the Health Management Information System (HMS) and District Health Information II (DHIS2). We appeal to leaders of accredited health facilities offering palliative care to obtain and utilize the tools.

**The February 2023 Update Meeting**

On February 24th, we held the 1st Palliative Care national update meeting for the year 2023. The update meetings are an important avenue for Continuous Medical Education (CME), information dissemination, experience sharing, networking, and advocacy. As PCAU members, we always look forward to these gatherings. In February, PCAU members gathered physically in the following places: Kampala, Jinja South Division Council Chambers, Arua Hospital Laboratory Board room, Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, Hospice Africa Uganda, Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja, Kawempe Home Care, and Mulago National Referral Hospital. The gatherings brought together at least 300 PCAU Members with the majority joining the discussion online. The topic of discussion was **Spiritual care, touching lives, and healing communities.** We are grateful to our esteemed speakers and discussants.

At PCAU Secretariat, we are taking deliberate steps to develop national guidelines on special care for patients and families receiving palliative care. We appeal for your support and participation in these efforts. Following a consultative meeting we held in Kampala with selected leaders from member and partner organizations, we are composing a working group on enhancing spiritual care in Uganda. In case you would like to join the technical working group, please contact us.

**The PCAU Strategic Plan 2022-2026**

Last year, we launched a new strategic plan for the period 2022-2026. PCAU's strategic direction is to improve the country's palliative care achievements for the last 30 years. Dr. Anne Merriman introduced palliative care in Uganda in 1993. Uganda boasts of several achievements since then. Palliative Care services have spread to over 80% of the districts.

The government pays for Oral Liquid Morphine to be available for patients in need. Uganda has no standalone national palliative care policy, but all recent health legislation and policies recognize palliative care as an essential service.

The Ministry of Health has established a Division of Palliative Care led by a substantive Assistant Commissioner. With support from PCAU, Uganda has established new palliative care indicators, developed, and integrated data collection tools into the Health Management Information System (HMS) and District Health Information System II (DHIS2). The journey to improve Uganda's palliative care evidence base has started. [Follow the link](#) to read more about the PCAU strategic plan and to download a copy.



**Meeting the Speaker of Parliament**

At the end of last year, we petitioned the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda over several issues that impact the provision and access to palliative care in Uganda. We appreciate the Rt. Hon Anita Among the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda for giving audience to the delegation from the PCAU.

Dr. Henry Ddungu the PCAU President and Board Chair emphasized the need for government to support the integration of models of palliative care service delivery into the national healthcare system.

He noted that appreciating and embracing palliative care at all levels would greatly decongest tertiary-level health facilities such as Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) and ultimately yield improved quality of life for patients and families.

The delegation from PCAU also appealed for public budget allocation, recognition of palliative care specialists, further scholarships for training, enhanced access to essential medicines, and greater awareness and information dissemination. On all aspects, the Speaker of Parliament pledged her support. Read more about the meeting with the Speaker on the [Parliament of Uganda Website](#)

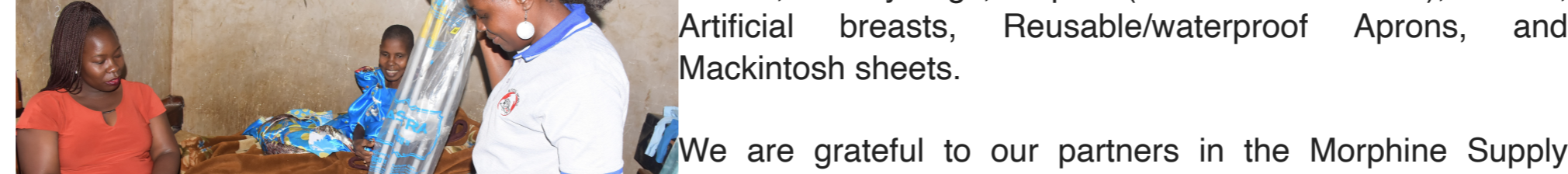


**Access to medicines and medical supplies for patients facing cancer in the countryside.**

We continue to advocate for access to essential medicines and other medical supplies for patients in Uganda. In almost all cases, the quality of life for patients facing life illness in the countryside is negatively impacted by the lack of essential medical supplies at hospitals and in homes. We have been advocating strongly that public health facilities ought to offer all necessary supplies to patients. During this quarter we reached out to 2 palliative care units where we offered support with supplies for 180 patients facing cancer.

The Category of medical sundries identified as a priority for deprived cancer patients include cotton, Colostomy bags, Gauze, Urinary bags, Diapers (Children and Adults), Gloves, Artificial breasts, Reusable/waterproof Aprons, and Mackintosh sheets.

We are grateful to our partners in the Morphine Supply Chain who continue to ensure that there is a constant supply of this essential medicine. We appeal to the health facilities and patients with a prescription who face challenges in accessing the medicine to contact PCAU through toll-free +256 800 399100. We will be able to follow up.

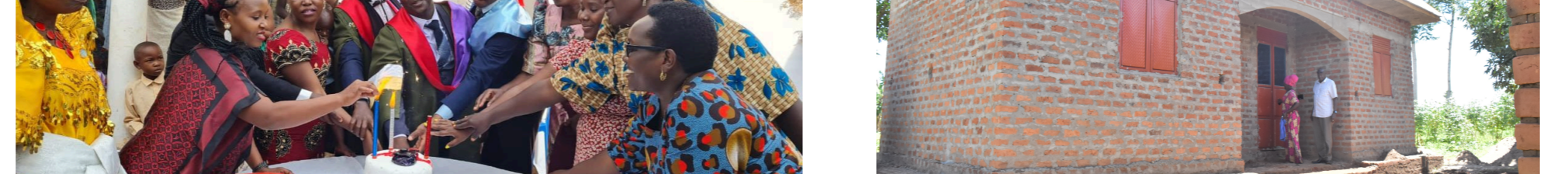


**THE ROAD TO HOPE PROGRAM UPDATES.**

**Congratulation to you Stephen and Tony**  
**Another miracle of a house!**

We are thrilled to report that two Road to Hope children graduated with bachelor's Degrees recently. The Program supports child caregivers from financially poor backgrounds to access basic needs for their families and continue with education while caring for their chronically ill parents. PCAU in partnership with the Center for Hospice Care (CHC) under the [Global Partners in Care](#), established the program in 2012. Children who join the program are identified by palliative care practitioners, especially in the rural districts of Uganda. They are children who are or have been the sole caregivers for their chronically ill parents while tending for the families. The program seeks to support these children to realize their full life potential.

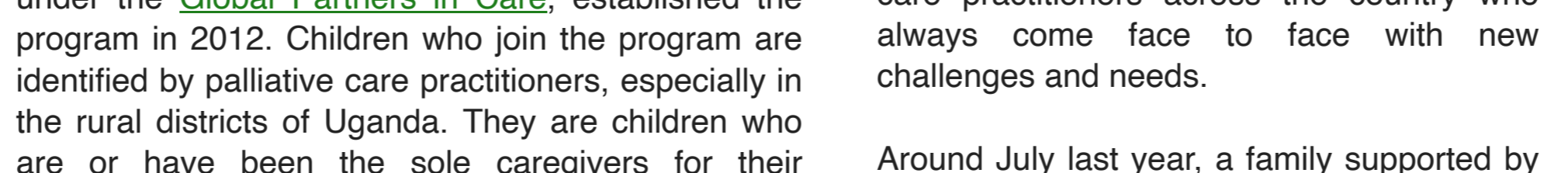
Stephen and Tony are among the pioneers of the program. Tony graduated with a BA in Development Studies while Stephen attained a Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) from Makerere University and King Ceasor University (KCU) respectively. We congratulate Stephen and Tony together with their families on their important achievements. Palliative Care Practitioners see many children in the community who need support to attain formal education. We are grateful to all friends, sponsors, and partners that enable PCAU to reach out to these children and their families. In case you would like to support the PCAU Road to Hope program, Please get in touch with us. We will be grateful.



**OPPORTUNITIES AT PCAU.**

**Join Our team of Compassionate Professionals.**  
We are looking for a dynamic and results-oriented communications professional to join our compassionate team. This is a volunteering opportunity. When they join us, they will drive our communications agenda toward universal provision and access to culturally appropriate palliative care in Uganda. If you know that you have the right skills, knowledge, and attitude please apply. We also request you to share this opportunity within your circles. Follow [this link](#) to get the details.

**Research Grant Opportunity.**  
PCAU recognizes the great need to strengthen the evidence base for palliative care strategy and delivery in Uganda. One of the strategic objectives of PCAU is: To establish a hub of research and information on palliative care in Uganda. We have outlined several activities to achieve this objective in our strategic plan. One of the activities is to offer funding support to studies leading to publications. This year, we will offer research grants to qualifying PCAU research studies in line with the PCAU Research Agenda. To be funded the research ought to have obtained ethical approval. Please [follow this link](#) to learn more on how to apply.



**UPCOMING EVENTS.**

**2023 International Conference**

We are looking forward to the scientific conference on 14th - 15th September this year. We will host the 4th Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care in collaboration with Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI). The venue will be [Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort](#) - the Speke Resort Munyonyo.

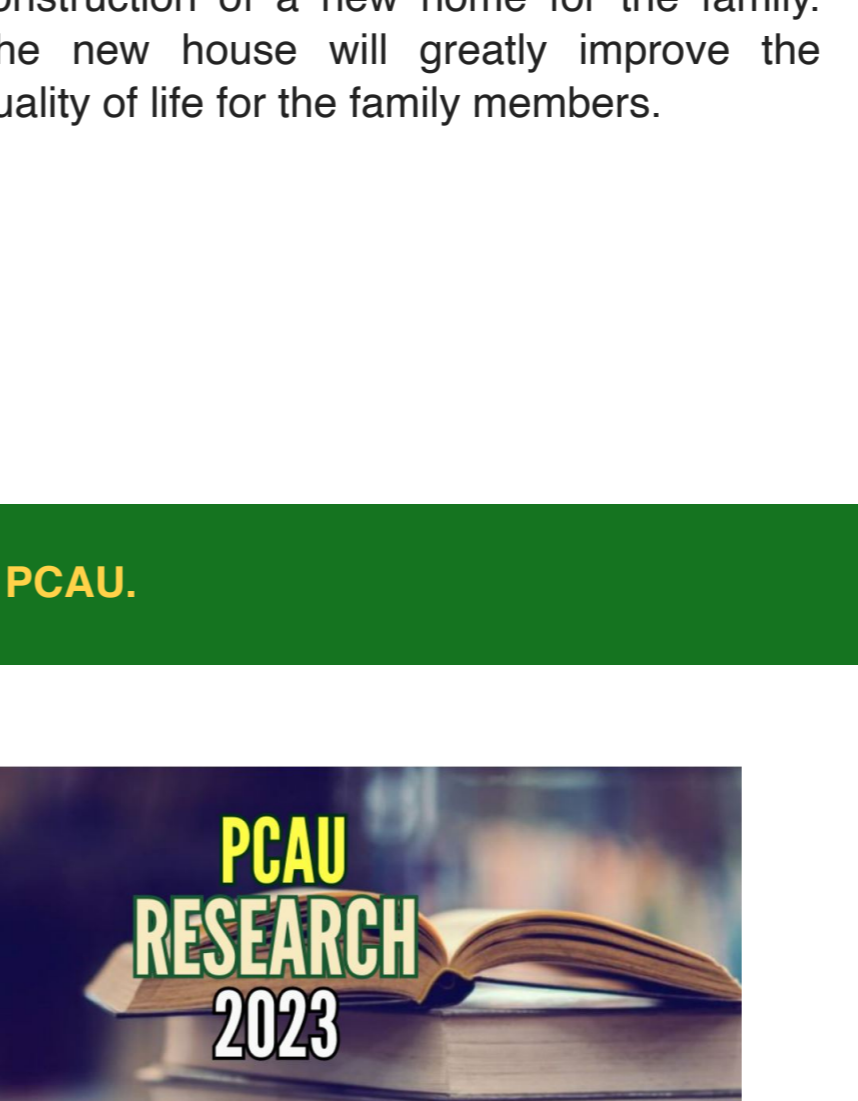
A call for abstracts will be out on a few days. Please prepare to submit your abstract on the following tracks:

- Education, advocacy, policy, and the law Health promotion, prevention, and early detection
- Family and community involvement and empowerment
- Clinical care and symptom management
- Psychological, social, and spiritual care

We would also like to encourage you to prepare ahead for the resources to enable you to attend the conference. This is going to be our largest physical gathering post-Covid-19. We expect up to 400 national and international professionals in the fields.

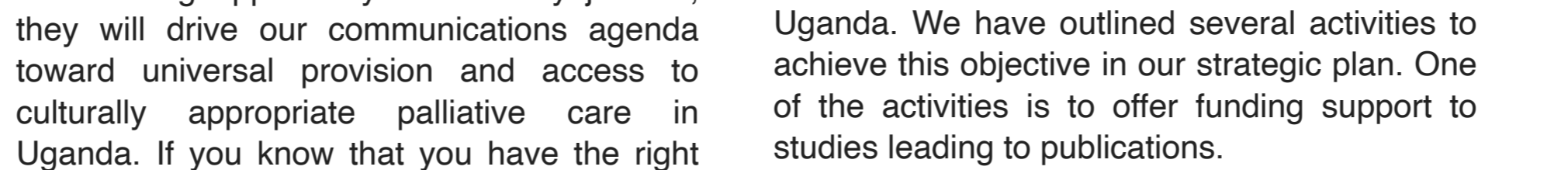
Please plan and prepare to present your research or program work, share experiences, learn, and connect with peers, colleagues, seniors, experts, and leaders from Uganda and the rest of the world.

**Would you like to volunteer to support the conference preparations?** Please email us. We will be glad to have you on board.



**Plan to attend the PCAU AGM 2023 on May 26th, 2023**

The PCAU Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023 will be held on Friday 26th, 2023 at Fairway Hotel in Kampala from 9:00 am -11:30 am. The AGM is our top governing body. It is attended by fully paid-up individual members, life members, and representatives of Member Organizations. At the AGM, we will share our annual performance report for the year 2022 as well as disseminate updates on palliative care development in Uganda. The AGM is an opportunity for PCAU members to connect as well as interact with the wider stakeholders that include national leaders and professionals from diverse backgrounds. The PCAU Board and Management always look forward to the AGM being able to account for the members. We look forward to hosting you.

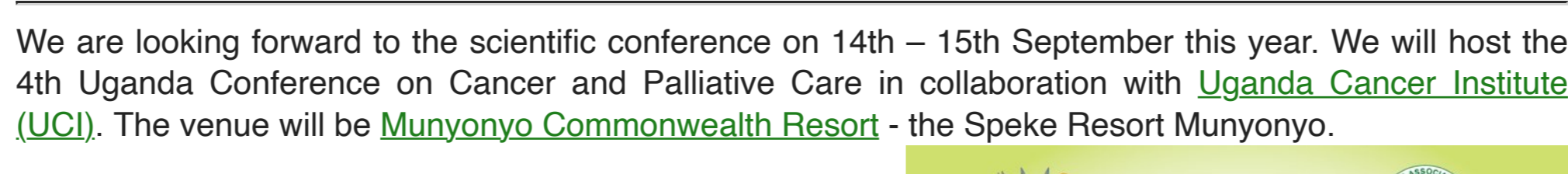


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Support Child-Headed Families in Uganda

Support the New PCAU Motor Vehicle Fundraiser

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