The Masooli Project

2014 Annual Report Community, Connection, Compassion

A Letter from Our Chair ~

The year 2014 was marked by building critical connections and new affiliations that extended the Clinic's reach and reputation within and around the Masooli Community. Several new collaborations were created with organizations including Baylor College of Medicine, the Children's Foundation of Uganda and Central Public Health Laboratories. These valuable partnerships have improved early diagnosis and treatment of infants born to HIV mothers, increased breast and cervical cancer screening and dramatically increased the number of immunizations provided to children.

Ongoing community outreach efforts have focused on improving nutrition, breastfeeding practices and family planning, and instituting aggressive malaria prevention initiatives. A **cross-border partnership** between the Kasangati Rotary Club in Uganda and the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club was formed, and we are thrilled to share that this relationship has resulted in a global grant in 2015 from Rotary International that will contribute greatly to the Clinic's efforts to improve maternal health in the region. In first quarter 2014, a group of UCONN dental students and their advisor, Dr. Michael Goupil, conducted a week-long Clinic at Faith Mulira Health Care Center, offering dozens of Masooli residents a rare opportunity to receive free dental care.

Despite many gains made in 2014, the health care center was not without it challenges, due primarily to a downturn in the Uganda economy. According to a report by the Brookings Institution, the effects of inflation resulted in a 12 percent depreciation of the Ugandan shilling, reducing purchasing power. More patients in 2014 sought free services, which contributed to the Clinic operating at a deficit for the first time since it opened in 2011. This strain on the operating budget led to reduced hours of operation, from 24 to 12, for five months of the year, essentially eliminating inpatient admissions during this period.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our donors, we raised \$56,947 in 2014, of which \$52,000 was granted to the Clinic to assist with its operating expenses. We also contributed \$4,000 to the Simsbury-Granby Rotary to assist with the application for a \$36,000 International Rotary Club grant that we recently learned was awarded and will benefit the Clinic in 2015. Grant proceeds will be used toward maternal health initiatives, including purchase of an ultrasound machine, staff training and programs to improve the wellbeing of mothers and children. Because our U.S. Board operates on an all-volunteer basis, we were able to keep administrative expenses to a minimum again this year, granting to the Clinic more than 93 cents of every dollar we received.

The year 2014 was blessed with two special highlights recognizing the extraordinary contributions of the Clinic's founders. On August 9, 2014, Faith Mulira celebrated her 90th birthday in Suwanee, Georgia, and I had the privilege of presenting her with a proclamation from Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy that honored her extraordinary life of faith, courage and compassion. On October 18, 2014, Gordon and Nancy Crouch received the Living Waters Award from the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ for their enduring commitment and dedication to improving the health and well being of the people of Uganda. News of Faith's death on August 16, 2015, at age 91, has left us saddened but determined to continue supporting her dream.

We are deeply grateful to you, our benefactors, for your trust and investment in the health, happiness and well being of our brothers and sisters in Masooli, Uganda.

James C. Malley, Ph.D., U.S. Board Chair

New



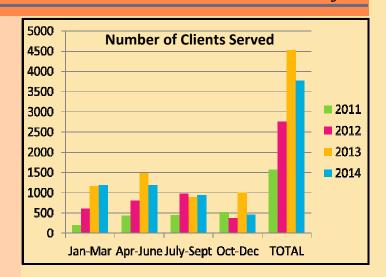
Connections

While the financial support of friends in the U.S. has been a necessary and important part of the operating budget of the Clinic, local donors in Uganda have also helped by contributing supplies, services in kind and grant funding. Local support has come from:

- Rotary Club of Kasangati
- Joint Medical Stores
- Marie Stopes International

In addition, during 2014 our partners in Uganda built new relationships with:

- Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Uganda
- Central Public Health Laboratories
- Mbuya Outreach





OUTPATIENT SERVICE DELIVERY

The Clinic served 3,765 clients in 2014, bringing the total to 12,623 since opening its doors in 2011. This total includes only those who present with disease but does not include those who sought services by self-referral or who attended the Clinic other than for illness related reasons. When those groups are included, the total number of clients in 2014 increases to 6,079. Because the economy in Uganda remains weak, more patients sought free services, underscoring the challenge faced by the Clinic to increase its revenue from user fees.

INPATIENT SERVICES

During 2014, the Clinic had two admission rooms plus one delivery room and one post-delivery recovery room for patients who required a hospital stay for monitoring and administration of treatment. For financial reasons, 24/7 coverage was suspended for part of 2014, and the Clinic operated only 12 hours a day. Despite this temporary cutback in hours, the Clinic still admitted 145 inpatients during the year. The shortage of space for delivering inpatient care remains a challenge, requiring referrals to other facilities.

2014 Service Delivery Stats (by service type)	
Lab services	3,300
Inpatients	145
Outpatients	3,765
Deliveries	6
Community Outreach	30
Family Planning	276
Ante-natal care	117
Post-natal care	515
Immunization	4,273
Total Attendance	6,079









NUMBER OF IMMUNIZATIONS CONTINUES TO RISE

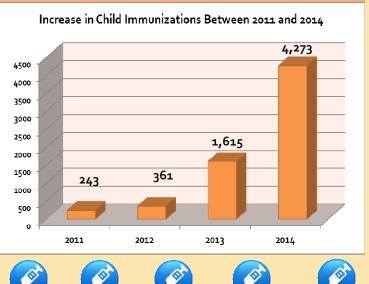
As noted by UNICEF on its website, "Ensuring vaccines reach every child, wherever they live, is a complex process. . . . Not only do vaccines have to arrive in time to be distributed where they are needed, all vaccines must be continuously stored at the appropriate temperature from the time they are manufactured up until the moment of use."

Child immunization services at the Clinic have risen steadily over the past four years, growing by 49% in 2014, with 4,273 children immunized during 2014 compared with 1,615 in 2013. The increase is attributable to community mobilization efforts and the procurement of a refrigerator, which was obtained through donor support. Free immunizations can now be offered for all vaccines provided by the Uganda Ministry of Health. Services are available at both the Clinic and strategic outreach centers within the community.



CONTINUED FOCUS ON MATERNAL HEALTH

The Clinic continued to offer ante-natal and normal delivery services to expectant mothers in 2014. During 2014, staff attended to 117 antenatal care visits, an 18% decline from 2013. The Clinic assisted with 6 normal births in 2014, compared with 27 in 2013, but postnatal services increased, with services for 515 new mothers compared with 80 in 2013. The reduction in hours of operation accounted for the drop in deliveries. A return to full hours of operation as well as the approval of the Rotary grant, which will help with the purchase of an ultrasound machine and other essential equipment, should help to attract more women to the Clinic for their maternity care in 2015.



2014 Partnership with Marie Stopes International

The Clinic benefited during part of 2014 from a collaboration with Marie Stopes International, an international family planning organization that works with poor and vulnerable women to provide them with quality family planning and reproductive healthcare. In addition to vouchers for community residents who needed services, the organization provided family planning supplies, including contraceptives. Because the need for family planning services is so great, Clinic staff hope to find other partners that will enable them to extend free services to those in the community who need them.





UCONN DENTAL SCHOOL MISSION TRIP: "ONE OF THE BEST SERVICES"

A four-day dental Clinic run by students and faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine was "one of the best services" that happened for Masooli and surrounding communities, according to the Clinic's yearend report. Jim Malley, U.S. board chair, helped create the partnership with UCONN that resulted in a group of students and their adviser, Dr. Michael Goupil, traveling to Uganda in April 2014. During their visit, they brought free dental care to over 350 patients. Every patient received oral hygiene instruction and a toothbrush. In addition, they performed 150 extractions and gave 175 fluoride applications.

The severe shortage of dental professionals in Uganda is striking. For a country with a population of approximately 39 million, a recent report notes that there currently are 200 dentists, 300 dental officers and 300 public health dental officers. We are very grateful for the generous support of Dr. Goupil and his students, who made a real difference in Masooli.









FIRST CHURCH KIDS SHOW THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT

With the enthusiastic support of Director of Church School Ministries Cindy Cole, the children of First Church Of Christ, Simsbury took on the task last fall of raising funds so that the Clinic can purchase a bicycle ambulance. As the photos above show, lessons and hands-on activities, including a mock medical Clinic, helped the children gain awareness of the healthcare challenges faced by the children of Masooli.

Throughout the church school year, their weekly offerings were designated for the bicycle ambulance, and by May they reached their \$600 goal. Dr. Linda Barlow, President of the Uganda board of Faith Mulira Health Care Center, recently offered her "special thanks to the children" of First Church for their fundraising. She assured us, "We will send photos once we have purchased it."









The Masooli Project

U.S. BOARD NEWS

We were delighted last fall when Nancy and Gordon Crouch received the United Church of Christ's Connecticut Conference "Living Waters Award", which honors those who clearly make a connection between their faith and daily life. The Crouches introduced their family, friends, church and many others to the dream of Faith Mulira and her hope that a Clinic in Masooli would change lives. Faith's vision inspired them, and they worked tirelessly, in the U.S. and Uganda, to help with the planning and construction of the Clinic.



Through it all,
Gordon and Nancy
have never doubted
that this is God's
work. With their
unwavering encouragement and support, the Clinic has
touched the lives of

village residents and all those who have had a hand in bringing Faith's vision to life. We are so pleased they were recognized by this award.

In other board news, we are thankful that Kay Werk has joined us as Treasurer, filling the position held by Bill Ketchabaw prior to his and Pat's relocation to North Carolina. We know that Kay, who is Chief Auditor at Voya Financial, will bring the same level of meticulous care to our financial matters that Bill did for many years, and we are very grateful for the expertise she brings to the board.

Have You Been Looking for Us on the Web?

We have a new website, thanks to our good friend Betty Warner. Check out recent events and new pictures. You can even you can even donate online! Find us at www.friendsoffmhcc.org





ZUMBA FOR AFRICA! RAISES FUNDS, BUILDS AWARENESS

Thanks to the generous support of Off the Wall Zumba, we held a fun and fit Zumbathon last November. Board members, family and friends joined with

seasoned Zumba dancers from West Hartford for an afternoon of music and movement. Along with lots of laughs and plenty of aerobic



exercise, we were able to share information about the Clinic and spread the word about how it is helping to make a difference in the lives of the people of Masooli.





ROTARY GRANT WILL HELP EXPAND MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

What can \$30,000 do to help improve maternal and child health in Masooli? We are thrilled that thanks to collaboration between the Kasangati Rotary Club in Uganda, the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club here in the U.S. and the U.S. and Uganda boards of FMHCC, the Clinic will receive a generous grant in 2015 from Rotary International.

Grant proceeds will be used to purchase an ultrasound machine and other essential equipment that can help improve the health and wellbeing of moms and babies.







In Memorium

With great sadness, we learned of the death of Faith Mulira, on August 17, 2015, at the age of 91. Below are excerpts from a letter sent by Jim Malley to Faith's family and friends in Uganda, expressing the sentiments of all who had the privilege of knowing and working with this amazing woman.

"Faith's essential goodness was so evident as a nurse; whether caring for babies or elderly persons, she treated every soul with the utmost compassion, dignity, and respect. That is how my path crossed with Faith's in 1998 when she took loving care of my mother in her declining years. My mother and I loved hearing Faith's stories of her beloved Uganda. We were



so taken aback with how, in the wake of so much adversity and loss, Faith held steadfastly onto an abiding trust in God and wanted so desperately to improve the lives of the people of Masooli.

"Nancy and Gordon Crouch had the same wonderful experience when Faith took care of Nancy's father, an experience that inspired them to create the U.S. board of directors to help Faith realize her vision to build a health clinic in Masooli.

"Anyone who knew Faith knew that, if she had the vision, there would be no holding her back. She often felt she was divinely guided and was fond of quoting a passage from the Bible (Habakkuk 2:2-3): 'Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision and it will surely come.' What better way to celebrate Faith's remarkable life than by ensuring that the Faith Mulira Health Care Clinic continues to prosper as a living memorial to her life of sacrifice and service to others.

"We join hands and hearts with you across the seas to celebrate Faith's extraordinary life on this Earth and take solace in Helen Keller's famous quote that 'All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.'

"May God hold her in his loving embrace and may she rest in peace."

Faith Mulira Health Care Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Please continue your faithful support to the Masooli Project by mailing this form to:

Faith Mulira Health Care Center, Inc., P.O. Box 1001, Simsbury, CT 06070.

Providing your contact information, including email address, will help us keep you inform on the Clinic's future activities. Thank you for your support!

YES! I want to support FMHCC's efforts to improve healthcare services in Masooli, Uganda.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$200 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$____ Please ask your employer if they will match your gift!

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email address:

Thank you! Your support will help bring quality healthcare services to the women and children of Masooli.

Amazing Grace ~ Supporters of the Masooli Project

~ The miracle of the Masooli Project is handmade ~

We are grateful to all who have shared Faith Mulira's vision to provide quality health care services to the people of Masooli. Every effort has been made to accurately list our 2014 contributors. We apologize for any omissions or errors. Faith Mulira Health Care Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Bountiful Grace: \$5,000 - \$10,000

First Church of Christ, Simsbury, CT Bill and Susan Butler

Gordon and Nancy Crouch Melinda Westbrook

John and Sara Burrows Werk Family Charitable Fund

Full of Grace \$1,000 - \$4,999

Aetna Foundation (Employee Matching Program) Carol Ross

First Church of Christ, Hopkinton, NH Susan and Keith Stover

Marvin and Charlotte Kelly

Saving Grace: \$500 - \$999

Sara Batchelder William and Pat Ketchabaw

Craig and Nancy Dennen Jim and Beth Malley

Constance Keedle Bruce and Marlene Powell

Abundant Grace: \$100 - \$499

Paul and Judith Bryant Ron and Barbara Patterson

John Clark William Pouwels

Frank and Louise Gould Emanuel and Margaret Psarakis

Sarah Harper William and Patricia Pye

Eva Hausman David and Nancy Wadhams
Patricia Hazelwood Rev. Kevin and Kelley Weikel
Carolyn Keily West Hartford Ladies Zumba

Robert and Lyn Lauben Wayne Westbrook

Paul and Linda Malley Richard and Elaine Wilson

Robert and Gretchen Naylor Dane and Diana Woodberry

Off the Wall Zumba Thomas and Karen Yanik

Thankful Grace: up to \$100

Elsa Jones Jean Sziklas Robert Lyle Ken Steller

Laura Marchese Donald and Elizabeth Warner

Fred and Dorothy Prior

The Masooli Project





Faith Mulira Health Care Center, Inc. P.O. Box 1001 Simsbury, CT 06070

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