



# BWINDI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER

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March 2011



## Message from the Medical Superintendent

Dear *Supporters and Friends*

It is once again my pleasure to bring to you this latest Bwindi Community Hospital newsletter. With your generous support, our Hospital has continued on its path of steady progress in all spheres.

We were delighted to have been honored with the visit of the US Ambassador to Uganda earlier this year, while the community celebrated the official launch of our becoming a recognized Hospital last November.

We want to further improve our inpatient care by providing nutritious foods that will hasten recovery and for which reason, a hospital garden is in the offing.

We are also moving forward on plans to secure quality and professional nursing services by establishing a nurse's training school at the hospital this year. Please read on for further details and much more about what is happening at Bwindi Community Hospital.

Thank you very much for your support and friendship in making living a healthy life a reality to many in the Bwindi area.

*Dr Birungi Mutahunga – Medical Superintendent, Bwindi Community Hospital*

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## U.S. Ambassador to Uganda visits Hospital



US Ambassador Jerry Lanier (pictured left with Dr Birungi) on the 18th January visited the Hospital at the invitation of the hospital Founder, Dr. Scott Kellermann.

The Ambassador, who was accompanied by his wife and the Director of USAID in Uganda, Mr. David Eckerson, commended Bwindi Community Hospital for its efforts and contribution in improving the lives of the sick and the very poor in South Western Uganda.

During his address, the Ambassador stated that he was most impressed

with the progress that the Hospital has achieved during its first 8 years of operation despite having very limited financial resources.

The visitors applauded the Hospital for introducing an innovative health membership scheme called **eQuality Health Bwindi** that will go a long way in increasing access and utilization of health care to the community in the Bwindi area.

### Keep up to date with our work

You can now follow us on twitter [@bwinditweets](https://twitter.com/bwinditweets), watch recent videos at our youtube site [www.youtube.com/user/bchuganda](http://www.youtube.com/user/bchuganda), follow major events in pictures at [www.flickr.com/photos/bwindihospital](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bwindihospital), and if you are on facebook, join our cause at [www.causes.com/causes/bwindi](http://www.causes.com/causes/bwindi). You can access all these sites from our website at [www.bwindihospital.com](http://www.bwindihospital.com) where you will also find lots of information about our work including monthly news updates.



## Bwindi Nursing School

Bwindi Community Hospital started the New Year with great excitement as two generous American donors agreed to fund a nursing school that for many years had simply been a remote dream as an addition to our facilities.

The school is being jointly planned by the Uganda Christian University (UCU) located in Mukono, Kampala, and the Hospital, and will be known as UCU Bwindi Nursing School. UCU is recognized as being one of the top Universities in East Africa, and we are very proud that they will be associated with this project.

The school will train nurses to the highest standards available, resulting in higher levels of health care that will help save lives not only in Western Uganda but also in other parts of the country and the wider great lakes region. The school will initially start with 60 students in the first few years, expanding to around 90 students as demand for places grows.

Once the design and layouts have been finalized and agreed, then the construction of the school is likely to start in the second half of this year. The community in Bwindi is very excited about this latest development as it will result in additional employment and business opportunities for them.



*Agnes, a nurse giving immunization at the hospital recently. The school will increase the supply of high quality nurses in the region.*

## Expansion of the Maternity Ward

Bwindi Community Hospital received funding from the Embassy of Japan in Uganda during November last year to expand the existing maternity ward facilities. The construction work is now underway and we expect it to be ready by late summer this year.

The grant, worth over \$100,000, will enable us to increase the number of beds in the maternity ward from the current 21 to 40 with a larger delivery, postnatal and post Caesarean

wards, bigger waiting area and additional private rooms. The funding will also contribute to acquiring more equipment including delivery beds, oxygen concentrator, vacuum concentrator, delivery and Caesarean sets, all of which will enable us to deliver better Maternity services.

We are very grateful to the people of Japan for this financial support that will help us implement improved services to the local pregnant women, which consequently will make a valuable contribution in reducing the maternity mortality rates in our area.



## Hospital Garden Project

Our Hospital is delighted to announce the setting up of the Hospital Garden Project, and we are extremely grateful to **The Eurochange Charity** for the financial support offered to this agricultural program.

The aims of this project are to provide sufficient nutritional, fresh food to feed both patients and hospital staff, and to include a teaching program directed towards the less skilled local communities including the Batwa pygmies.

More on this development will be included in our next newsletter.

*Photo: Dr. Birungi (left) checking the plots of land for the project*

## Upcoming events

Whilst our Hospital has been very busy in the previous months, we plan to be even more active during the coming period. This includes:

### ***Surgical and Gynecology camp***

Our Hospital will be hosting a team of medical specialists from Switzerland for a Surgical and Gynecology camp between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May. Once again, this team will be led by Dr. Forat Sadry who achieved tremendous results last November when they conducted a similar surgical mission at the Hospital. We understand that the team will comprise of two surgeons, two radiologists and an anesthetist.

### ***Orthopedic camp***

Dr. Seth and Meg Frenzen from the USA will be back again in June for an orthopedic camp. Their key area of intervention and assistance will be working on the deformity of hands. Last year they spent a successful week at the Hospital and operated on several patients.

### ***World Malaria day***

On 25<sup>th</sup> April of each year, we join the rest of the world in marking world malaria day with a series of different activities aimed at prevention of this killer disease. On this day last year, we successfully distributed more than 2,000 mosquito nets to the surrounding villages and we are planning to carry out a similar campaign this time. We are now actively seeking funds to procure the mosquito nets for this year's distribution. A treated bed net costs \$5. We were very grateful to all the donors who supported us in last year's campaign. Please look at our web-site for details on



*Moses (right), the malaria control nurse, conducting a sensitization last year*

how you can financially support us with buying these nets – we know from experience that your donation together with our support will save lives.

### ***Our new Strategic Plans for the next 3 years***

We are actively developing a revised 3 year strategic plan for the Hospital to run during our 2011 to 2014 financial years. As we have been severely affected by a downturn in financial contributions, our priorities in the way we apply our health-care services will be adapted to meet these challenges. The Hospital is seeking assistance from external institutions that can help guide us through these difficult times. Please make contact with the Hospital if your organization is able to provide this assistance particularly if individuals possess fund-raising skills.

## Volunteering at Bwindi Community Hospital

We have been greatly blessed with volunteers and students on internships in the last few months.

We had Dr. Faye Harvey from the UK volunteering at the Hospital for six months up to the end of January this year. She achieved tremendous work whilst here and we very much appreciate the kind of medical support she not only gave to our patients but also the skills she imparted into our staff.

The month of January saw the arrival of two medical students from Denmark, Nina Hardgrib and Amanda Nielson from the University of Copenhagen, and both are currently taking a working break during their final year of studying medicine. Nina and Amanda will be here for three months.

Late April we are expecting two volunteers, Nicholas Farrer and his partner Morgan Moore who will be coming to help for five weeks in various activities.

We are also very excited that Austin Sutta, who volunteered here for 9 months in 2009, will be back in May for a period of six weeks. She will work with the communications team.

We welcome volunteers and students from both Uganda and other parts of the world to come and share their skills and knowledge with our staff and hopefully learn from us too. If you are interested in volunteering or doing your internship or elective at the Hospital, please email us at: [bchcvolunteering@gmail.com](mailto:bchcvolunteering@gmail.com). You can also visit the volunteering section of our website for further details of opportunities.





*The picture above shows a traditional dance being given by the local Batwa pygmies during the launch cer-*

## **Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) is officially launched**

BCH has been recognized as a Hospital since December 2008 by both The Medical and Dental Practitioners Council (of Uganda) and Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau (UPMB).

However, the official launch took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 with a call on Government to increase its funding to the hospital for the sustainable provision of healthcare to the community in the Bwindi area and Kanungu District as a whole.

The function attracted over 1,000 members of the local community, partner organizations and various stakeholders, and was graced by the Minister of Security and patron of the Hospital, Hon. Amama Mbabazi who pledged to give his support to the Hospital as it lobbies for better funding from government. The Hospital currently obtains funding at the level of a health centre II, but since the Hospital has grown, there is an urgent need for additional finance.

All donation details and links can be found on our website: [www.BwindiHospital.com](http://www.BwindiHospital.com).

You can make a gift aided donation through our UK charity:

### **Friends of Bwindi Community Health Centre**

Details are at:

[www.BwindiFriends.co.uk/bwindi/how-to-donate.html](http://www.BwindiFriends.co.uk/bwindi/how-to-donate.html)

You can also make a tax deductible donation through our US charity:

### **The Kellermann Foundation**

**P.O. Box 832809**

**Richardson, TX 75083-2809**

**Office phone: 214-519-9279**

**Email: [info@kellermannfoundation.org](mailto:info@kellermannfoundation.org)**

[www.KellermannFoundation.org/donate.htm](http://www.KellermannFoundation.org/donate.htm)

**In Canada**, you can mail in cheques/money orders, made out to Buy-A-Net, directly to:

Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group

P.O. Box 1063

Kingston, ON

K7L 4Y5

### **Please earmark the donations for use at Bwindi Community Hospital.**

OR make a direct transfer to our bank accounts in Uganda with the following details:

Account Name: Bwindi Community Hospital

Bank: Stanbic

Branch: Kihihi

Account Number: 0140092515801

Sort Code: 040147

Please let us know by email if you have made a donation: [BwindiCommunityHospital@gmail.com](mailto:BwindiCommunityHospital@gmail.com)

