



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

So Much To Be Thankful For This Holiday...

Holy Innocents has been open for nearly 3½ years, offering a 60-bed in-patient ward, out-patient facility, laboratory and pharmacy. With your support we have treated over 10,000 critically ill children with life threatening diseases such as malaria and dysentery, and over 50,000 outpatient children. With the addition of a Ugandan Hospital Administrator two years ago, the entire staff is Ugandan.

Mbarara District, where the hospital is located, has been transformed from a place where children dying was simply a way of life, to a community where there is hope. Children who were days or even hours from death have been transformed into healthy children, happy children, children with dreams, children with a future. All this is possible because of wonderful partners and caring individuals like you!



Help Us Build A New Surgical Center!

Our next major goal for Holy Innocents is to establish a surgical center. We have drawn up plans for a two-room operating theater with anesthesia machines, surgical equipment, oxygen and an uninterruptable power supply.

The center will be staffed with three anesthesiologists, two general surgeons and two ENTs. Surgeons will be trained to address standard neurosurgical trauma as well as hydrocephalus. The surgical center will cover the vast majority of surgical needs that will be encountered in the community.

Construction, equipping and initial start-up expenses are expected to be \$400,000. We want to start construction by the end of 2013. Please let us know if you can help.

Rotary International: An Ongoing Partnership

Rotary International has teamed with Holy Innocents on three wonderful projects. A 2009 Rotary Global Grant provided funding for our X-ray machine. A 2011 grant facilitated a critical drainage project, and a 2012 grant is funding a water reclamation project to provide clean water during frequent city water outages. All these Rotary grants were sponsored and initially capitalized by Rotary Club of Fallbrook, California, in coordination with Rotary in Mbarara. Rotary District 5340 and The Rotary Foundation provided matching funds.

Rotary Fallbrook has already approved a fourth grant for a Complete Blood Count (CBC) analyzer, blood chemistry analyzer and other lab equipment to enhance our

lab's capabilities. Rotary's 2013 grant will cover \$37,500 of the total \$42,700 equipment cost. If you would like to help with the remaining \$5,200 we need to fully fund this needed lab equipment, use the contact info at the bottom of p. 2 of this newsletter!



(See reverse...)

A Patient's Story: Solomon...

Solomon is an eight year old boy from Kakoba, just outside Mbarara City. Solomon was born healthy and grew as a lively and active child.

Just after his first year of primary school, Solomon developed a persistent cough, followed by fever and continual weight loss. Health practitioners assured his family that he had an allergy disorder which would subside, but his condition worsened until he was too weak to attend school.

A friend of Solomon's mother advised her to bring him to Holy Innocents, since her own child had received good care there. Solomon was admitted to Holy Innocents on August 12, 2012. He could barely eat, complained of severe chest pain and lacked the strength to walk.

Solomon was assessed and treated for bacterial pneumonia, and further tests

were ordered to find out why he had lost so much weight. He tested negative for HIV but had a highly elevated lymphocyte count. His chest X-ray showed massive congestion of the left upper lobe; he demonstrated no clinical improvement on IV antibiotics and remained short of breath five days after admission. Sputum microscopy was promptly ordered, and it was found to be positive for tuberculosis. Solomon was immediately started on oral anti-tuberculosis therapy.

Within the first seven days of therapy, Solomon's breathing eased. His appetite recovered and he was able to get out of bed. A week later, he started running and playing games with other children; he also started to gain weight. He was later discharged in good condition after repeated sputum samples showed negative results. Solomon will continue his TB medication at home and report to HICH for monthly check-ups.

Solomon said, "I feel very strong now and I am no longer feeling a lot of pain in my chest; I am very happy to be going back home and am now sure that I will be able to return to school!"

Solomon's mother expressed her relief and gratitude: "I do not think my son would have had an opportunity to live if I had not decided to bring him here. Now there are signs that he will get totally well. A big thank you to all the doctors and nurses working in this hospital."

And thanks to you, our supporters, for making it possible for this story to have a happy ending!



Oxygen Generator: Adding Capacity & Potential Business

Oxygen is a critical consumable at Holy Innocents; children with malaria and respiratory illnesses frequently need oxygen to facilitate their treatment, rehabilitation and comfort. Until now, we have been obliged to purchase oxygen from outside vendors, often requiring a five-hour trip

to Uganda's capital, Kampala.

Holy Innocents received initial funding for an oxygen generator from a group spearheaded by Dr. Frank Stackhouse of the University of Washington International Medicine Clinic. The remaining funding has come from an anonymous San Diego donor.

The oxygen generator, to be operational in early 2013, will have the ability to supply all the oxygen needs of our patients. In addition, it will likely have excess capacity which we can sell to other health facilities that require oxygen.

Thanks to Dr. Frank and everyone else involved with this important project!

A Holiday Appeal for the Children

Holy Innocents has brought health and hope to the children of Mbarara, Uganda. Your continued support makes this possible. If you can help us again this holiday season, we would be infinitely grateful....

God bless you and your loved ones this upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas season!

