



Better Health through Better Medical Treatment and Prevention for the Children of Mbarara, Uganda

2015: Surgical Center Construction Begins!

We have had a busy year! Highlights:

- Construction of the Surgical Center began with groundbreaking on October 17th!
- Uganda's President visited the Hospital and donated \$50,000 toward construction on behalf of the Government.
- We have raised \$855,000 toward the construction of the Surgical Center and have received pledges for an additional \$92,000.
- Our Annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser was a tremendous success, raising over \$100,000.
- Ward 2 of the Hospital has been refurbished with the help of our friends in Northern Ireland.
- Our oxygen generation system is operational and has eliminated the need to purchase oxygen, saving us \$1,000 per month.
- We spent \$25,000 blanketing 11 villages with insecticide-treated mosquito nets to reduce the incidence of malaria.



Archbishop Paul Bakyenga at the groundbreaking



Our Contractor receives a special blessing

The Story of Lael Love Mozi

Lael Love was a pre-term baby delivered by C-section on July 22, 2015. At birth she weighed less than two pounds. She was immediately transferred to Holy Innocents Children's Hospital. Upon admission she was placed on oxygen, swaddled in warm clothing and kept in a radiant warmer in the Hospital's neonatal ICU ("NICU").

Lael Love's mother Mary was released from a nearby adult hospital three days after giving birth. Mary traveled to Holy Innocents and saw her child clinging to life with the support of our medical team. At first she despaired; however, with the help of the hospital staff, Mary persevered and actively participated in caring for her baby.

Happily, Mary was able to bring a healthy Lael Love home after 53 days. She thanked God, her husband, nurses, doctors, relatives and friends for Lael Love's life!



Lael Love & her very grateful mother

(See reverse...)

Completing a Circle by Scott Schafer, board member, Holy Innocents Children's Hospital

Have you ever had an experience early in your life that seems to circle back later on? This happens to me occasionally and when it does, I call it "completing a circle." The construction of the Surgical Center completes a circle for me. Let me explain.

In December of 1965, two weeks before Christmas, my youngest brother Todd woke up with a fever. At the time, Todd was only 15 months old. My parents took Todd to the doctor and were told it was simply a case of the flu. However, as the day wore on, Todd's condition became worse, and in the afternoon he was rushed to the hospital.

At the hospital Todd was diagnosed with meningitis. His condition was extremely critical and was complicated by a dangerous increase in pressure within the brain. Todd's only hope was an experimental surgery which would implant a valve in his brain, connected to a

shunt that would drain away fluid and relieve the excess pressure. The doctors warned that no child had survived this surgery without serious brain damage. My parents consented to the surgery and hoped for a miracle.

The surgery was a great success. Todd survived and made a complete recovery except for an occasional petite mal seizure. Todd graduated from college, is married and is able to work and make a living.

Earlier this year I had an opportunity to discuss the types of surgery that the Surgical Center will provide with fellow board member Dr. Michael Levy, who is a pediatric neurosurgeon at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. Dr. Levy told me that cases of cerebral malaria in children are often complicated by a dangerous increase in pressure within the brain. He then described a surgical procedure he plans to teach the doctors in

Uganda. The procedure he described is the same one that saved Todd's life 50 years ago. I thought, "How wonderful is God that I might be associated with a project that will bring this procedure to the children of Uganda." So now you understand how the construction of the Surgical Center completes a circle for me.

Growing up, I saw how Todd's life affected so many others: his family, his classmates, friends and coworkers. Each life touches so many others. It is like a pebble tossed in a pond, with ripples of water spreading out.

Sometimes I indulge myself and consider the young lives saved by Holy Innocents Children's Hospital. How will these children impact their community in the future? Some may become doctors and nurses. Perhaps some will have a vocation to religious life. Many will be mothers and fathers, and their children will have access to excellent health care, thanks to your generosity.

Thanks to Our Friends in Belfast

Many thanks once again to our auxiliary board in Northern Ireland, who raised funds and managed the refurbishment of Ward 2 in February and March of this year. Improvements included re-painting the interior, re-wiring portions of the electrical system, constructing a drop ceiling, and re-varnishing the bedside lockers. The team from Northern Ireland visited the Hospital during the project and reported that staff and management alike were thrilled with the result.



Workers refurbishing Ward 2

Marathon in Mbarara

The local community in Mbarara supports Holy Innocents! Although Uganda is a very poor country, the local community has actively raised money for the Surgical Center. In August, 3,500 people participated in the first annual Charity Marathon for the benefit of the Hospital. A total of 21M Uganda Shillings were raised—over US \$6,000.



3,500 Participate in Mbarara Charity Marathon