



THE MASOOLI PROJECT
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

IN MEMORIAM

On April 4, 2020, our dear friend and past Chair of The Masooli Project Board of Directors, Dr. Gordon Crouch, passed away after a long illness. Dr. Crouch and his wife Nancy were friends of Faith Mulira, whose dream of building a modern health care facility in Masooli, Uganda, led to construction of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre. Following their trips to Africa, where they saw firsthand the need for a modern health care facility, Dr. Crouch urged members of the First Church of Christ Simsbury community to embrace Faith's dream. He and Nancy also met with other close friends of Faith to strategize how to bring her dream to life by constructing a clinic.

Dr. Crouch helped build strong, lasting relationships with our partners in Uganda, creating confidence in our donors and supporters that construction of the clinic would be carried out using local Ugandan expertise and that, once opened, the clinic would be managed with professionalism and integrity. He cared deeply about improving access to better health care for all of the residents of Masooli. Although he, himself, played a key role in helping to make the clinic a reality, Dr. Crouch spoke humbly and appreciatively at its dedication in 2008, emphasizing the strong ties between the Ugandan and U.S. boards and the significant local efforts that contributed to the realization of Faith's dream.

Dr. Crouch led our Board during some of the most challenging times – during the early planning stages, during construction of the clinic and afterward, when the doors had opened and many day-to-day start-up issues were being addressed. Through it all, he was always a tireless supporter of this effort. When illness forced him to step down from his Director role, the Board unanimously gave him the title Director Emeritus, to continue recognizing the important role he played in the success of The Masooli Project.

We dedicate this 2019 Annual Report to our friend, the late Dr. Gordon Crouch.

Front cover: Dr. Cissy Nantale, Chief Medical Officer and Clinic Administrator at Faith Mulira Health Care Centre, treats a patient during a home visit in Masooli, Uganda. Also shown: Masooli Project Board member Karen Damon Callahan and Connecticut Children's physician Dr. Naveed Hussain, who visited Uganda in November 2019. Story on page 7.



Dear Friends,

Welcome to The Masooli Project 2019 Annual Report. I am pleased to present the achievements of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre in Masooli, Uganda, made possible with the help of our generous donors.

In 2019, the clinic increased the number of patients served by leveraging its strategic relationships with the Uganda Ministry of Health as well as new partnerships with other NGOs in Uganda. Free immunization clinics, outreach programs focused on bringing healthcare to neglected children, HIV/AIDS testing and treatment programs as well as technical support and continuing education for clinic staff were all made possible by these successful relationships and partnerships.

The majority of patient admissions, which increased by over 15% in 2019, have been children under age 5 with pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea and malnutrition. Unfortunately, many children do not live beyond their fifth year in Uganda. Disease prevention continues to be a focus for the clinic's community outreach programs. The immunization program continues to grow, increasing by over 15% in 2019. Laboratory testing increased over 34%. And the number of patients receiving HIV tests saw a significant 53% increase.

Our Board continues to deepen its relationship with the Uganda board and clinic staff. Each year we hear how important the support provided through The Masooli Project is to the programs of the clinic, the skill development of its staff and their future aspirations.

Board member Karen Damon Callahan, who participated in home visits during several trips to Masooli in 2019, also heard from villagers how grateful they are for the services provided by Faith Mulira Health Care Centre. These services continue to improve the quality of life in the greater Masooli community as well as individual health outcomes for those who rely on them.

In 2019, grants from The Masooli Project provided 56% of the total revenue of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre. Your continued financial support is absolutely vital to sustain the mission of the clinic, especially in this time of great uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for being part of the accomplishments described in this report. Please join me in celebrating all that has been achieved. Together, we are helping to make a difference for those whom the clinic serves.

With gratitude,

Kay Werk, Chair

A message from our Board Chair



Board of Directors

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Karen Damon Callahan
Nancy Crouch
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The Rotary Club of Kampala North has been a faithful partner of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre for several years, helping the staff deliver services within the community at health fairs and specialized clinics.

Uganda's health care system depends on a strong partnership between the government-run health sector and private, not-for-profit health sector (NGOs) operated by organizations like Faith Mulira Health Care Centre, which provide half of the country's health care services. As a licensed NGO, the clinic has, since 2012, been accredited by the **Uganda Ministry of Health** as a facility for antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV/AIDS patients. The clinic provides voluntary counseling, HIV testing, treatment of opportunistic infections, administration of medication (provided free of cost by the government) and delivery of a program designed to eliminate cases of mother-to-child transmission. Currently, 70 clients are enrolled in the HIV/AIDS program.

Partnerships: a key to the clinic's success

Since 2018, the clinic has also leveraged a partnership with **MildMay Uganda**, an NGO that is a center of excellence for comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and training services. The partnership with MildMay has helped the clinic to strengthen its HIV/AIDS data and reporting capabilities and obtain continuing education for staff. The resulting enhancements to its HIV/AIDS program will also better position the clinic to apply for HIV/AIDS related grants and funding. Recently, the clinic was added to MildMay's list of facilities to be supported for home visits, which will help staff to trace HIV positive patients who have lost contact with the clinic. Other successful partnerships that Faith Mulira Health Care Centre has developed include:

Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau – in addition to donating medical equipment and software to assist with a community health insurance program that will be introduced in 2020, UPMB has delivered staff training on non-communicable diseases (NCD) and operation of an NCD clinic. This partnership also enabled the clinic to receive free reproductive health commodities and antimalarial medication through UPMB's affiliation with an NGO that procures and distributes medication, medical equipment and supplies to health facilities in Uganda's private not-for-profit health sector.

Every Child Ministries – as part of a new alliance with Every Child Ministries, the clinic provides health care services to children served by this Uganda NGO and their caregivers, including outreach/awareness programs at ECM project sites and HIV/AIDS care to clients referred by ECM.

Rotary Club of Kampala North – the clinic's longstanding partnership with the Rotary Club of Kampala North and the efforts of this organization's tireless volunteers have resulted in successful community health events, such as the vaccine clinic held on World Polio Day in October 2019.

Update on COVID-19 Pandemic Impact

Uganda took early, aggressive steps to curb the spread of COVID-19, including local travel bans, curfews and lockdown measures. Travel restrictions, including a ban on the use of motorcycle taxis (boda boda) for passenger transport, prevented some patients from visiting the clinic for routine services, including prescription refills for HIV/AIDS treatment. The clinic's relationship with the Ministry of Health and NGO partnerships are critical during this time.

Government containment measures, though easing, have affected normal routines at the clinic as well as community outreach efforts. Since the outbreak, clinic staff has participated in medical education sessions focused on how to continue providing quality care in light of the government's COVID-19 prevention guidelines. Staff has responded proactively to the outbreak, purchasing hand sanitizer, a handwashing facility, personal protective equipment (PPE) and an infrared thermometer for monitoring temperatures of patients and staff before they enter the facility.

Masooli Project grants have helped with these unplanned costs, but the significant challenges posed by the pandemic and its ripple effects remain. In June, our Board member Brendan Scully secured a donation of 20 face shields that have since been shipped to the clinic. World Health Organization data indicate that as of early September 2020, Uganda had reported over 3,900 COVID-19 cases, with 46 deaths. During the remainder of 2020, the clinic will strive to continue its provision of quality, affordable health care services amid the extreme uncertainties caused by the pandemic.



Masooli Project Board member Karen Damon Callahan with Baby Karen at a home visit conducted during one of Karen's 2019 visits to Uganda. For more about Baby Karen's story, see page 9.

While most of the services provided by the Faith Mulira Health Care Centre clinical team are delivered at the facility in Masooli, in recent years the staff has brought preventive care services to patients through school visits, community health fairs and home visits.

These efforts offer an opportunity for the staff to deliver health education to residents on important topics such as maternal and child health care; good home practices for disease prevention, e.g., the use of insecticide-treated nets for malaria prevention; ways to prevent respiratory infections; and the common causes of diarrheal disease.

Home visits enable the clinical team to perform community assessments that holistically consider the socioeconomic, psychological and medical issues affecting patients. These visits are especially important for elderly patients, those who cannot travel because of chronic illness, and HIV/AIDS patients who are stigmatized by their disease and often do not leave home.

Twenty such home visits were conducted in 2019; however, funding constraints have limited the ability to expand this effort in a meaningful way. There is hope that at some point a dedicated community health care professional can be hired to help coordinate and perhaps expand the clinic's community health initiatives.



Community Outreach: a way to bring vital health care services to those who cannot travel

Field Notes

Masooli Project Board member Karen Damon Callahan, who also serves as our Field Resource Coordinator, traveled to Uganda multiple times in 2019 as part of our continuing effort to sustain the strong collaborative relationship we have with the board of directors and staff of Faith Mulira Healthcare Centre. During these trips, Karen met with board members and the clinical team, observed clinic operations and also joined the team on home visits within the Masooli community.

In November, Karen was accompanied on home visits by Dr. Cissy Nantale, Chief Medical Officer and Clinic Administrator, and Dr. Naveed Hussain, a neonatologist from Connecticut Children's, a highly ranked Connecticut hospital dedicated to the care of children. Dr. Hussain was in Uganda to explore potential relationships among Connecticut Children's and other healthcare institutions, some of which potentially could benefit the clinic. Both Karen and Dr. Hussain reported back to the Masooli Project Board of Directors regarding their observations during the home visits as well as their overall positive assessment of clinic operations.

Left: Community health events and home visits offer another way of bringing essential health care services to residents.



Baby Karen with Faith Mulira Health Care Centre's Director of Business Strategy, Makumbi Accrum, and with her family during home visits.

Update on Baby Karen: health care is just one of many challenges facing Uganda infants

When Monica Nyakato gave birth to a baby girl at Faith Mulira Health Care Centre on June 29, 2018, our Board member Karen Damon Callahan, an experienced neonatal nurse, was on hand to observe her delivery. What a nice surprise when Monica named her newborn Karen!

Like many Ugandan infants, baby Karen entered a world in which healthy infant development is a challenge. She fell ill frequently in her first few months of life, especially with respiratory tract infections. Fortunately for baby Karen, she was taken to the clinic, which provided the care she needed. Shortly after her birth, Monica, who has two other children, started a small scale business selling items like charcoal, paraffin and vegetables, in order to provide her family's basic needs.

Although baby Karen is now over 2 years old and progressing well, she and her family reside along a dusty roadside, a condition that has resulted in her frequent bouts of respiratory illness. Karen receives the routine medical care she needs at the clinic, where Monica receives counseling regarding the family's health and also picks up tips about her business. On one occasion, Monica brought baby Karen for treatment of a burn caused by hot milk. The proximity of the clinic and the availability of services prevented her child's injury from becoming a more serious medical emergency.

On a recent home visit—part of the clinic's community outreach efforts—clinic staff learned that the mosquito nets Monica was using to protect her family from malaria were too old to be effective. New insecticide-treated nets were given to them. These will provide better protection from malaria, the most prevalent fatal disease in Ugandan children under age 5.

While baby Karen and her family have received essential health care services from the clinic, their future continues to be uncertain. A continuing challenge they face is getting enough food. They are often forced to rely on well-wishers and relatives for sustenance, since the income from Monica's business cannot sustain them. The COVID-19 outbreak in Uganda has led to government control measures that have closed many small businesses like Monica's, threatening her ability to provide even a small amount of income to support her family's needs.

Baby Karen's story exemplifies the many day-to-day challenges faced by those using the clinic's services. The staff routinely sees how interconnected their efforts to address the physical and mental wellbeing of patients are deeply impacted by other social determinants of health: the availability of healthy food and clean water, the adequacy of shelter and protective equipment, the ability to earn even a small income and more.



Baby Karen at birth, in June 2018.

2019 Donors

INDIVIDUALS

We are deeply grateful for your support of The Masooli Project in 2019. Whether large or small, your support provided an opportunity to help improve the delivery of health care services to the people of Masooli. Together, we are making a difference.

Petra Amrein	Frank and Louise Gould	Alan and Carol Pollack
James and Rita Bagnall	Janice Gyngell	Bruce and Marlene Powell
Sara Batchelder	John Hart	Emanuel and Margaret Psarakis
Jeannie Boehner	Marvin and Charlotte Kelly	Coleman and Carol Ross
Richard and Stacey Bradshaw	Bill and Pat Ketchabaw	Mark and Ieke Scully
Joyce Breland	Kathryn King	John and Jean Sziklas
John and Sara Burrows	Robert and Carolyn Lauben	James and Susan Trimble
Mario and Lydia Chiapetti	Robert and Lois Lyle	David and Nancy Wadhams
John and Carole Clark	James and Elizabeth Malley	Gregory and Kay Werk
Randy Cole	Ruth Meyer	Wayne and Melinda Westbrook
Gordon and Nancy Crouch	Douglas Morrill	Elaine Wilson
Craig and Nancy Dennen	Rev. Robert Naylor	Dane and Diana Woodberry
David and Heather Duncan	Rev. Erica Nierendorf	Tom and Karen Yanik
Richard Dupree	Stephen and Tina Osborn	Dr. Aris and Nancy Yannopoulos
	Bill Pauwells	

CHURCHES, FOUNDATIONS, SCHOOLS

Our work would not be possible without the generous financial support of these organizations. Thank you for your commitment to The Masooli Project and the work of the clinic.

First Church of Christ, Simsbury, CT	Aetna Foundation, Inc.	St. Thomas the Apostle School, West Hartford, CT
First Church of Christ, Hopkinton, NH	Amazon Smile	St. Timothy Middle School, West Hartford, CT
	Iroquois Avenue Foundation	

“Thank you so much for the confidence that you have placed in the Uganda team to oversee this facility”

~Peter Mugagga, FMHCC Board Chair



Faith Mulira Health Care Centre board Secretary Irene Lwamafa with Masooli Project Treasurer Jim Trimble, at a reception held at First Church of Christ, Simsbury in May 2019. Irene, a daughter of Faith Mulira, has played an active oversight role since the clinic opened its doors in 2008.

2019 Financial Overview

Cash at Beginning of Year	\$ 27,821
Revenue	
Individual Donations	\$ 37,824
Corporate Donations	17,130
Other Income	930
Total Revenue	\$ 55,884
Operating Expenses	
Program Expenses	
Grants to Faith Mulira Health Care Centre	\$ 50,307
Administrative Expenses	696
Fundraising/Outreach	292
Travel	2,933
Total Expenses	\$ 54,228
Net Income	1,656
Cash at End of Year	\$ 29,477



The Masooli Project

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Your contributions are tax deductible
to the extent allowed by law.

To make a donation, go to:
www.masooliproject.org

Or mail your donation to:
The Masooli Project, Inc.
P.O. Box 1001
Simsbury, CT 06070

FAITH MULIRA HEALTH CARE CENTRE

