



BWINDI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

newsletter

Volume 7

Issue 1

March 2020

BCH receives equipment and hospital supplies from Rotary International



Rotarians and BCH staff inspect equipment offloaded from the container

The hospital has received two shipment containers with hospital supplies and equipment worth over USD \$120,000

The equipment was raised through The Rotary Foundation (TRF) in partnership with Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy, The Kellerman Foundation and Project C.U.R.E.

Purchase of Medical equipment contributes to the high costs of health care services world over, thus making it inaccessible for an average person. Items received include Laparoscopic tower, latest technology Universal anaesthesia

machines, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds, a dental chair, an operating table, patient monitors, an ultra sound scan machine, and surgical instruments, among others. Bwindi Hospital will be the first hospital in the whole of Western and southern Uganda to offer laparoscopic surgery.

These equipment and supplies are a big boost, which will not only help save money, but also will help move the hospital towards our midterm goal of offering tertiary care, specialized services and becoming a university.

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You can support us by making a tax deductible donation through our charities;

The Kellermann Foundation, USA
P.O. Box 832809
Richardson, TX 75083-2809
www.kellermannfoundation.org

Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy, USA
www.akphilanthropy.org

Health For All Uganda e.V., Germany
Takustr. 39e, 50825 Köln, Germany
www.health-for-all-uganda.com

Reach Bwindi, UK
www.reachbwindi.com

Or make a direct transfer to our bank account in Uganda with these details:

Account name:
Bwindi Community Hospital
Bank: Stanbic
Branch: Kihhi
Account number: 9030008175194
Sort code: 045360
Swift code: SBICUGKX

Please earmark the donations for use at Bwindi Community Hospital

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Youth friendly services boosted

Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH), has pioneered offering Youth friendly services in the region. A separate clinic focused on adolescent/teenage health needs has been introduced at the facility.

Most youth were uncomfortable waiting at the general outpatient department to consult and utilise hospital services since their relatives might be also waiting there. Our partners through the UK charity REACH BWINDI, have supported this initiative.

Services offered in the clinic are

management and treatment of sensitive infections, health education and counseling which are not readily available to them.

This gives the youth an opportunity to share challenges such as puberty, diet, alcohol and drug abuse that they encounter with their peers; our social workers help them on how to overcome these challenges.

The clinic is conducted from the hospital's multipurpose banda and runs every Wednesday at 2: 00 pm and

Saturday all day, targeting youth and adolescents aged 10 to 24 years. Because of the demand we have future plans to run it daily.

Through this clinic, the youth are no longer worried about privacy and confidentiality since specific trained staff including peer counselors, nurses, community workers, and doctors are available to offer the service. In support of the clinic, several games have been introduced to engage them as they wait to be seen.

Skilling of waiting mothers at BCH kicks off

Efforts to add value for the pregnant mothers at our Waiting Mothers Hostel (WMH) have commenced. This initiative is supported by Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy.

It not only aims at the continuous health education these pregnant mothers have been getting during their stay at the WMH but also equipping them with various skills that brings opportunities and income generation.

A trainer has been hired and engages these mothers in activities such as tailoring, weaving, and knitting. The first group of 15 mothers has produced Baby dresses and napkins, and hopes to make more products including re-usable sanitary pads, baby blankets and clothes, baskets, and other handcraft materials.

These products will not only be sold in the local markets but also availed to tourists at different partner lodge gift shops.

On average, the WMH registers 100



Faith, an instructor trains waiting mothers in tailoring skills

mothers per month. A recent survey conducted by the hospital shows that the majority of these mothers have risky pregnancies that call for close monitoring.

The majority stay at the hospital for at least three weeks before giving birth. This stay has a financial impact on their families

since these mothers in most cases are the breadwinners.

This initiative empowers these mothers to be more productive even after they have left the hospital.



Families re-unite after successful Fistula and Urology surgeries



A patient undergoes an operation during the recent fistula camp

Over the last four years, we have witnessed the reuniting of at least one family per year after women have undergone successful fistula surgeries held at our facility.

The hospital, supported by Dr, Verena, has run Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF) surgery camps for the last ten years registering increasing numbers, the majority coming from other parts of the country for this life changing opportunity, Gift is one of them.

Gift, a 23 year old, had been living with fistula for two years which she occurred during her third delivery in the village with the help of a traditional birth attendant. She now feels healthy

and has reunited with her husband to take care of their children.

“I had lived in pain and torture for two years. My husband abandoned me due to the condition I was in and left me with three children”. Gift narrated.

Conditions operated on included VVF, uterine prolapse, uterine procidencia, forth degree perennial tear, and cystocele. The VVF camp started in 2011 and has since made a positive difference for women as far as over 1000 kilometres away from the hospital.

Dr. Forat with the entire AFRICOMED team, through their

flourishing partnership, have supported several surgical camps.

In November last year, we conducted a urology camp, where over twenty men benefited. Notably, all these were endoscopic surgery and we have pioneered this new technique in the region.

Dr.Kurigamba, a surgeon at BCH, says the surgical camps have changed peoples’ lives, especially those whose dignity and families have been restored, and offers a learning opportunity to our nurses and doctors who assist during the operations.



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BCH enhances eye and dental services

The year 2020 starts in style as Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) receives dental and eye equipment to enhance service delivery in these disciplines.

A list of ophthalmic instruments have been donated to fully equip a consulting room including, slit lamp, tonometer, visual field screener, ophthalmoscope, retinoscope, focimeter, set of trial lenses, trial frame plus a full range of accessories. This will enable credible eye-care service delivery at BCH.

BCH has also secured a Sight First grant worth US\$15,000 from the Lions Clubs International to facilitate training of an Ophthalmic Clinical Officer and further equipment for the hospital's eye clinic.

By offering both hospital-based and out-reach community eye-care services to thousands of people, a wide range of potentially blinding eye conditions will be diagnosed and



Alex, an Ophthalmic Clinical Officer examines a patient using a slit lamp

treated. Such an objective is in direct keeping with BCH's Vision 2020.

Also related to this, a dental camp was conducted in October last year by Dr. Jean Creasy and the team where over 130 people benefited from services that included; Silver Diamine Fluoride (S.D.F) caries arrest and Glass Ionomer (G.I) fillings, tooth extractions and oral health education.

The hospital is in high gear towards

setting up modern dental and eye units that will also offer training and skills in dental and eye care through its training institution Uganda College of Health Sciences- Bwindi.

BCH is thankful to its partners; Dr. Jean Creasy and team, The Hope Alliance, Debbie Young and the Sight 4 Bwindi team for your support towards restoring the smiles and vision among the people of Bwindi and the surrounding communities.

Students to graduate in May

Uganda Nursing School Bwindi is set to graduate 300 students on 8th of May this year, at the campus grounds.

This will be a commissioning of this team to help in bridging the gap that has been persistent of human resources for health. UNSB, continues to receive national recognition for her excellence, leading to 100% employment of her graduates at all levels.

We attribute this success to use of technology and to partnerships we

have with universities, both local and international.

During this graduation, we shall officially open the state of art simulation lab that will help enhance training of practical skills to these health workers.

The new lab allows a large number of classroom students to simultaneously gain hands on training with smart dummies and also houses a computer laboratory.

The school started in 2013 with 13 students and has since grown to an

enrolment of 400 students.

In July last year, a sister school, Uganda College of Health Sciences- Bwindi was opened and trains clinical officers to also respond to critical shortage of human resources for health in Bwindi, an area of high disease burden most of which are preventable.

We are forever grateful for the partnerships and the support they have brought. We look forward for more support to serve better.