



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

Tremendous Progress in 2013

2013 Achievements !!!

- The Ugandan government health ministry increased their support of the Hospital by paying the salaries of 11 of our health care providers. The Ugandan government is also supplying medicine.
- Hospital operations are now self-sustaining. In the years following the opening of the Hospital, patient fees and support from the local community were not sufficient to cover all of the Hospital's expenses, and we subsidized a portion of operating costs. Since July 2012, the Hospital has procured 100% of its operating costs.
- We have raised more than \$225,000 for the construction of a Surgical Center.
- Oxygen Generation equipment has been purchased and will be installed soon.



Surgical Center Moving Forward

You might wonder why a surgical center was not constructed in the first phase of the Hospital. The answer is that our goal has always been to maximize the number of children saved with the resources available. Before the Hospital was built, the majority of child mortality resulted from easily treatable diseases such as malaria, pneumonia and dysentery. Although sometimes such diseases have complications requiring surgical intervention, in most cases children's lives can be saved by quick diagnoses, medication and the provision of oxygen and hydration therapies.

With the Hospital now self-sustaining, a well trained staff in place and ready access to needed medicine, we can now concentrate on saving the lives of children

who require surgery. A simple case of appendicitis can be a death sentence for a child in Mbarara. An advanced case of malaria can cause a condition called hydrocephalus, an accumulation of fluid in the brain causing intracranial pressure. The pressure can lead to convulsions, brain damage and death. Hydrocephalus is treated with a surgical procedure to relieve pressure on the brain.

The Surgical Center we have planned includes two operating rooms. The center will be staffed with three anesthesiologists, two general surgeons and two ENTs. The surgical center will cover the vast majority of surgical needs that are encountered in the community, including the treatment of hydrocephalus.

A member of our Board, Dr. Michael Levy, is a pediatric neurosurgeon at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. Dr. Levy has been directly involved with the planning

of the Surgical Center and will also be involved in training the Hospital's surgeons. We are truly blessed to have Dr. Levy's expertise in making this project a reality.

The construction of a surgical center is a major undertaking. We have currently raised or have pledges for more than \$225,000 of the cost of construction of the Surgical Center. The total estimated cost of the Surgical Center is approximately \$500,000, so we are nearly half way to making this dream come true. Please consider designating your Holiday gift for the construction of the Surgical Center.

We plan to start construction when fund raising has reached the 80% level. With your continued help, we hope to start construction in 2014.

Improving Care-- Saving More lives

Among our goals for 2014 is the improvement of care in the area of oxygen therapy. Oxygen therapy is tremendously important to the treatment of children with acute respiratory illnesses and malaria. We have now purchased the equipment necessary to produce adequate concentrated oxygen for the Hospital. In the past, oxygen was delivered

via simple nasal prongs, which help, but don't provide the type of positive ventilation assistance required to significantly increase blood oxygen levels in severely distressed patients. The Hospital now has a CPAP machine that can provide positive ventilation, and we plan to add re-breather masks to further advance the Hospital's capabilities to provide oxygen therapy.

Re-breather masks are a single-use item. We can't use the same mask for multiple patients because of the risk of contamination. Thus, there is substantial cost involved in making the masks available to patients in need. We believe that supplying the hospital with re-breather masks will save many lives in the coming years and is well worth the additional costs involved. With your continued support, we can make it happen.



Severely distressed patient on CPAP



Four days later, CPAP removed and doing just fine with nasal prongs

Special Recognition for Valued Partners

Many wonderful people have helped make Holy Innocents a reality. The members of San Raphael Parish in Rancho Bernardo deserve special thanks. Our annual Spaghetti Dinner at San Rafael's has become a major source of revenue, this year raising more than \$60,000. Many thanks also to the Knights of Columbus for their support. We also must mention the Rotary Club of Fallbrook and Rotary

International, who have provided grants for water reclamation, X-ray equipment, lab equipment and equipment for the Surgical Center. Thanks also to our friends in Northern Ireland who provided an ambulance and maintain a Charity Fund for patients who are otherwise unable to pay for care. There are many other benefactors who prefer to remain anonymous. We thank you all.



Abandoned 22 weeks of gestation Baby K managed in the Intensive Care Unit

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 and allows us to increase the quality of care. If you can help us again this holiday season, we would be infinitely grateful....

God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas season!

