

# FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

*April 2018 Newsletter*



Spring appears to have finally sprung here in Minnesota. The snow is melting, the birds are singing and yours truly is feeling particularly upbeat.

And it's more than the weather. At the end of last year, in the fifth of its operation, the Ruth Gaylord Hospital in Maganjo, Uganda, finally achieved self-sustainment. It closed its books in the black with a modest surplus. Moreover, just days ago, we learned that the Hubbard Broadcasting

Foundation awarded us a grant of \$50,000 to procure an X-ray machine for the hospital's Imaging Center.

The hospital's remarkable progress is a tribute to your generosity and support. You have truly been an answer to our prayers!

The spring sun is shining and a loving God, smiling.

It gets no better!

Gratefully,

Reverend Dennis Dease



## ***Thank you, Friends of East Africa!***

*The Ruth Gaylord Hospital's sturdy "new" 2009 Toyota Hilux double-cab pickup truck arrived in November. And, as you can see, it's also "branded" with your generosity.*

*The truck transports Ruth Gaylord Hospital staff, supplies and medications to public health outreach missions, saving the ambulance for patients who need emergency transportation to the hospital.*

*This model has been called "indestructible." Given Uganda's road conditions, we certainly hope so!*

## No more blurry vision: Hundreds get newly recycled eyeglasses

More than 550 Ugandans are seeing more clearly today, thanks to the Ruth Gaylord Hospital's partnership with ReSpectacle, a nonprofit that recycles used eyeglasses. Pictured here are some of the happy beneficiaries.

Middle age often brings hyperopia – farsightedness. For many Americans, it means a simple trip to the drugstore for some over-the-counter reading glasses. But it was more than annoying for **Betty Nakiyimba** (right). The 53-year-old tailor couldn't thread a needle!



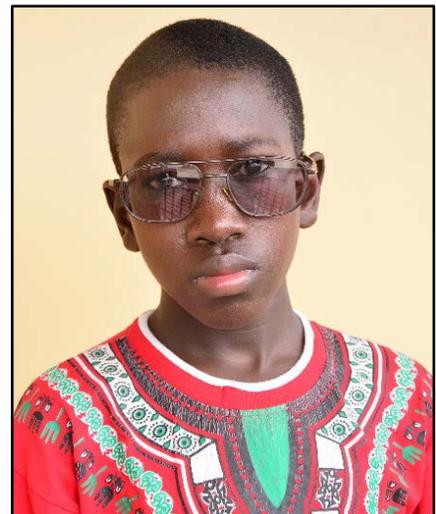
Last summer's ReSpectacle delivery to Ruth Gaylord Hospital included new prescription eyeglasses for Betty, who now can sew again and read with ease.

**Fideli Mugisha**, 49 (left), had similar challenges with his vision. He couldn't read text messages on his phone nor read his favorite book: The Bible. He was overjoyed when his new specs arrived and he could see

his name on the attendance sheet at Ruth Gaylord Hospital.

**Allan Mugabi** (right) is 14. Nearsightedness meant he couldn't read the blackboard at school. Eyeglasses are boosting his classroom experience, and while he isn't smiling in this photo, he's much happier in school today.

Thanks, ReSpectacle! Visit [www.respectacle.org](http://www.respectacle.org) to learn more about how you can help with this effort.



## Bricks and mortar build apartments ... and endowments!

Get out your hard hats! Construction is well underway in Uganda on a \$705,000 investment: three new apartment buildings on the Ruth Gaylord Hospital campus.

Under construction are the Gary S. Holmes Residence, a nine-unit building pictured here, and the Susan and Thomas Bisanz Residence and the Megan and Dennis Doyle Residence, eight- and nine-unit buildings respectively.

Thanks to the enormous generosity of the lead donors for which they are

named, the buildings are going up nearly simultaneously – a most cost-effective way to build multiple-building developments.

Slated for completion in fall 2019, the new apartments will generate rental income to cover costs of future hospital equipment replacement, ambulance maintenance, public health outreach and gaps between patient payments and the full costs of care – all without passing along increased costs to patients. They also will help meet growing demand in the Maganjo area for affordable housing.



*In this photo taken in mid-March, construction of the Gary S. Holmes Residence is well under way. The Susan and Thomas Bisanz Residence and the Megan and Dennis Doyle Residence soon will follow.*

## Our 'Field of Dreams': 2018 goals respond to hospital's growth

In his recent report to the Board of Directors of Hope Medical Clinics Uganda, Ruth Gaylord Hospital CEO Peter Kiggundu noted the hospital's steady growth: Patient visits grew by nearly 20.6 percent in 2017, from 14,134 in 2016 to 17,044. Most growth was in the outpatient department, which saw 2,223 more patients in 2017 than it had the previous year.

Kiggundu said the hospital expanded its services in 2017:

- A gynecologist is available four days a week, rather than on call
- A pediatrician has office hours three days each week
- Physiotherapy Services has office hours three days a week and is available daily on call.

The hospital now relies on Lancel Laboratories in Kampala to perform laboratory tests that it cannot provide on its own, Kiggundu said. He expressed special gratitude to the Friends of East Africa Foundation for recently funding the acquisition of a chemistry analyzer for the RGH Laboratory Department.

This equipment determines the concentration of certain metabolites, electrolytes, proteins, and/or drugs in samples of serum, plasma, urine, cerebrospinal fluid and/or other body fluids.

The chemistry analyzer helps hospital staff to perform tests of renal and liver function, generate lipid profiles, and

obtain hemoglobin and blood glucose measurements and more.

Kiggundu also noted that the hospital's free programs have become even stronger. RGH charges less than \$1 for physician consultations, and malaria tests are free. Last year the hospital averaged 647 malaria tests per month, with more than 22 percent positive.

The Friends of East Africa Foundation seeks to meet these funding priorities for Ruth Gaylord Hospital in 2018:

- To create and equip a **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit** to specialize in the care of ill or premature infants. Needed: \$28,131
- To create and develop a **Mini (Two-Bed) High-Dependency Unit**. Needed: \$9,518
- To create and equip a **new Dental Care Unit**. Needed: \$10,452
- To **fence the hospital campus** and improve security. Needed: \$41,000.
- To build an additional (200,000-liter) **rainwater reservoir** near the apartment residences. Needed: \$8,000
- To create an **on-site oxygen plant**. Needed: \$88,500.

These funding priorities total **\$185,601**. We hope you can help! Together, we've built quite a hospital. And, to adapt that famous "Field of Dreams" quote, "If you build it, they will come!"

**The Friends of East Africa Foundation is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation designated by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are fully tax deductible and may be sent to: The Friends of East Africa Foundation, 2130 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105**