

# The Masooli Project

November 2024



Faith Mulira Health Care Centre board members and staff joined with local health officials to cut the ribbon on the newly remodeled clinic at the annual Founder's Day celebration in August, continuing to honor the dream of visionary founder Faith Mulira.

## To Our Dear Supporters and Donors

As we look to close out 2024, I reflect on all the amazing work we have been able to accomplish – with your help! **Working with the board of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre, we set out with intention to improve medical care for the people of Masooli by expanding the facility and providing the capability to perform potentially life-saving surgeries. I am happy to report that we have reached that goal!**

**The Uganda board of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre worked hard to identify the urgent need at hand, scoping out the work that needed to be done, partnering with local qualified vendors and contractors, and completing the renovation work needed to make this dream happen.** The result is a surgical facility supplied with the equipment necessary to treat urgent patient care needs, such as C-section deliveries and minor surgeries. **The new facilities will enable the clinic staff to more comprehensively attend to the local community's medical needs and ultimately save lives!** (Continued on page 2.)

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Every year, the medical clinic hosts a celebration called Founder's Day, to honor the clinic's namesake and founder, Faith Mulira, and this year's event had special energy. The Uganda board invited local health care officials and members of the community to visit and tour the facility. They were able to showcase the expanded inpatient ward and new surgical wing with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially launch the improved facility. The thought and effort that went into this project makes me feel proud, excited and relieved.

**When I think about the future needs of the clinic and 2025 planning, there is still so much work to be done to help those in need.** For example, it is clear that Faith Mulira Health Care Centre will need additional and consistent funding in order to begin delivering dental and optometry services to the community, in partnership with the local Mengo Hospital.

**Thank you so much for taking the time to read our newsletter and for your generous support.** Together we are making a difference through the work of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre!

**Heather Duncan**  
**President, The Masooli Project**



The original storefront Masooli clinic (top left), Faith Mulira Health Care Centre at its dedication in October 2008 (bottom left) and today, with its remodeled entrance and signage and (inside) expanded inpatient and surgical facilities.

## **Your Contributions Have Helped Position the Clinic for Growth**

From its start as a small, storefront dispensary to a modern outpatient clinic dedicated in 2008 to a newly refurbished health care facility equipped for surgical and maternity cases, Faith Mulira Health Care Centre has continued to expand to serve the needs of the Masooli community. With the generous support of our donors and friends, The Masooli Project has been able to provide well over \$40,000 toward the cost of renovating the clinic and equipping its new facilities. **The expanded inpatient ward is expected to increase the number of deliveries at the clinic and reduce the need for patients who require non-routine pregnancy care and C-sections to travel outside Masooli for care. The new surgical theatre will provide a safe, well-equipped facility for those patients in need of minor surgery.**

# Remembering the Dreamer and Founder, Faith Mulira (Part 1)

For fear of her life, Faith Mulira, a single mother of five with no formal education, fled Uganda in 1979. Living under the brutal, violent regime of Idi Amin, where she witnessed relatives being murdered and neighbors taken from their homes or jobs, never to be seen again, she knew she had to leave. With her determination and great trust in God, Faith overcame these impossible odds - something she had already done many times before.

As a young girl, the oldest of 16 children, Faith was made to stay home while her younger siblings went off to school. Being deprived of a formal education deeply hurt and angered Faith, although her father was able to homeschool her. Ironically, this provided her with an excellent education that enabled her to pass the entrance exam for the Nurses Training College. As a student, she began work at a medical center, where she met a young man named Yona. He was handsome and dressed well, but that was all Faith knew about him, because in her culture, dating was not allowed. Faith and Yona soon married, but he informed her that she was to stay home and raise their children. Her culture frowned on women working. Faith complied, but after several years of marriage, Yona stopped coming home regularly and money was scarce. Yona was drinking heavily and unable to hold a job, making Faith's life very difficult.

She now faced the very difficult decision of leaving Yona. Sadly, in Faith's culture, men were given custody of the children. To pursue her nursing education again, she would have to leave her five children with Yona. She prayed constantly for them while she was away, but they suffered from neglect, and each day they hoped their mother would return. After a year, Faith did return, vowing never to leave her children again. By this time, though, she had done so well in nursing school that she could apply for and was hired as Deputy Administrator of Uganda's first orphanage, Sanyu Babies' Home, in Kampala.

Faith's new role at the orphanage provided housing for her and her children as well as income to support them. Best of all, working with infants was her dream job. Part of her responsibility was to place babies in homes. **Faith owned land in Masooli, a poor village 10 miles from the orphanage, and had come to know and care for some of its residents. Knowing they would offer love and care, she began placing some infants there.** But the good work Faith was doing was interrupted when Idi Amin came into power.

Under Amin's rule, Faith felt her life and the lives of her children were in grave danger. She knew that she needed to find a safe place for them.

Around this time, Faith's daughter Sanyu was accepted into the program "Up With People," which led to an opportunity for her as well as Faith's son Michael and daughter Mabel to get scholarships to attend the University of Hartford. Happily, Faith sent the three of them to Connecticut to begin their education and soon after sent her younger two children there, as well. And soon Faith, herself, would give up her dream job and the country she called home to begin a new life in the United States. (Continued on page 4.)



The late Faith Mulira (second from left) with her dear friends Gordon (l.) and Nancy Crouch (r.) during construction of the clinic. 3

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When she arrived in Connecticut, Faith learned that her nursing credentials would not be accepted by U.S. medical standards. Undaunted, she began working as an aide to the elderly in their homes, even though the sacrifice of her nursing career and all that she had worked so hard for was very difficult. During this time, one of her patients was Nancy Crouch's father. Rev. Bob Naylor was senior minister at First Church of Christ in Simsbury, CT at the time. As Nancy and Gordon Crouch's pastor, he would visit Nancy's father regularly, and during these visits, Faith would tell Rev. Naylor and the Crouches about her dream of building a modern clinic in Masooli, where she owned land.

**Faith explained how the people of Masooli - especially the babies she had placed there from Sanyu Babies Home - were suffering and dying unnecessarily from communicable diseases that could be easily treated if they only had access to medical care.** Rev. Naylor immediately said that he would like to help, but unexpectedly he was transferred to a new church in Fairfield. Undeterred, **Faith turned to the Crouches, sharing her dream and vision for a clinic in Masooli. Having experienced their kindness and generosity, Faith felt her prayers were being answered.** As for the Crouches, they were not so sure! How could they help build a brand new clinic in Uganda? Who was going to donate to a clinic in rural Africa? But Faith was undeterred and did not give up. She believed that God had a plan!

**Want to know more about Faith? We'll continue this story in our next newsletter! Also go to [www.masooliproject.org](http://www.masooliproject.org). Check out the YouTube video of Faith sharing her story about the Masooli clinic.**

## **Preventive Screenings and Care for the Community— And Always, a Focus on Mothers and Babies**

Bringing high-quality, affordable health care services to the community is no longer just the dream of Faith Mulira—it is a regular practice at Faith Mulira Health Care Centre. **Working in close collaboration with local district health authorities, the clinic conducts immunization clinics, HIV/AIDs testing, screenings for a wide range of infectious diseases and delivers health education sessions.** These vital community-based health services are a stepping stone to building a healthier population. At the same time, they enhance patient awareness of the clinic's ability to provide follow-up treatment, a wide range of routine care and, with the new facilities, minor surgeries and more comprehensive maternity care.



Since opening, **Faith Mulira Health Care Centre has aimed to be the facility of choice for local mothers-to-be,** where they can receive a full package of pre-natal services, including regular check-ups during pregnancy and ultrasound scanning. **The new inpatient and surgical facilities build on this foundation and will enable the staff to provide non-routine pregnancy care and C-section deliveries. This, in turn, will help retain these moms and their babies as patients for post-natal care, well baby visits, immunizations and other services.**



# Faith Mulira Health Care Centre Continues Participation in PEPFAR DREAMS Program

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), begun in 2003 by U.S. President George W. Bush, is a large-scale international commitment of the U.S. that has directed over \$100 billion toward the global HIV/AIDS response. Worldwide, an estimated 25 million lives have been saved and millions of HIV infections prevented as a result of PEPFAR programs. **Faith Mulira Health Care Centre has benefited from many of the PEPFAR programs operating in Uganda, including as a recipient of vital resources to test for and treat HIV/AIDS.**

One recent PEPFAR initiative is the DREAMS program. **DREAMS – an acronym for Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe – aims to promote economic empowerment among adolescent girls and young women ages 15 to 24 years.** It does this by addressing factors that make them particularly vulnerable to contracting HIV, such as lack of access to comprehensive reproductive health knowledge, family dynamics and structural barriers, including gender-based violence, exclusion from economic opportunities and lack of access to secondary school.

**Over the past two years, Faith Mulira Health Care Centre has proudly served as a local community sponsor of DREAMS.** Participant support provided by the Masooli clinic focuses on areas of health education, including sexual reproductive health and HIV testing. DREAMS also offers young women the chance to learn valuable livelihood skills such as secretarial skills, soap-making, hairdressing and videography. Through these combined efforts, participants are empowered with both personal health and practical life skills that can help reduce poverty, which has been proven to help reduce HIV transmission.



**Earlier this year, 47 adolescent girls and young women completed the DREAMS program, gaining important health awareness at the Masooli clinic as well as practical skills that they can use immediately to earn a living. This fall, Faith Mulira Health Care Centre will welcome another 58 young participants who will begin their journey through DREAMS.**



# Our Finances



	FY 2023	YTD 2024 (thru 9/30/2024)
<b>Cash at Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$ 48,493</b>	<b>\$ 63,337</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Individual Donations	\$ 51,680	\$ 26,675
Restricted Grants	20,000	10,000
Corporate Donations	13,587	18,300
Other Fundraising	740	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 86,007</b>	<b>\$ 54,975</b>
<b>Operating and Administrative Expenses</b>		
Grants:		
<b>Quarterly Grants to Faith Mulira Health Care Centre</b>	<b>\$ 48,500</b>	<b>\$ 36,000*</b>
<b>Special Renovation Grants</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>15,000**</b>
Website Maintenance, Donor Communications, Postage	989	200
Banking Fees, Tax Preparation, State Filing Fees	865	630
Fundraising Expenses	2,509	000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 71,163</b>	<b>\$ 51,830</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 14,844</b>	<b>\$ 3,145</b>
<b>Cash Balance at End of Period</b>	<b>\$ 63,337</b>	<b>\$ 66,482</b>

**\*We will fulfill our 2024 operating grant commitment of \$48,000 by yearend. Operating grant funds pay for most of the clinic's normal operating expenses.** The Board of Directors determines the annual grant commitment each year, based on factors including available funds and the clinic's needs.

**\*\*A special grant agreement entered into between The Masooli Project and Faith Mulira Health Care Centre for 2024 has helped fund the purchase of durable medical equipment and other required items for the new surgical theater and maternity ward and to support this year's Founder's Day. Before yearend 2024, we will send an additional \$11,000, bringing the total sent under this year's special grant agreement to \$26,000.**

***The clinic's continued success depends on the generosity and support of our donors and friends. Thank you for financially supporting the work of Faith Mulira Health Care Centre.***

The Masooli Project, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. To donate:  
 By mail: The Masooli Project, Inc., P.O. Box 1001, Simsbury, CT 06070  
 Online: Go to [www.masooliproject.org](http://www.masooliproject.org)