



## CHC/PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

### In Loving Memory of Dr. Anne Merriman (1935 – 2025) *A Pioneer, Visionary and the Grandmother of Palliative Care in Africa*

The Center for Hospice Care (CHC) joins our partners at the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU), colleagues across the continent and the global palliative care community in mourning the loss of Dr. Anne Merriman, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at her home in Uganda – just days after celebrating her 90th birthday.

We extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Anne's family, colleagues at Hospice Africa Uganda, the people of Uganda, and all who had the honor of knowing her.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.  
Her legacy will forever guide our mission – and our hearts.

[Read more about the life of Dr. Anne Merriman](#)

### From Classroom to Community *Notre Dame Students Bridge Borders in Pediatric Palliative Care*

In a demonstration of innovation, global collaboration and compassion, University of Notre Dame students engaged in the [10th Annual Global Health Case Competition](#) to tackle the difficult issue of cancer care for children in Uganda. Hosted by the [Eck Institute for Global Health](#) (EIGH) at Notre Dame, this experience brought together partners from the Center for Hospice Care (CHC), the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU), Global Partners in Care (GPIC) and front-line health workers at Kitagata Hospital – home to the [SHINE](#) (Special Hearts to Nurture Every Child) program. The event not only deepened the value and visibility of the longstanding [CHC – PCAU partnership](#), but also illustrated the potential of student-led solutions to shape the future of global palliative care.

Each year, the [Global Health Case Competition](#) challenges multidisciplinary teams of students to design innovative, culturally informed responses to complex global health issues. This year's case – developed through collaboration by EIGH, GPIC, CHC and PCAU – focused on improving access to palliative care and care navigation for children diagnosed with cancer in Uganda. The winning team, composed of graduate and undergraduate students in pre-med, public health, global affairs and data science, proposed a comprehensive model that emphasized continuity of care, caregiver support and system integration. Their solution included training community-based care navigators, deploying digital tracking tools and developing family-centered support systems. At the heart of their approach was a culturally grounded strategy to engage caregivers and local communities – ensuring that care remained holistic, accessible and sustainable.



*The winning team presented its final round solution at the 10th Annual Global Health Case Competition at the University of Notre Dame. Pictured left to right: Kelly Griffin (LCSW), Victoria Gibek, Charlie Desnoyers, Ivy Clark and Owen McDonald. (Photo by Angelic Rose Hubert, Notre Dame Research)*

[Read more of this story.](#)

### When Childhood is Stolen *The Hidden Story Behind Kampala's Street Children and the Urgent Call to Act*

In a powerful crackdown on April 10, the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) rescued 175 children and arrested 18 adults for allegedly exploiting minors to beg in Kampala's Central Business District. [The Daily Monitor](#) report on April 11, 2025 noted that most of these children were trafficked from Eastern Uganda, along with others from different regions. The operation was conducted under the Kampala Capital City Children Protection Ordinance, 2022 – a framework designed to tackle child trafficking, street begging and abuse.

But behind these numbers lies a more complex and heartbreaking reality. Many of these street children are not just victims of urban trafficking – they are *child caregivers*. Robbed of their childhood by circumstance, these children are forced to grow up far too soon. They shoulder the heavy burden of caring for terminally ill parents or guardians, managing households and fending for younger siblings. When support systems fail, and the weight becomes too much to bear, many flee to the streets – where, tragically, unscrupulous people exploit their vulnerability.



*Without the Road to Hope, many of the children enrolled in the program would be in danger of falling victim to trafficking and other abuse.*

While KCCA's intervention is a vital step in the right direction, systemic support structures remain limited in their ability to address the root causes of this crisis. Government rescue efforts often provide temporary relief, but they cannot heal the trauma or restore the stability these children have lost.

This is where civil society organizations like the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) step in – offering not just response, but intentional efforts to support these children through our [Road to Hope \(RTH\) program](#). This program supports orphaned and vulnerable child caregivers across Uganda – an initiative that helps them regain access to education, emotional support and basic living needs. It works holistically to transform their futures and strengthen their families. These aren't just scholarships; they are lifelines.

You can support the Road to Hope Program and these children. Your gift today can be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$75,000, **doubling** your support to PCAU's mission – including empowering child caregivers, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

**Your contribution goes directly toward:**

- **Empowering vulnerable children and youth:** Providing education and vocational training for self-reliance and brighter futures.
- **Strengthening community care:** Supporting elderly and marginalized households with essential care and dignity.

This fundraising effort has already made great strides. We are just 18% away from reaching our goal. But to cross the finish line – and truly transform more lives in Uganda – we need your help.

**Join us. Give now. Double your impact.**

[Donate Now – Double Your Impact](#)

*Thank you for supporting the Road to Hope program and PCAU's mission. Together, we can cross the finish line and transform more lives in Uganda. Help us reach our goal.*



**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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