



FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

April 2017 Newsletter



A onetime college president, I always enjoyed commencement day, when graduates sparked with promise, hope and achievement.

On June 11, I'll be applauding at a very special commencement ceremony at Lincoln Center in New York City. It seems so fitting that Godino Kalungi will receive his diploma on a stage in the "the Big Apple." He deserves his name in lights. (Truth be told, his school, St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, has its commencement ceremonies in New York to enable easier travel for its global graduates and their guests.)

I first met Godino, a fresh-faced Ugandan, in 2007, having awarded him a scholarship to the University of St. Thomas. I asked him what he wanted to do with his life. He said he always wanted to be a doctor, but he was going to do something practical, like a major in accounting.

"Why?" I asked.

He replied that he would not have the funds for medical school. I told Godino, "Have some faith, follow your calling and major in pre-med."

This spring, Godino will be awarded M.D. and Master of Public Health degrees. He plans to join the Ruth Gaylord Hospital's medical staff.

I'm delighted he learned his true calling. Congratulations, Godino!

Warm regards!



Reverend Dennis Dease



University of St. Thomas alumnus Godino Kalungi '11 plans a medical career at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital.

2016 report: Hospital makes strides in prevention and treatment

The Ruth Gaylord Hospital makes a strong impact preventing diseases as well as treating them, according to a 2016 annual report by Peter Kiggundu, the hospital's chief executive officer.

In March 2016 the hospital began offering free malaria tests to all patients in addition to free screenings for hypertension and diabetes. Hospital staff also conducted free medical "camps," including one last May that drew more than 500 for health screenings and medication.

The hospital continued offering free immunizations on its main campus and at seven outreach centers in the community. Staff administered 5,460 vaccine doses in 2016 – an average of 455 doses per month. Hospital revenue must support the personnel and travel expenses associated with the immunization program, as Ugandan government grants for these purposes are no longer available to private health care facilities.

Immunizations last year included government-provided vaccines for prevention of polio, diphtheria,



Two University of Minnesota surgeons led a team of surgical volunteers at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital in February. Pictured above are Dr. Greg Beilman (top left) and Dr. Jeff Chipman (right) with (l.-r.) nurse Gonzaga Kisaake, nursing director Annet Namyalo, midwife Resty Nakajugo and CEO Peter Kiggundu.

pertussis, tetanus, human papilloma virus, tuberculosis and measles. The hospital also purchased and administered hepatitis and anti-rabies vaccines and plans to expand its immunization program.

Outpatient visits to Ruth Gaylord Hospital grew by nearly 12 percent, and total visits (in- and outpatient, dental, prenatal, surgical, ultrasounds and deliveries) grew to 14,134.

Malaria management remains a treatment focus at RGH. In 2014 the hospital began using artesunate, a medication now preferred over quinine because it does not require admission to the hospital. While this has served to reduce numbers of inpatient admissions, it has contributed to growing numbers of outpatients.

Also on the upswing at RGH are numbers of ultrasound scans. The hospital provided more than twice as many in 2016 than it did the previous year. Visits for dental care increased too, by nearly 35 percent. Use of the hospital's new operating room increased, too, from two surgeries performed there in 2015 to 73 in 2016.

The 'eyes' have it!

Recycled eyeglasses offer the gift of sight to RGH patients

Hudson, Wis., ophthalmologist Dr. Jeffrey Lynch harnessed inexpensive technology, the internet and the power of volunteers to deliver the gift of sight to people who need eyeglasses, but can't afford them.

Lynch was a St. Louis University medical student in 2006 when, during a mission trip to Peru, he thought there had to be a better way to recycle used eyeglasses, connecting underserved patients with correct prescriptions.

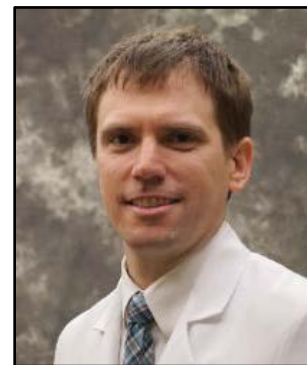
Five years later he founded ReSpectacle, a nonprofit that collects donated glasses, catalogs them by prescription and style in an online database, and ships them to people in need. Today ReSpectacle's inventory has more than 25,000 eyeglasses with happy patients all over the world.

Good vision care is in short supply in Uganda, so the Ruth Gaylord Hospital is a perfect partner for ReSpectacle.

RGH needed only an EyeNetra autorefractor – a mobile self-test device to screen patients for nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism and to measure pupillary distance – and a smartphone. Thanks to a gift to the Friends of East Africa Foundation from benefactor Peggy Grieve, it now has both.

RGH staff will provide vision screenings and take photos of each patient. If the need for prescription eyeglasses is indicated, all the necessary

measurements and information are transmitted to ReSpectacle via the internet. U.S. volunteers get to work, cleaning and sorting donated eyeglasses and uploading descriptions to ReSpectacle's database. Volunteers then can search the site for a pair that best matches a patient's needs.



Dr. Jeffrey Lynch

On May 6, volunteer Tú Trần, a first-year medical student at the University of Minnesota, will deliver the auto-refractor and train RGH staff on the device's use.

University of St. Thomas alumnus Rob White '13, a third-year medical student at Minnesota, also will be involved with efforts to process glasses for RGH patients, as will Dr. Dan

Schoenleber, recently retired program director of the University of Missouri Department of Ophthalmology.



There are 23 ReSpectacle chapters in the United States. Learn more.

Visit www.respectacle.org or follow ReSpectacle on Facebook!

Water pasteurization on the way to Ruth Gaylord Hospital

The University of St. Thomas School of Engineering and three Minnesota-based companies – 3M, Herold Precision Metals and Pentair Corp. – are making possible a cleaner and more plentiful water supply for the Ruth Gaylord Hospital and its neighbors.

Work began in January on an underground reservoir to harvest and store rainwater. Thanks to a challenge grant from the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation and gifts from many Friends of East Africa Foundation benefactors, the hospital was able to double the reservoir’s capacity to 200,000 liters.

Pumps produced at Pentair Corp. will deliver harvested rainwater to a gravity-

[See a time-lapse video of LEMA at work.](#)

driven rooftop distribution system and dispense it for flushing toilets, laundry, cleaning and irrigation.

Also underway is a water pasteurization project to increase the supply of drinkable water for the hospital and its neighbors. St. Thomas engineering professor Dr. John Abraham and alumnus Brian Plourde '10 contributed to the design of LEMA, a highly



Meet LEMA, one of five solar-powered water pasteurization units to be installed on the Ruth Gaylord Hospital campus.

efficient, solar-powered, point-of-use water pasteurizer for the hospital campus. Plourde visited the hospital in March to complete plans for the project.

Fabricated by Herold Precision, each LEMA system has embedded electronics, 3M solar mirror film for capturing optimum solar energy, distribution tanks and a water pump. Five LEMA devices can pasteurize more than 2,000 liters of water each day.

“Over half of all serious illness in Uganda is caused by water-borne pathogens, and all drinking water must be boiled first,” explained Reverend Dennis Dease. “That takes fuel, which is expensive. People there are fortunate if they have even enough cooking fuel. So these solar-powered water pasteurizers seem quite miraculous. They’ll be a great boon to people’s health in the entire area.”



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