



FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

December 2018 Newsletter



Something is so moving in pictures of Ugandan children who have had surgery. To them and their families, this treatment is nothing short of miraculous, and it shows.

Just 41 surgeons work in Uganda, a country of 41 million. That's right: There's only one surgeon for every million people in the country. Moreover, surgery is affordable to very few, no matter how grave the need.



In October a team of surgeons and anesthesiologists from the University of Minnesota Medical School offered a weeklong, free-surgery "camp" at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo. They do this twice a year, and this year, pediatric surgeons joined the trip too.

The young guy below was all smiles after his operation. Maybe it's because the surgeons removed a large, painful cyst from his back ... or maybe it's because they also rewarded him with some *fast* Hot Wheels cars. Pediatric professionals know how to make just about anything fun!

The surgical team also repaired hernias of adult patients who had suffered with them for two and even three decades. (I had to wait only three months for my recent hernia surgery, and that day couldn't have come soon enough!)

To the 30 patients blessed with these successful surgeries, these doctors were angels. The hospital staff asked me to thank the other angels who helped make this possible: you.

May God bless you richly in this holy season!

Dennis Dease

Reverend Dennis Dease

Left: University of Minnesota Surgery Resident Alexa Coughlan, M.D., and her happy patient, 12-year-old Peter Ddamba [Photo by Evan Eklund]



Yes, Virginia, the Ruth Gaylord Hospital has a ‘wish list’

As you make your year-end giving plans, know that The Friends of East Africa Foundation is eager to make the following “Christmas wishes” come true at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo:

- 🎁 Purchase two dialysis units: \$55,000
- 🎁 Extend the security wall around the hospital’s 5.2-acre compound: \$16,000 will complete the funding for this \$41,000 project
- 🎁 Upgrade the suite for mothers in labor: \$17,975
- 🎁 Provide the septic system and landscaping for the new apartment buildings under construction on the hospital campus: \$11,500
- 🎁 Create and equip a new dental care unit: \$10,452
- 🎁 Create and equip a mini (two-bed) high-dependency unit for critical

patients who do not need highly specialized equipment such as ventilators and CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) machines: \$9,518

- 🎁 Purchase 32 additional hospital beds and mattresses: \$9,000
- 🎁 Construct another 200,000-liter rainwater reservoir for the hospital campus: \$8,000
- 🎁 Erect a water tower for the potable water drawn from the new well: \$7,000
- 🎁 Provide for surgical supplies, meals and miscellaneous expenses for University of Minnesota Medical School surgeons during two free surgery camps each year: \$6,000

It may take an army of Santas and a fleet of sleighs, but we’re confident we can help the hospital reach these goals!



University of Minnesota Anesthesiology Resident Elizabeth Webber, M.D., reassured young Peter Ddamba as he was prepared for surgery.

[Photo by Evan Eklund]



Pictured above, left to right, at the affiliation's recent signing ceremony at the University of Minnesota: the Rev. Dennis Dease, chair of the board of the Friends of East Africa Foundation; Gregory Beilman, M.D., professor of surgery, and Jakub Tolar, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School; and Charles Lugemwa, chair of the board of Hope Medical Clinics Uganda, RGH's parent organization. [Photo credit: Mark Brown, University of St. Thomas]

U of M Medical School and RGH enter historic affiliation

September 28, 2018, was a red letter day – or should we say a maroon and gold day? – for the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo (RGHM).

On that special day representatives of the University of Minnesota Medical School's Surgery Residency Program and RGHM signed an agreement of institutional and program affiliation. The affiliation will provide educational clinical experiences at RGHM for Uganda's Makerere University medical school residents and fellows who have received surgical training at the University of Minnesota.

Thanks to a challenge grant from Minnesota philanthropist and businessman Gary Holmes, sufficient funds now have been raised for Makerere's young doctors to begin

surgery residencies at Minnesota. Makerere is Uganda's oldest and largest public university, but the surgical trainees at its medical school "have a significant lack of exposure to current trends in surgical care ... and could potentially benefit from experiences in a U.S. academic medical center," said University of Minnesota Medical School professor Dr. Gregory Beilman.

Beilman, who has organized and led three surgical missions by U of M surgeons to RGHM over the past two years, points out that the Makerere relationship also will help to build RGHM's surgical capacity. He now is investigating similar training opportunities at Minnesota for Makerere's anesthesiology residents.

Watch for more as these opportunities continue to develop!



The Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo extends wishes for a blessed Christmas!



*[Photos by
Evan Eklund]*



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Checks, made payable to the
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may be sent to:

Friends of East Africa Foundation
2130 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Questions? Call (651) 962-8520

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