

PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER



Celebrating 25 years
of extending compassion, holistic care, pain relief, hope, and justice to individuals and families in Uganda.

PCAU is celebrating their silver jubilee anniversary! Help them celebrate #25yearsaringforUganda

Please send us your messages to ahernl@cfhcare.org – notes, videos, pictures – to share with PCAU!

WHO Launches Publication on Long-term Care for Older People

On the 8th of May, the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted a webinar, "Long-term Care for Older People: Package for Universal Health Coverage. A contribution to the UN Decade of Healthy Aging." This webinar "aimed at guiding towards the integration of long-term care into universal health coverage." It highlighted long-term care professionals from six countries: Ireland, Singapore, South Africa, Denmark and the Republic of Korea in addition to our own representative from Uganda, Mark Mwesiga, executive director of the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU). The speakers shared examples of programs and interventions from their countries and shed light on the lived experiences of older people, their caregivers and the healthcare workers who tend to them.

In this webinar, Mwesiga explained how PCAU's goal is to advocate for and support the integration of palliative care into Uganda's health care system. He shared 2023 statistics representing palliative care's rapid growth in the country and highlighted the inclusion of palliative care in the overarching national health policy and Uganda National Minimum Healthcare Package (UNMHCP). Palliative care is offered in 300 hospitals and hospices in 80% of the 146 districts across Uganda in inpatient and outpatient care, community outreach, roadside clinics and home care.



Mark Mwesiga

[Read more of this story](#)

PCAU's Annual General Meeting

On Thursday, May 30th, the Palliative Care Association of Uganda held its Annual General Meeting, which focused on their developments over the past 25 years. There were 174 members and guests in attendance, over two dozen more than PCAU anticipated. PCAU's Executive Director Mark Mwesiga extended his gratitude to all who participated.

Outgoing Board Chairperson Dr. Henry Ddungu was accompanied by the board secretary and treasurer to lead the meeting. Rev. Cannon Diana Nkesiga led the devotion. PCAU had representatives from 22 organizations and institutions including NGOs, universities and government agencies in attendance. Mwesiga stated, "We are indebted to everyone who traveled many miles from the country to attend the meeting."



PCAU was honored to welcome a representative of the US Embassy in Kampala, Daniele Nyirandutiye, the mission director for USAID/Uganda, to this meeting. Administrator Nyirandutiye has worked on public health issues across the globe, from the US to Madagascar and now Uganda. Administrator Nyirandutiye currently leads USAID's Uganda mission to support Ugandan people as they fight to secure a government that respects their priorities and upholds their dignity.

Administrator Nyirandutiye's attendance was not only a privilege but also a token of the considerable progress in palliative care development in Uganda over the past 25 years. A pioneer national palliative care association in the region, PCAU has upheld its mission of advocating for and supporting the integration of palliative care into Uganda's healthcare system for a quarter of a century.

This Annual General Meeting allowed PCAU to reflect on how their efforts have yielded compassion, holistic care, pain relief, comfort, hope and justice for the Ugandan people. PCAU published a new mapping on the growth of palliative care in Uganda and launched a digital palliative care information app to mark its 25th anniversary.

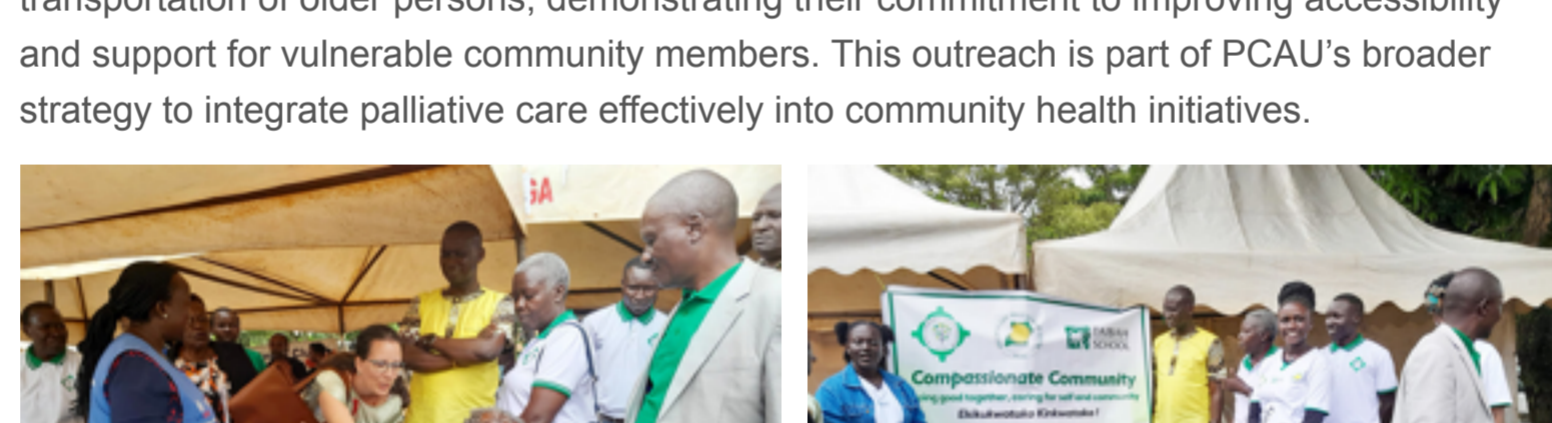
PCAU's Impactful Role in the Lweza Community Health Program's 5th Medical Camp

PCAU played a crucial role in the Lweza Community Health Program's (LHCP) 5th medical camp, held on April 25th and 26th, marking a significant milestone in their efforts to [create compassionate communities](#). This collaboration is part of PCAU's ongoing efforts to integrate palliative care into community health initiatives, fostering a culture of compassion and support.



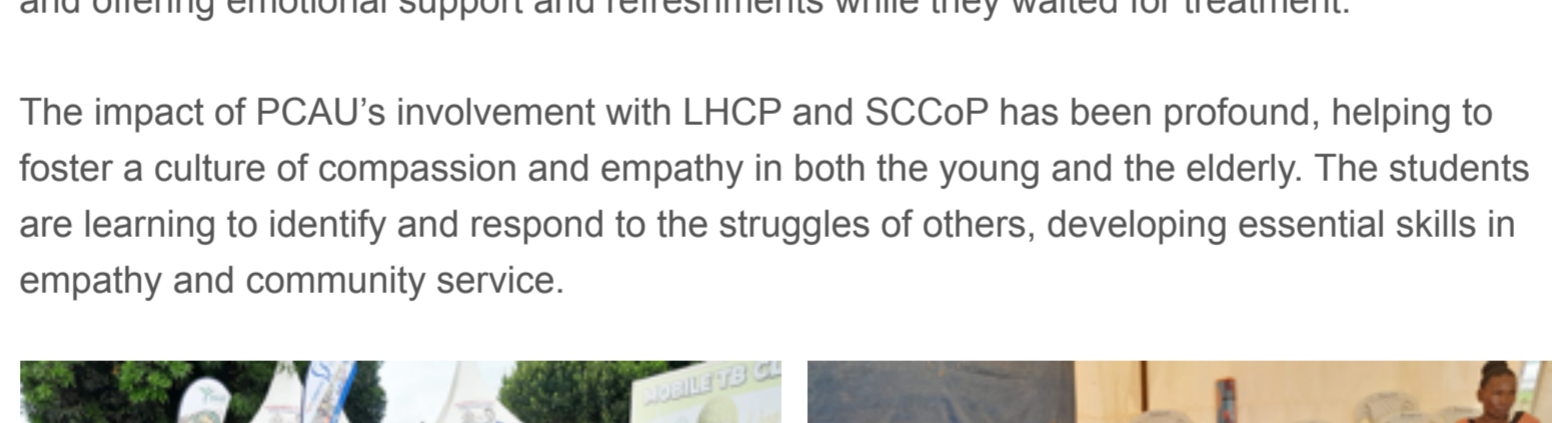
PCAU has been working in partnership with LHCP since last year to support creating a healthy community. This year's fifth LHCP medical camp, an initiative led by Rose Kiwanuka (formerly PCAU's Country Director) in her retirement, saw over 800 attendees receiving a wide range of health services from nearly 30 providers. Services included heart/pressure testing, ENT care, audiology, eye care, dental care, family planning, cancer screening, fitness promotion, nutritional education, health legal assistance, HIV testing, palliative care sensitization, hepatitis B screening and vaccination, substance abuse sensitization, speech and language therapy, yellow fever vaccination, orthopedic services, sickle cell screening, skin care and TB screening.

PCAU provided specialized palliative care services, focusing on pain management, counseling and support for patients with chronic illnesses. This ensured that people with long-term health conditions received the necessary care and guidance. Over 60 older persons received medical services and palliative care, which highlighted PCAU's commitment to comprehensive healthcare. PCAU also donated two wheelchairs to LHCP to facilitate the transportation of older persons, demonstrating their commitment to improving accessibility and support for vulnerable community members. This outreach is part of PCAU's broader strategy to integrate palliative care effectively into community health initiatives.



Students from Taibah International School's School Compassionate Community Club (SCCoP) joined the medical camp as volunteers. Six SCCoP club members assisted older persons by directing them to service points, registering them, providing wheelchair assistance and offering emotional support and refreshments while they waited for treatment.

The impact of PCAU's involvement with LHCP and SCCoP has been profound, helping to foster a culture of compassion and empathy in both the young and the elderly. The students are learning to identify and respond to the struggles of others, developing essential skills in empathy and community service.

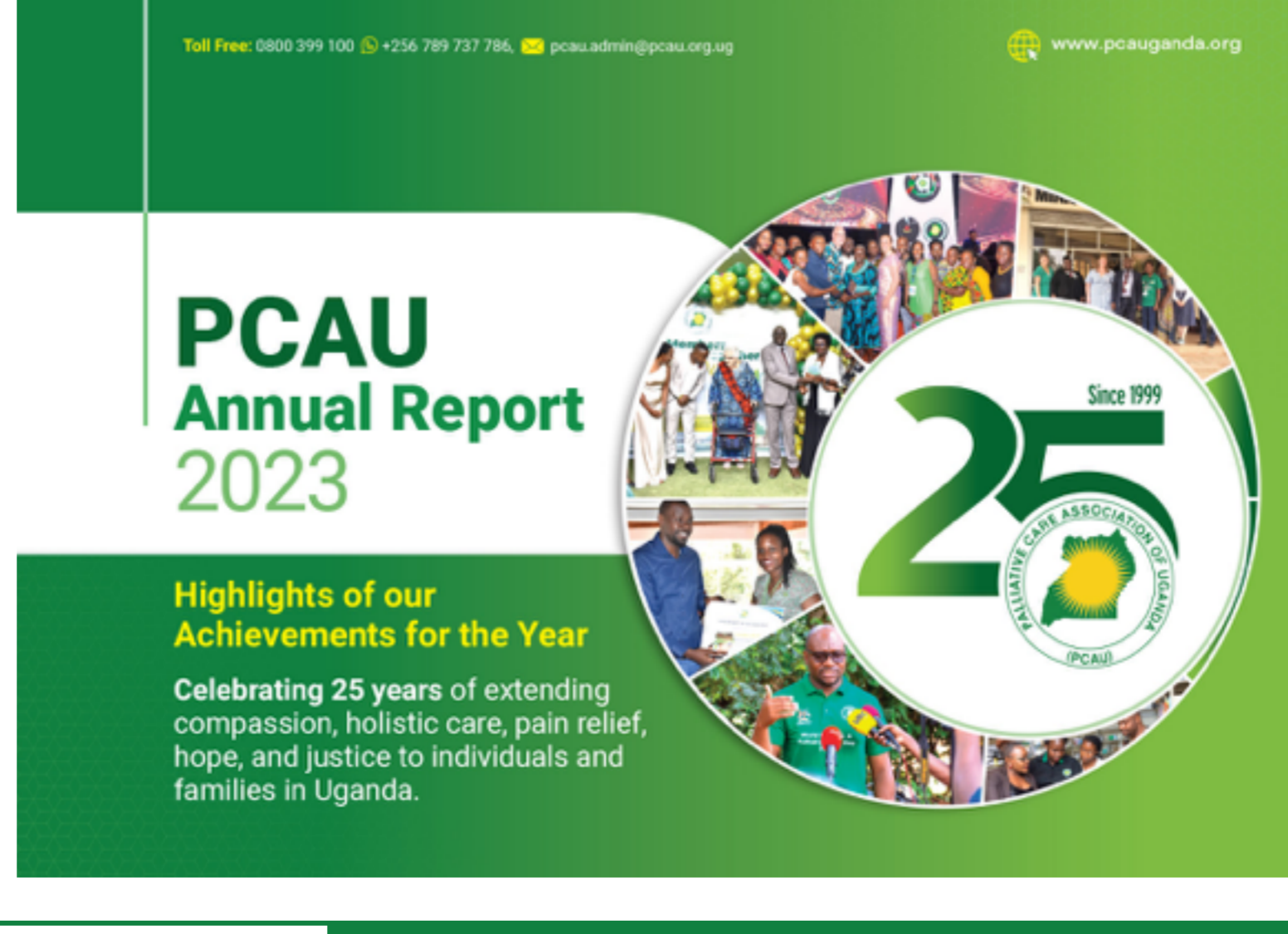


Rose Kiwanuka expressed her gratitude, and noted the growing impact of the LHCP and its medical camps initiative in the Lweza community. She pointed to the significant turnout and the comprehensive services provided. She emphasized the importance of educating people on health-seeking behaviors and promoting primary healthcare within the community.

Hon. Alex Kintu Brandon, a member of the Ugandan parliament and a guest of honor at the medical camp, commended LHCP and the Lweza community for prioritizing health and pledged to advocate for government and ministry of health support for community-based health programs.

PCAU Releases 2023 Annual Report

PCAU's Annual Report highlights their achievements for 2023 and celebrates 25 years of extending compassion, holistic care, pain relief, hope and justice to individuals and families in Uganda.



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!

Anyone Can be a Road to Hope Sponsor!

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, contact Lacey Ahern at Ahernl@cfhcare.org or 574-367-2455.



Support the Road to Hope Fund