

FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

A MOST WONDERFUL GIFT!

Charles Lugemwa, Cofounder of the Ruth Gaylord Hospital and Chair of the Board of Directors of its parent nonprofit organization, Hope Medical Clinics Uganda, lost his one-year, four-months-old daughter, Collette, in 2005 during a relatively minor illness due to a prescription medication mix-up by a “nurse” who had not yet learned to read. Grief led



Collette Lugemwa

him and his wife, Maria, to establish Hope Medical Clinics Uganda in the hope that they could help spare other parents the unnecessary loss

of a child. One clinic became two and then eventually, through your generous gifts, a maternity and pediatric hospital. Its motto,

“Every mother goes home with a healthy baby. Every baby goes home with a healthy mother.”

The Ruth Gaylord Hospital opened on March 21, 2013, a date chosen by the nuns who staffed it. During the opening ceremony it suddenly occurred to me that this was my late mother’s birthday.

Two-and-a-half years later, on December 9, 2015, at about five in the morning someone walking past the hospital’s front gate heard the muffled cries of an infant. Looking around in the darkness he found there, wrapped in a piece of cloth under a sheet of construction plastic, a newborn baby, its mother’s placenta still attached. He took it up the path to the hospital. Since it was two months premature, and since the Ruth Gaylord Hospital did not at the time have a neonatal intensive care

unit (NICU), the staff transferred the baby to a hospital that did, where it was placed in an incubator.

Charles and Maria secured official authorization for the baby’s adoption, but when they went to pick the child up, to their horror they learned that the child was no longer there,

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Charles Lugemwa is cofounder of the Ruth Gaylord Hospital and serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of its parent nonprofit, Hope Medical Clinics Uganda. His fulltime occupation is as Manager, Business Intelligence, in the Research and Innovations Division, IT Department, the Ugandan Revenue Authority. He holds a bachelor’s degree in statistics and applied economics from Makerere University, Kampala 1997, and a M.S. in software engineering from the University of St. Thomas.

Wonderful Gift, continued

and there was no record of its release. Staff were questioned and one eventually admitted that she had sold the infant. The Lugemwas located the baby, took her home and named her “Baby Ruth,” for them, a most wonderful Christmas gift: the embodiment of God’s love!



Baby Ruth, about two hours after being discovered.

ANOTHER MOST WONDERFUL GIFT!

For several years now the Ruth Gaylord Hospital has been hoping to find a way to add an intensive care unit (ICU) to its array of services. The Covid-19 pandemic has made the need even more pressing. In our September *Newsletter* we listed it among our top three priorities. Truth be told, however, we weren’t overly optimistic, given that the cost of construction and equipment came to a daunting \$193,290. Shortly after the *Newsletter* went out, however, Susan Schwalbach, an early lead benefactor of the Ruth Gaylord Hospital, provided funding for the entire amount! The project is now underway.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Our East African Friends have pressed me to convey to you their undying appreciation for what you, the Friends of East Africa, have done for them, their families and their community. You have shared with them the most wonderful Christmas gift ever: your love, embodied in the form of the Ruth Gaylord Hospital!



Dennis Dease

Dennis Dease President

No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

UPDATE

This past year past year has been a particularly traumatic one for Ugandans. Without access to the Covid-19 vaccines, and very limited access to quality healthcare, it seemed like just about everyone was losing family and friends – even among those who were relatively young and healthy. In August we were able to make the case with a friend on the White House Covid-19 Response Team for shipping vaccine to Uganda. The first shipment contained 650,000 doses. The second, 1.3 million. Since the country has a population of 45 million, those doses were deployed strategically. Here’s a report from the Ruth Gaylord Hospital’s CEO, Peter Kiggundu:

The hospital is faring well, [and returning] to normal operations after the second Covid-19 wave [began to subside] in August. We have served as many patients in the first nine months of this year as we did in the entire last year.

The country has received several donations of covid-19 vaccines from the USA, Europe and China. Healthcare workers, teachers, older people, people with comorbidities, and the clergy were prioritized, as vaccine availability increased. Vaccines are now open for anyone above 18 years of age and there is hope of relaxing lockdown restrictions in January, including opening of schools. Places of worship are now open but restricted to 200 worshippers.

Peter is hopeful that increased vaccinations will drive a continued recovery.



Peter Kiggundu has served as CEO since July 21st, 2014. He holds two degrees from the University of St. Thomas (UST): B.A., 2011, with double major in accounting and entrepreneurship; M.B.A., 2013.



Conrad Lugemwa and his new, little sister.

stories.....FROM THE RUTH GAYLORD

Jane Juan, 28 years old, gave birth to a baby boy on October 30th and was discharged to go home on November 2nd with both the mother and baby in good condition.



On September 7th, 2021 Asuman Mukisa, 12 years old, was brought into the Ruth Gaylord Hospital with what the medical staff described as a left anterior ankle ulcer and developing ankle contracture following a burn after stepping into a hot kiln used for charcoal production near his home. Following admission, he received wound care with subsequent skin grafting and contracture release done in the O.R. He was discharged to continue wound care at home. Six weeks later, the wound had healed well, and he could now walk, albeit with an abnormal gait, which was greatly improved after two weeks of daily physiotherapy sessions.



Asuman, during one physiotherapy routine.

MORE
stories
FROM THE RUTH GAYLORD



Florence Nattu, 21 years old, came in with early labor signs in a postdate pregnancy. She later delivered a baby girl on October 30th and was discharged to go home on November 1, 2021.



A baby being vaccinated on a routine vaccination day.

Dauda Ssenabulya, 6 years old, had been brought in by his father and was managed for pharyngotonsillitis. The family has been accessing their healthcare services with us since 2016.



Julian Namanya, 37 years old, had her first pregnancy at an older age compared to most of the mothers we manage. She delivered her baby by cesarean section on October 6th, 2021 and had returned for her one month's review when we took this image. Mother and baby are both progressing well.



Jesca Nairuba (left), physiotherapist, attending to a patient in the physiotherapy room.

A newly born baby in the labor suite before transfer to her mother's room, on November 5th, 2021. We delivered 37 babies in October and a total of 377 in the first 10 months of this year.



Valine Nabaggala, 16 years old. A known sickler, Valine came in a painful crisis with an aching back and joints. She had a low oxygen circulation and elevated blood pressure. She was managed on supplemental oxygen among other treatment and improved well. We have been managing her for this condition for over three years.

**RUTH GAYLORD
HOSPITAL NEEDS
2021-2022**

IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

1. Oxygen and Medical Air Plant. To generate oxygen and medical air for patients who need oxygen therapy: \$100,000
2. Replacement of the Chemistry Analyzer (Liver Function Tests, Renal Function Tests, Lipid profile, etc.): \$14,783
3. Blood Gas machine, with electrolytes component - wet type, and other tests (blood gases are a measurement of how much oxygen & carbon dioxide are in the blood): \$12,319
4. Equipping the MM Isolation Unit patient rooms: \$4,600
5. Mobile flexible lamp for the delivery room for use when stitching; c-section and MVA sets: \$6,058
6. Microscope: \$2,232
7. Laboratory Centrifuge (used to separate samples at high rates of rotation): \$1,014.
8. Laboratory water bath (used to incubate samples in water at a constant temperature): \$319
9. CTG Machine (measures the baby's heart rate & the mother's contractions during labor): \$5,850
10. Back-up power generator: For the Morrison Residence Apartments: \$22,857
11. Mortuary Equipment: \$21,805
12. Mortuary Building: \$25,714