

The Masooli Project

2023

“We’re excited to support the expansion of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre so that it can better serve the needs of the Masooli community.”

Heather Duncan, Chair, The Masooli Project



The Masooli Project 2023 Benefit Dinner

Friday, October 27, 2023

Palmer Hall, First Church of Christ
689 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT

6:30 p.m. Reception/Appetizers; 7:00 p.m. Dinner/Program
\$10.00 donation per person for dinner; catered by Metro Bis Restaurant

Please confirm your attendance no later than October 20, 2023

Call: Nancy Crouch @ 860-658-1894 OR Carolyn Augur @ 860-335-4855

Sign up in person: @ First Church on Sunday, October 8 or 15, after service

We Hope to See You - Mark Your Calendar!

Renovation Project Will Add New Surgical Theater and Inpatient Capacity

Since opening its doors in 2011 to serve the health care needs of Masooli, Uganda, Faith Mulira Health Care Centre, has been an important provider of outpatient and preventive care for its patients. **As the health care needs of the local community have evolved**, the Uganda board has recognized a critical need to expand the services offered at the clinic. After listening to their concerns, reviewing information they provided and engaging in joint discussions, we enthusiastically agreed to help support their vision!

After a careful planning process—including a survey of key stakeholders in the local community, a detailed financial analysis, and contractor selection—the work began in June to expand Faith Mulira Health Care Centre. **When the project is finished, the clinic will have a brand new surgical theater for performing emergency and elective surgeries and additional admitting space that will improve the ability to offer inpatient and maternity care, particularly for difficult pregnancies.**

In addition to the surgical theater and more admitting space, the clinic will add a consulting room, an office for the Clinic Director and a labor suite for deliveries. Medical equipment and other furnishings will be purchased. The project budget also includes a line item for building community awareness of the clinic’s new features. **The changes will not only expand the range of services that the clinic’s clients can receive locally but are expected to help generate additional revenue by attracting a community health insurance scheme looking to partner with the clinic as a service provider for its members.**

Below, Mr. Enoth Mbeine, chair of the Building Committee, and Dr. Alphonse Taban, Clinic Director, discuss building plans with the contractors.



“[This renovation] will result in improved revenue collection, improved access to comprehensive health care, equity, client and staff satisfaction, with the likelihood of the community we serve staying healthy and productive.”

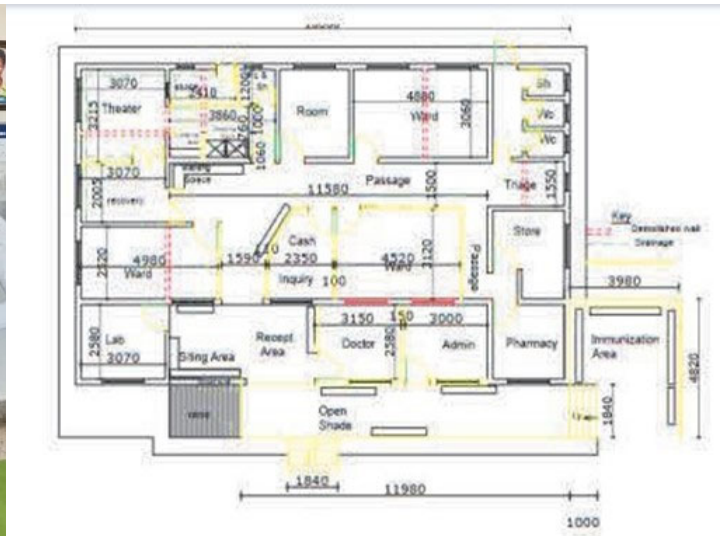
— July 2023 Progress Report on FMHCC Renovation

More Funds Needed to Complete Renovations in 2023

The Uganda board estimates that **total funding needed to complete the project at approximately US \$35,000**. With this amount, the renovation project can be completed in Fall 2023, and those clinic operations that have had to be curtailed during construction, such as maternity admissions, can resume.

Earlier this year, The Masooli Project received the first half of a generous grant of \$20,000 made by First Church of Christ, Simsbury, through its recent Capital Campaign. With this \$10,000 installment, **the Masooli Project Board of Directors approved sending \$5,000 in funding to the clinic in order to get the construction started**. The Uganda board wasted no time, and work began in early June.

After reviewing a very positive report from Uganda on progress of the construction, The Masooli Project board voted in August to send an additional \$5,000 so work can continue. **It is hoped that our planned fundraising event on October 27 will bring additional donations that, combined with the funds already sent, will enable the clinic to complete this important project on schedule.**



Above, executing the contract for the planned changes. Below, the construction crew encloses the clinic's front porch area, which previously served as a patient waiting area, creating space for a new patient reception lounge as well as consultation and office space.



"With the input of \$35,000 (\$20,000 for renovation works, \$12,000 for equipment and \$3,000 for community sensitization), the facility is expected to be renovated in a 2-3 months period."

— July 2023 Progress Report on FMHCC Renovation

Clinic Programs Help Bring Health Education, Preventive and Critical Care to Local Youth

Uganda schools were forced to close for nearly two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. With schools now reopened, **Faith Mulira Health Care Centre has been able to resume and expand its partnerships with local schools to support students' health and wellbeing.**

Clinic-school partnerships typically begin with a formal risk assessment for common infectious illnesses and review of current school practices for drinking water and food preparation, general hygiene practices, dormitory conditions, and sick bay conditions. **Clinic staff offers school administrators feedback to help with disease mitigation and delivers monthly health talks to students on personal hygiene, food and water handling, reproductive health, and coping measures for dealing with stress and anxiety. These health education and preventive measures can help students avoid serious illnesses and remain in school.**

The clinic also supports schools by providing basic health and wellness supplies, such as mosquito nets, antiseptics and hand washing facilities. **In addition to the health benefits for students, formal (contracted) school partnerships can provide a source of revenue for the clinic.** Talks are also underway to establish a health insurance scheme, which can make services at the clinic, when required, more affordable for students and their families.



Above, clinic staff provides health education to students in community schools along with basic health and wellness supplies.

Eight school partnerships were in place by the end of second quarter 2023. Hundreds of students are being reached.

Jolly's story: how school partnerships create a healthy win-win for local children, parents and the schools

In February of this year, Jolly (not her real name) was referred to Faith Mulira Health Care Centre from one of the neighboring schools. She had been playing with friends when she fell on her outstretched upper arm. When she arrived, she was crying profusely and had a swollen and deformed upper arm. A quick physical examination and X-ray helped establish her diagnosis—a fractured right radius.

Clinic staff used a hematoma block to manage Jolly's pain and then reduced her fracture. After attaining satisfactory alignment, length, angulation and rotation, they immobilized Jolly's arm in an above-elbow backslab. The backslab was later replaced by a cylindrical cast to aid fracture healing. Not only was young Jolly given the urgent care and treatment she required, she was able to resume her beginning of term exams—all to the delight of her parents and teachers!



Clinic Operations, Community Outreach Continue During Construction

During the ongoing renovation project, the clinic has continued its mission to deliver essential health care services to the Masooli community and surrounding areas:

- Outpatient attendance has increased in 2023 despite the ongoing facility renovations.
- Access to preventive services, such as immunizations and HIV testing has been maintained.
 - ⇒ A high level of immunization has been maintained, similar to last year's level.
 - ⇒ Local Village Health Team (VHT) workers assist clinic staff by tracking HIV/AIDS clients who might otherwise not follow through with planned treatment.
 - ⇒ Supported by its ongoing partnership with the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau (UPMB), during the most recent quarter the clinic surpassed its HIV/AIDS testing, initiation of antiretroviral drug therapy and viral load suppression rate targets.
- During construction, patients have continued to visit the clinic for their prenatal and postnatal care. With the new admitting rooms, more new moms will be able to deliver at the clinic.
- Laboratory services continue to be offered, enabling the clinic to provide screening services for school children (see separate article about the clinic's school partnerships on page 4).

KS's story: delivering health care beyond the walls of the clinic

KS, 95 years old, is one 25 loyal clients of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre who receive home-based care—in her case, approximately 17 miles away from the clinic. Diagnosed with hypertension, glaucoma, degenerative vertebral disc disease and osteoarthritis, she is being treated by Dr. Alphonse Taban in the comfort of her home, with her loved ones nearby. Although KS lost her vision to glaucoma, the sound of her doctor's voice brings a wide grin to her face when he arrives. “She's my friend,” says Dr. Taban. “I am not from her tribe, but she gave me a clan, the Enchima clan. Perhaps a name too.”

A home visit starts with review of KS's medical history, a physical exam covering her general medical status and respiratory, cardiovascular and central nervous systems as well as an abdominal exam. Blood, urine or sputum samples may be obtained and shipped to the clinic for testing. The findings from her history, exam and tests help determine Dr. Taban's course of treatment for KS's acute illnesses—such as pneumonia, urinary tract infections, malaria, gastroenteritis—and any required changes to her chronic medications. Medicines are often delivered to KS's doorsteps. **Home-based care helps reduce the cost of transporting KS to the clinic in Masooli as well as the discomfort of travelling long distances, except when medically necessary.**

“At the end of my visit today,” said Dr. Taban recently, “KS leaned forward and whispered, ‘Thank you for always sacrificing some time to come and check on me. I feel much more life every time you come. I am an old woman, I can neither see nor walk, I wonder how I would be making it to the far hospitals to meet a doctor... I don't like the hospital environment. I like it at home where my grandchildren can be calling me ‘jajja’ (grandmother) and relatives can come to visit.’” For Dr. Taban, it was “so heartwarming to see [KS] speak from the depth of her heart. [She] is one of the many patients benefiting from healthcare beyond the walls of FMHCC. By providing home-based care, Faith Mulira Healthcare Centre is helping to answer the global call for quality healthcare to be made accessible to all, with minimal risk of financial hardships.”



Our Finances



	FY 2022	YTD 2023 (thru 8/31/2023)
Cash at Beginning of Period	\$ 39,449	\$ 48,493
Revenue		
Individual Donations	\$ 44,900	\$ 22,398
Grants	-	20,000
Corporate Donations	13,326	8,337
Total Revenue	\$ 58,226	\$ 50,735
Operating Expenses		
Grants:		
Quarterly Grants to Faith Mulira Health Care Centre	\$ 48,000	\$ 36,000*
Special Renovation Grants		10,000*
Website/Donor Communications	420	120
Other Administrative Expenses	762	675
Total Expenses	\$ 49,182	\$ 46,795
Net Income	\$ 9,044	\$ 3,940
Cash Balance at End of Period	\$ 48,493	\$ 52,433

***We expect to fulfill our annual grant commitment for 2023 by sending our fourth quarterly installment of \$12,000 to Faith Mulira Health Care Centre before yearend. Our quarterly grants pay for the majority of the clinic's normal operating expenses. The amount of our annual grant commitment is determined by The Masooli Project Board of Directors each year, based on factors including available funds and the clinic's needs.**

We have fulfilled our \$10,000 commitment under a special grant agreement we entered with Faith Mulira Health Care Centre in 2023 to help fund the clinic renovations. As described in on page 3, additional funds are needed to help the Uganda board complete this renovation project in 2023, so that clinic activities can fully resume and the community can begin to benefit from the enhancements.

Both the daily operations of the clinic and the work of remodeling depend on the generosity and support of donors like you. Thank you for sharing our enthusiasm and for your faithful support!

