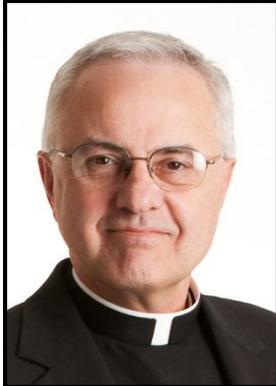




FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

September 2015 Newsletter



newsletter!" I'm that busy, I guess! So here's the first one.

As many of you know, I work for St. Thomas as president emeritus, reporting to President Julie Sullivan. She is a fine human being and an absolutely terrific leader for St. Thomas – a real find for us and an extraordinary blessing!

I'm also delighted to be continuing some work that's especially dear to my heart. During the years when I served as UST's president, we had significant numbers of East African students at St. Thomas. From them I learned about a critical need for health care in their region and how incredibly far a U.S. dollar can go in providing it. So about five years ago, Megan and Dennis Doyle (who founded Matter, formerly known as Hope for the City), 2004 St. Thomas alumnus Charles Lujemwa and I started Hope Medical Clinics Uganda (HMCU), a nongovernmental organization incorporated in Kampala. I also started a little 501(c)(3) organization here in the

Since I retired two years ago after 22 years as president of the University of St. Thomas, my friends have kept asking what I'm up to these days. When I tell them, they say, "You should have a

United States called the Friends of East Africa Foundation (FOEAF); it serves to channel support to HMCU and provide some scholarships for East Africans.

We became aware of shockingly high maternal and infant mortality rates in Uganda. We realized that we had to do something. Why? Because we knew we could and our faith told us we should.

Fast forward to March 21, 2013, on the edge of Kampala, Uganda. That's the day we gathered with so many friends and helpers to formally open our "dream come true," the 64-bed [Ruth Gaylord Hospital](#). Its focus is on maternal and pediatric care; its motto is: "Every mother goes home with a healthy baby, and every





baby, with a healthy mom.” This little hospital also provides general emergency services as well as dental care.

The Archbishop of Kampala and other community leaders gave speeches, and local Catholic school children gave music and drum performances to dedicate the new hospital. During the ceremony, I suddenly realized that this special



day was also the birthday of my own late mom, Mary Alice Dease, mother of nine. I knew she was smiling!

Infants and small children, whose immune systems are still developing,

are so vulnerable to the major threats they face: malaria, other tropical infections and waterborne pathogens. East African doctors often tell new parents: “Until this child is 5, it is not

yours. It is God’s.” Just being born in sub-Saharan Africa is a great risk.

In July 2014, we hired a CEO for the hospital: Peter Kiggundu, another Ugandan Tommie. He double majored in accounting and entrepreneurship, and then earned an M.B.A. here in 2013. He has been a godsend, as last year the hospital served 10,255 patients!

This summer, with the generous help of the Doyles, the hospital acquired a Perkins 15KVA diesel generator large



enough to easily handle the power needs of the entire hospital complex during grid interruption. They

also funded a high-quality commercial washer and dryer.

Our current challenge is to complete our 19,012 square-foot “Building C” before the rainy season. Its three levels, ramped for handicap accessibility, will enable us to provide space for our men patients as well as residential apartments for interns, residents, visiting doctors and nurses. I must raise \$99,000 to complete this project and would, of course, welcome assistance at any level.

That’s what I’ve been up to! You can find the Friends of East Africa Foundation at 2130 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105. If you need more information, I’d love to hear from you. My office phone number is (651) 962-8520.

As ever, warm regards!

Dennis Dease

Ruth Gaylord Hospital Statistics, First Six Months of 2014 and 2015

YEAR	INPATIENTS	Change	OUTPATIENTS	Change	ANTENATAL VISITS	Change	NORMAL DELIVERIES	Change
January-June 2014	535		3,518		274		68	
January-June 2015	280	-48%	4,898	+48%	366	+34%	105	+54%



This little fellow came to the hospital critically ill with malaria, but he's well now.

Peter Kiggundu, chief executive officer of the Ruth Gaylord Hospital, reported that the hospital treated 868 patients for malaria – 14 percent of total hospital visits – in the first six months of 2015. Other common ailments treated between January and June of this year were respiratory tract infections (484 patients), urinary tract infections (351) and conditions such as pneumonia, gastroenteritis, ulcers and injuries sustained in traffic accidents.

Because of a significant change in the way malaria patients are managed, inpatient visits have been reduced by nearly half. Quinine has been replaced with a more-advanced drug, Artesunate, which can be given by injection once every 12 hours rather than intravenously. Diagnoses also are accomplished more quickly with laboratory tests rather than admitting patients for monitoring and observation. As a result, outpatient services are growing while the number of inpatient admissions was down last year.

“After we open the [surgery] theatre, most likely in September, then we expect to have more inpatients,” Kiggundu added.

YEAR	SCANS	DENTAL VISITS	GRAND TOTAL	Change
January-June 2014	199	200	4,736	
January-June 2015	230	219	6,098	+29%

Ruth Gaylord Hospital shares news, progress with foundation

Ruth Gaylord Hospital CEO Peter Kiggundu, noted the following in his April 29, 2015, report to the Friends of East Africa Foundation:

- The hospital has upgraded its laboratory. Lab revenues will help keep the hospital affordable.



- Thanks to generous donors, the hospital has acquired an ambulance! Ruth Gaylord Hospital is able to provide timely transfers of critical patients it refers to other facilities as well as of new patients unable to reach the hospital on their own.
- New “thunder arrestors,” which prevent damage to equipment and buildings in the event of lightning strikes, have been installed on the hospital’s three buildings. The hospital has installed a central power stabilizer that protects its equipment from power surges.
- Ruth Gaylord Hospital’s waiting room now has a television!

- Ruth Gaylord Hospital is currently operationally self-sustaining; that is, generating enough revenue to pay for operating expenses.
- When all construction is complete, paved walkways and parking areas will enhance the cleanliness of the hospital campus.
- The hospital looks forward to offering more community outreach programs, providing education (such as typhoid prevention) as well as supporting material (e.g., mosquito nets). Local government has provided financing to cover immunizations, deworming and Vitamin A, but many needs still cannot be financed locally.
- Security cameras are next on the hospital’s “wish list,” once it completes construction of Building C.
- The hospital looks forward to completing installation of operating room equipment and supplies and beginning operations such as caesarean sections and hernia repairs.

