

FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

April 2021 Newsletter



You probably know the expression, "It takes a village to raise a child." It originated in African proverbs long before Hillary Rodham Clinton's 1996 book.

A member of our Friends of East Africa Foundation "village" is Pat Sirek, founding editor of this newsletter. Also an assistant to University of St. Thomas President Julie Sullivan, Pat has decided the time has come, after a 33-year career at the university, to sail off into retirement.

Since FOEAF's inception in 2013, Pat has kept our friends and benefactors abreast of the progress of our Ruth Gaylord Hospital in Uganda. We shall sorely miss her for many reasons, especially her genuinely impressive writing skills, her consistently upbeat demeanor and great sense of humor.

June 30, 2021, will be Pat's last day with us. We wish her

and Mike Sirek, her husband of nearly 44 years, all the best. Pat will take with her our profound and lasting gratitude.

We also are so grateful for the multitude of generous donors who make our "village" sing: You! You covered *all* of FOEAF's 2020 funding priorities! Thank you! Read on for our latest achievements ... and our newest hopes and dreams.



Pat Sirek

Dennis Dease

Reverend Dennis Dease
Chair of the Board of Directors



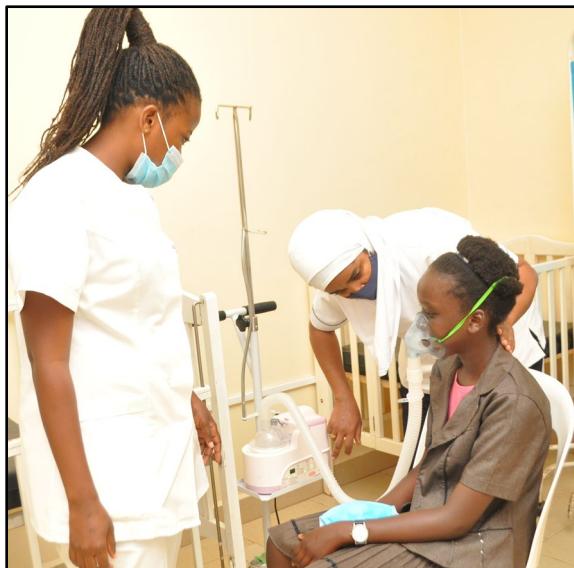
Here's a bird's-eye view of the Ruth Gaylord Hospital campus.

2021 brings new funding priorities for Friends of East Africa

On the heels of a wonderfully successful fundraising year that can only be described as miraculous, we hope you and your friends will consider these needs as you make charitable giving plans this year:

1. To **translate into local Ugandan tribal languages** George Halvorson's 2015 book, *Three Key Years*, for use within the prenatal education program at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo – \$9,500

Three Key Years explains what parents, family, childcare providers and communities all can do to nourish and strengthen children's brain development in their first three years of life.



Ruth Gaylord Hospital nurses Juliet Nalwoga (left) and Salma Juma employ one of the new ultrasonic nebulizers to treat 10-year-old Jemimah Mary Agenurmoth, who has asthma.

You made possible this life-saving equipment; its purchase was among our 2020 funding priorities. Thank you!

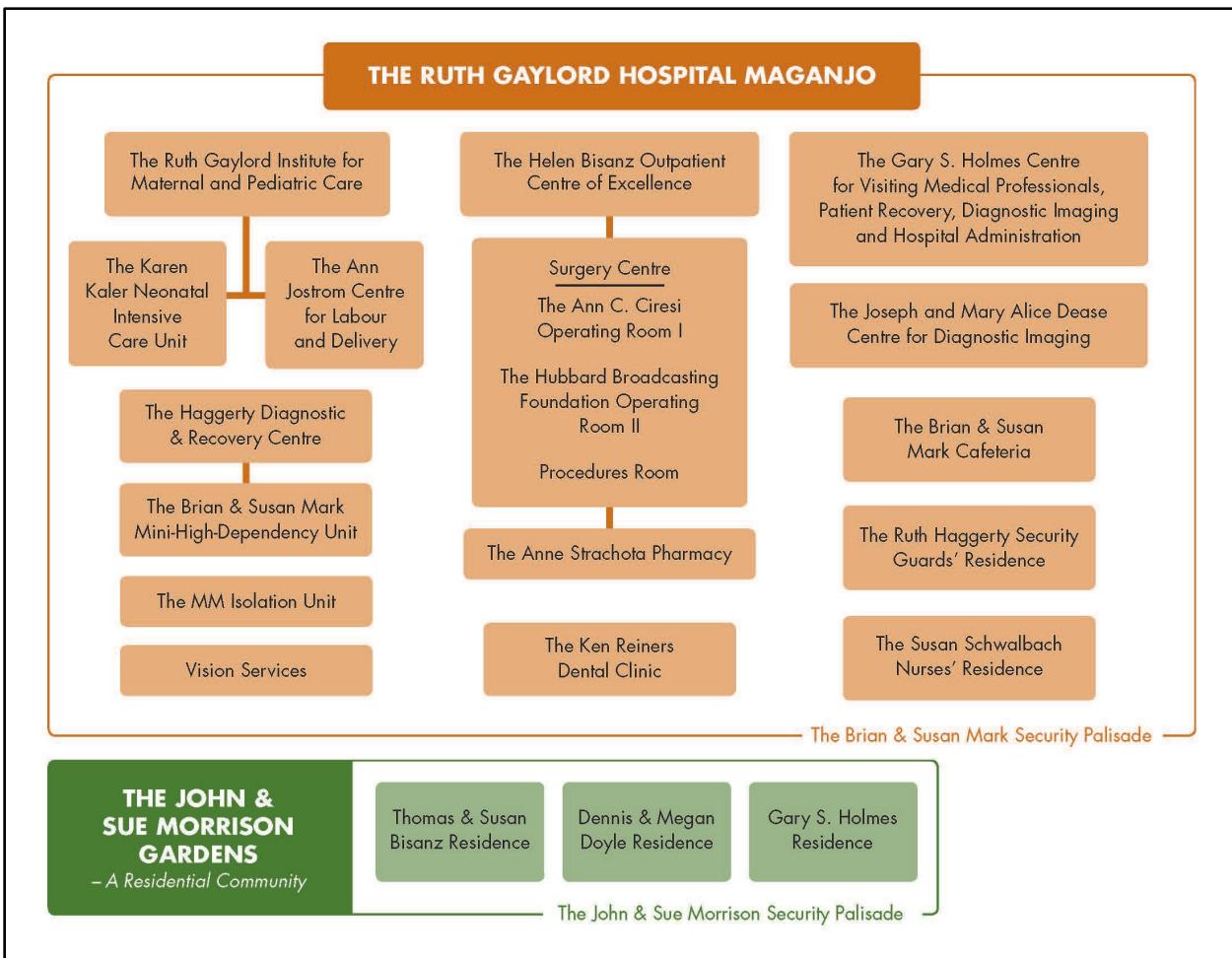
The hospital already has incorporated the book's main concepts into its program. While English is Uganda's language of state, many parents and caregivers would find a translated version more accessible and beneficial.

Halvorson was CEO of HealthPartners in Minnesota for 17 years before serving as CEO and chairman of Kaiser Permanente, a California-headquartered managed care consortium, from 2002-2014. In 2012 he founded the Institute for Intergroup Understanding, which works on issues of racism, prejudice, discrimination and intergroup stress and conflict.

Halvorson has published nine books on health care reform, including *Health Care Co-Ops in Uganda* (2007) as well as *Ending Racial, Ethnic and Cultural Disparities in American Health Care* (2013).

2. To **purchase a ventilator** for use in the hospital's new Karen F. Kaler Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. This equipment is used to provide oxygen to newborns who cannot yet breathe spontaneously on their own. – \$30,000
3. To **purchase a cardiotocography (CTG) machine**, which records fetal heartbeats and mothers' uterine contractions during pregnancy and labor – \$5,600
4. To **purchase a neonatal point-of-care test machine**, which is used to test blood gases, electrolytes and other key indicators for babies in critical condition – \$9,100.

What's in a name? Honor, generosity and more!



Illustrated above are many services and facilities offered on the campus of Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo. Most are named for their major donors, whose gifts to the Friends of East Africa Foundation made them possible. Thank you!

Midwife Olivious Amutuhaire examined 21-year-old Harriet Nshemerirwe's new little son, one of 41 babies born last month at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo. Harriet and her baby – who weighed a little over 7 pounds – went home in good health the day after his birth. Good prenatal care and education gives these children a strong start at healthy lives.



Morrison Gardens complex nearly ready for first residents

The John and Sue Morrison Gardens – a new residential community that includes three apartment residences named for Thomas and Sue Bisanz, Dennis and Megan Doyle, and Gary S. Holmes – is close to completion on the Ruth Gaylord Hospital campus!

The spacious, light-filled apartments feature gleaming tile, beautiful cabinetry, roomy closets and all the comforts of home. Residents' rent will build funds for the hospital's endowment.



The Friends of East Africa Foundation is a nonprofit corporation designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are fully tax-deductible. Checks may be mailed to:
The Friends of East Africa Foundation, 2130 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 5510