

The Masooli Project

2015 Annual Report of Faith Mulira Health Care Center, Inc. Five Years of Community, Connection and Compassion

A Letter from Our Chair ~

The end of calendar year 2015 marked the fifth full year of operations for Faith Mulira Health Care Centre in Masooli, Uganda. During this period of start-up and positive growth, the Clinic has expanded its outreach into the community, increasing the number of services provided. The staff doubled and the number of patients served has increased dramatically. In its short tenure, the Clinic has installed basic equipment such as refrigeration and reliable electrical power and acquired modern diagnostic equipment that can greatly enhance the quality of health care services available to the residents of Masooli.

The Clinic also has extended its reach into the community by forming collaborative relationships with other health-oriented organizations. The acquisition of a complete blood count (CBC) machine, ultrasound machine, and other vital technology has helped improve the Clinic's diagnostic capacity and ability to deliver maternal health services and other outpatient care. Thanks to a Rotary International Foundation grant, the Clinic's staff also has received training from Makerere University's Johns Hopkins Affiliate.

Revenue from patient fees has increased gradually over five years, increasing to US \$24,067 in 2015, its highest level since the Clinic opened. Through the generosity of friends and loyal supporters, we were able to maintain our fundraising in 2015 at a level consistent with 2014, with a total of \$56,570 raised. This included amounts raised through the efforts of the youth of First Church Simsbury, which will be used for maternal and child health services. Our grants totaling \$52,000 went toward the Clinic's 2015 operating budget. Our support, along with a \$36,000 grant provided by Rotary International Foundation, contributed to a successful year for the Clinic.

Despite these successes, the proportion of patient fees relative to the Clinic's total operating budget has been relatively flat for the past three years. While heavy reliance on grants from our U.S. Board is understandable during the initial growth years, this trend is not likely to be sustainable. We continue to discuss with the Uganda board ways for the Clinic to become more financially autonomous. Our donations from individuals fell by \$15,000 compared to 2014, and we are concerned that if we are unable to maintain or increase our revenue by finding new funding sources and energizing new and existing individual donors, we may be required to reduce the amount of support provided to the Clinic each year. We remain hopeful that 2016 fundraising efforts will be fruitful.

Maternal health is high on the list of priorities but the Clinic's capacity to address the maternal health needs of its patients is constrained by lack of space. This severely limits the number of women who can safely deliver babies at the Clinic. A key challenge is how we can help the Clinic build a robust maternal and child healthcare program that will meet patients' needs while maintaining support for delivery of the routine services which have positively affected the health status of Masooli residents over the past five years.

With deep gratitude to our supporters,

Jim Malley, Chair, Faith Mulira Health Care Center, Inc.

Five Years of Service to the Community of Masooli

Faith Mulira Health Care Center

2011 to 2015 Performance At-A-Glance

During the five years the Clinic has been open, it has delivered the following services:

- General consultations and outpatient services
- Public and community health services
- Reproductive, child and maternal health services
- Clinics for HIV and AIDS, diabetes and hypertension
- Pharmacy and dispensing services
- Laboratory services
- Inpatient services, including maternity (on a limited basis)



Over the past five years, funding received by the Clinic has been directed to investments in facilities, equipment, staff and outreach services, resulting in the following accomplishments:

- A beautiful Level III health care facility, with a well-equipped laboratory and pharmacy with no stock-outs and a 24/7 power supply.
- Staff consisting of four clinicians (one clinical officer and 3 part-time physicians); two laboratory technicians; four nurses; and three administrative/support staff members. Having a full complement of trained staff has helped boost client confidence in the Clinic.
- 91% increase in financial resources for the Clinic since 2011. **Having a consistent flow of adequate financial resources to operate the Clinic is the key to its long-term sustainability.**
- Increase in the percentage of local financial resources – from 14% in 2011 to 31% in 2015.
- 252% increase in patient load since 2011.
- Increased partnerships and networking with other health care professionals.
- 150% increase in the number of laboratory services performed.

A Note on Immunizations

The Clinic now administers 16 vaccines to children of immunizable age. Immunizations are carried out at the Clinic in Masooli and at two outreach centers established in the towns of Seeta and Soweto. Immunizations are provided free of cost for all Uganda Ministry of Health (MOH) vaccines. The Clinic also participates in mass immunization programs organized by the MOH.

Community Connection Compassion

- Staffing:** The Clinic staff increased from 7 in 2011 to 14 full-time and part-time employees in 2015. The addition of a reliable power source now allows the Clinic to remain open 24 hours a day.
- Outpatients:** The number of outpatients served grew from 1,581 in 2011 to over 2,000 in 2015. The ability to remain open 24/7 reversed a 2014 service decline resulting from decreased Clinic hours.
- Immunizations:** Purchase of a refrigerator, made possible by donations from the U.S. board, has helped ensure the availability of large volumes of vaccines at the Clinic for its immunization programs.
- Inpatients:** Although inpatient care has increased since 2011, the growth in inpatient care has been hampered by the Clinic's space constraints and limited bed capacity.
- Maternal Services:** The provision of reproductive/maternal services has been a top priority, and will be aided by new equipment purchased with a grant from Rotary International. Services include antenatal care, normal delivery, prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, post-natal care, breast feeding education, cervical cancer screening, family planning and adolescent health services.
- Antenatal Services and Deliveries:** Lack of a dedicated maternity ward continues to limit the number of mothers receiving antenatal services and delivering their newborns at the Clinic. In 2012, services were provided to 116 women and 116 babies were delivered. After a slight spike in 2013, service levels dropped back to the 2012 level and remained essentially flat in 2014 and 2015.
- Postnatal Services:** Postnatal services have increased dramatically, and these services are now integrated with immunization and free HIV testing for breastfeeding women and their spouses, as well as family planning services.
- Family Planning:** Family planning services have grown from 197 patients served in 2012 to 516 served in 2015.
- HIV and AIDS Program:** The Clinic's strong HIV/AIDS program provides counseling and testing, care and treatment, services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission, early infant diagnosis for HIV exposure, treatment for exposed infants and advanced laboratory testing for HIV.

An Incinerator? Who Knew?

Our most recent report from the Uganda board identified a new need—not diagnostic equipment or essential medical supplies or vaccines, but a more mundane though equally critical need: a replacement incinerator to properly manage disposal of medical waste and control the spread of infection. Cost estimates for an incinerator for a Level III Health Center such as the Masooli Clinic range from US\$ 10,000 to US\$12,000. This is just one of many challenges of operating a medical facility. Please consider this need in your support of the Clinic.



Continued Focus on Maternal and Child Health and Wellbeing

Reproductive and maternal health care has been a priority service delivered at the Clinic since 2012. The package of services the Clinic can provide includes:

- Antenatal care;
- Normal delivery;
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Postnatal care;
- Health education on breast feeding;
- Cervical cancer screening;
- Family planning; and
- Adolescent reproductive health services.



Since 2012, the number of antenatal care visits has averaged 124 per year. The majority of these pregnant mothers previously would have been attended by traditional birth attendants. The number of mothers delivering their babies at the Clinic is still low, however—18 a year, on average—and the Clinic is challenged to give mothers the confidence that they not only can receive care before birth but can deliver there as well. Postnatal care services have attracted more mothers. These are integrated with child immunizations (which have seen a significant uptick since 2012), free HIV testing for breast feeding mothers and their spouses, as well as subsidized family planning services.

The recent purchase of an ultrasound machine and fetal Doppler monitor, made possible through a generous grant from Rotary International, is expected to encourage more women to receive their antenatal care at the Clinic. Additional Clinic space for deliveries and overnight care is a longer term goal that would make a very positive health difference for more mothers and newborns in Masooli.



A VERY SPECIAL THANK-YOU...

... to the **First Church of Christ Simsbury's youth groups** for their outstanding support of Faith Mulira Health Care Center. Led by Rev. Kevin Weikel, the teens conducted a **Dance for Masooli** fundraiser that yielded **donations totaling over \$13,000**, far exceeding their \$7,500 goal! Proceeds have been earmarked to support the Clinic's various maternal and child health care initiatives. And **THANK YOU to all of our donors who gave generously during this amazing fundraiser!**



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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. **You can also donate online at www.FMHCCFriends.org**
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: ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$200 ___\$500 Other \$____
Please ask your employer if they will match your gift!

Name:

Address:

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Thank you! Your support will help bring quality healthcare services to the women and children of Masooli.
Faith Mulira Health Care Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

A Tribute to Faith Alexandra Kamyá Nasolo Mulira Founder, Faith Mulira Health Care Center

Faith Mulira, the visionary founder of Faith Mulira Health Care Center in Masooli, Uganda, died at the age of 91 on August 17, 2015. Her extraordinary life of love and devotion was celebrated by several hundred residents of her beloved Masooli and its surrounding communities at her funeral service on August 25, 2015.

Her biographer, Jessie Ruth Gaston, writes in *To Be Neither Seen nor Heard* that Faith came from very humble beginnings, the second of 18 children. She was the only female child of the first 6 children raised in a strict patriarchal culture where girls “*were neither to be seen nor heard.*” Her father initially refused to let her attend school. But she “*really desired to attend school*” and envied her brothers and later her sisters, who were sent to school one by one as they reached school age. She recalled, “*I was so unhappy because they were given an opportunity to learn to read and write, and to learn about new things, while I was left home to do housework and to babysit my younger siblings.*” Persistent, Faith read every book she could get her hands on and finally, after much pleading, her father broke with tradition and allowed her to attend school.



Faith’s schooling and career path eventually led to a career in nursing and her appointment as director of Sanyu Babies Home, the oldest orphanage in Uganda. Faith worked at the home for 17 years, tending to orphans and abandoned children, many of whom regarded her as their only mother. In 1979, however, Faith was forced to flee Uganda, which was reeling under the violent regime of Idi Amin that claimed the lives of many of her friend and family members. When her next door neighbor was wantonly murdered by army troops, she feared for her life and fled to the U.S., where her five grown children were living. With her background as a nurse, she completed a certificate program in gerontology at St. Joseph College in West Hartford, CT and used her skills to provide home care for the elderly in the Hartford area for over 30 years.

As much as she loved living in the U.S. close to her children, Faith always dreamed of returning to her village of Masooli to build a clinic where the poor could receive care and treatment for preventable conditions such as malaria, HIV, and malnutrition that claim the lives of Ugandans young and old. Her unshakeable faith in God led her to donate a plot of family land, and with the help of friends in the U.S. and Uganda who shared her vision, funds were raised to construct the clinic in Masooli. Faith Mulira Health Care Centre officially opened its doors in January 2011. The clinic is a living memorial to Faith’s life of sacrifice, courage, faith, and service to others and gives credence to the African proverb “*Educate a girl, and you educate a community.*”

“Women hold up half the sky.”

Supporters of the Masooli Project

Thank you to all who have helped fulfill Faith Mulira's vision and are committed to carrying on her legacy. Together we are helping to provide quality health care services to the people of Masooli. Every effort has been made to accurately list our 2015 contributors. We collectively acknowledge those who contributed online through Razoo to the Dance for Masooli, and we apologize for any omissions or errors. Faith Mulira Health Care Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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Thank You...

... to our friends from the Simsbury-Granby, Connecticut Rotary and the Kasangati, Uganda Rotary who worked together to secure a generous grant from **Rotary International Foundation**. Grant proceeds have been used to purchase several items of essential equipment, including an ultrasound machine that will help boost the Clinic's ability to provide prenatal care to Masooli mothers.



The mission of Faith Mulira Health Care Center, Masooli Uganda is "to be an accessible, affordable, performance-driven health care centre".



Faith Mulira Health Care Center, Inc.
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