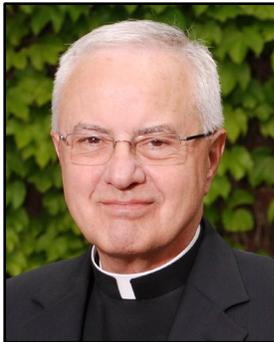


# FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

*September 2019 Newsletter*



Some of you know that I recently marked a special anniversary: 50 years as a Catholic priest!

I remember when anyone over 50 seemed practically ancient to me. At

that time, I never thought much about my health; I just took it for granted. Immunizations? Surgery? Hospitalization? They only fleetingly crossed my mind. Flash forward to today, and the years have granted me new perspective. Today I cherish my good health and the excellent health care I enjoy.

One of the greatest blessings of my life has been the opportunity, over the past few decades, to bring better health care services to the people of East Africa. I am so grateful to all of you who have joined me in this work!

Together we recently earned a \$45,775 challenge grant from the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation! These funds have made possible the creation of a second operating room and a complete upgrade of the Procedures Room at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo. As a result, surgeons from the University of Minnesota Medical School will now *quadruple* the number of free surgeries they provide at RGHM each year. To our friends in Uganda, this is practically miraculous.

Our top funding priority now turns to matching another generous challenge grant: \$100,000 from the Holmes CSM Family Foundation. We are more than halfway to this goal. These funds will enable the completion of three apartment buildings on the RGHM campus. Rent paid by their residents will fund the replacement of high-end hospital equipment, fund health care services for those who cannot afford to pay, and support public health outreach activities such as immunization clinics and educational programs.

As our Ugandan friends often say: “Stay blessed!”

*Dennis Dease*

Reverend Dennis Dease

*See Page 2 to meet this very pretty Ruth Gaylord Hospital patient, 8-year-old Darlene Namutebi, who lives in Kawanda, about eight miles north of Kampala, Uganda.  
[Photo by Ali Busulwa]*

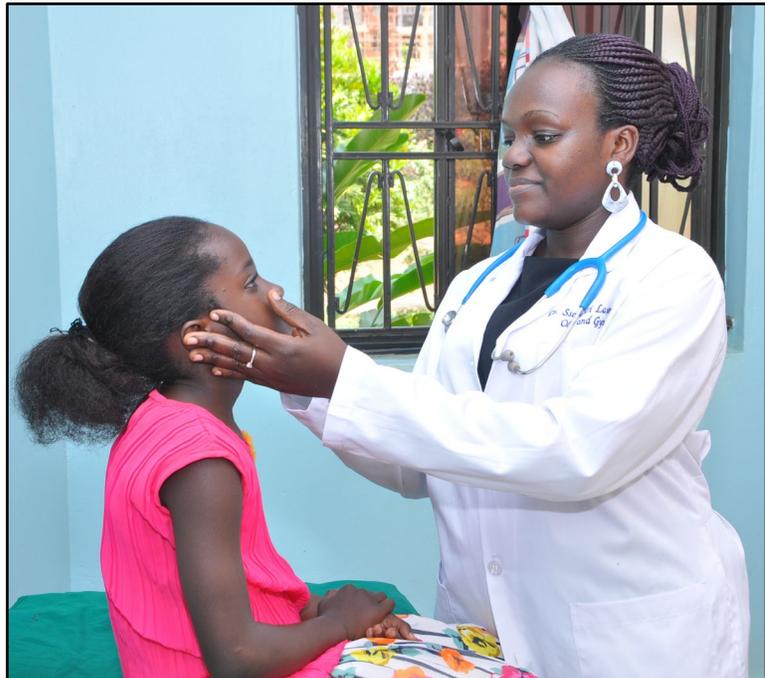


## Surgical 'missions accomplished' for 8-year-old and 28 others

Umbilical hernias are very common in babies, and they often close on their own. But when they don't, a simple surgery can correct the problem in most cases.

In Uganda, however, surgeons are scarce. Even general practitioners are in short supply, so for most people, surgery isn't even an option.

Bettie Nabachwa, Darlene Namutebi's mother, noticed her baby's umbilical hernia soon after she was born. As Darlene grew and became more active, the condition became very painful. Hospital visits provided only temporary relief. She needed surgery.



*Pediatrician Dr. Caroline Nassuna gave Darlene a good report at her last checkup. The little girl remains pain-free after surgery last fall at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital. [Photo by Ali Busulwa]*



*Dr. Elizabeth Webber monitored Darlene's anesthesia before her surgery. [Photo by Evan Eklund]*

Last October, a five-member University of Minnesota Medical School team came to the rescue, performing 29 free surgeries, including Darlene's and those for six other pediatric patients, and 22 adults, in a week at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital.

Darlene is now completely recovered, thanks to surgeons Dr. Gregory Beilman and Dr. Brad Segura, surgical resident Dr. Alexa Coughlan, anesthesiologist Dr. Monica Lupei and anesthesiology fellow Dr. Elizabeth Webber.

And, with newly expanded surgical facilities, the hospital especially looks forward to welcoming more U of M surgical missions again in November!



*The Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo campus looks serene in this May 2019 shot. The tall buildings taking shape at top left are the Bisanz, Holmes and Doyle apartment residences. They are the primary funding focus this fall for the Friends of East Africa Foundation.*

## **We're over halfway to meeting our next challenge!**

With \$42,050 left to raise, the Friends of East Africa Foundation is well on its way to matching a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Holmes CSM Family Foundation. Help us meet this milestone and complete the current apartment construction project at the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo!

Naming opportunities still are available for the newly expanded surgery center and its components. At the center of the photo above is the Helen Bisanz Outpatient Center of Excellence. Directly behind it is the building housing the new surgical suite and the

Ann Jostrom Center for Labor and Delivery. The building at right with hospital signage is the Gary S. Holmes Centre, which houses a dental clinic as well as rooms for visiting medical professionals; also situated there are the Karen Kaler Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Stanley S. and Karen Hubbard Center for Diagnostic Imaging (X-ray and ultrasound units).

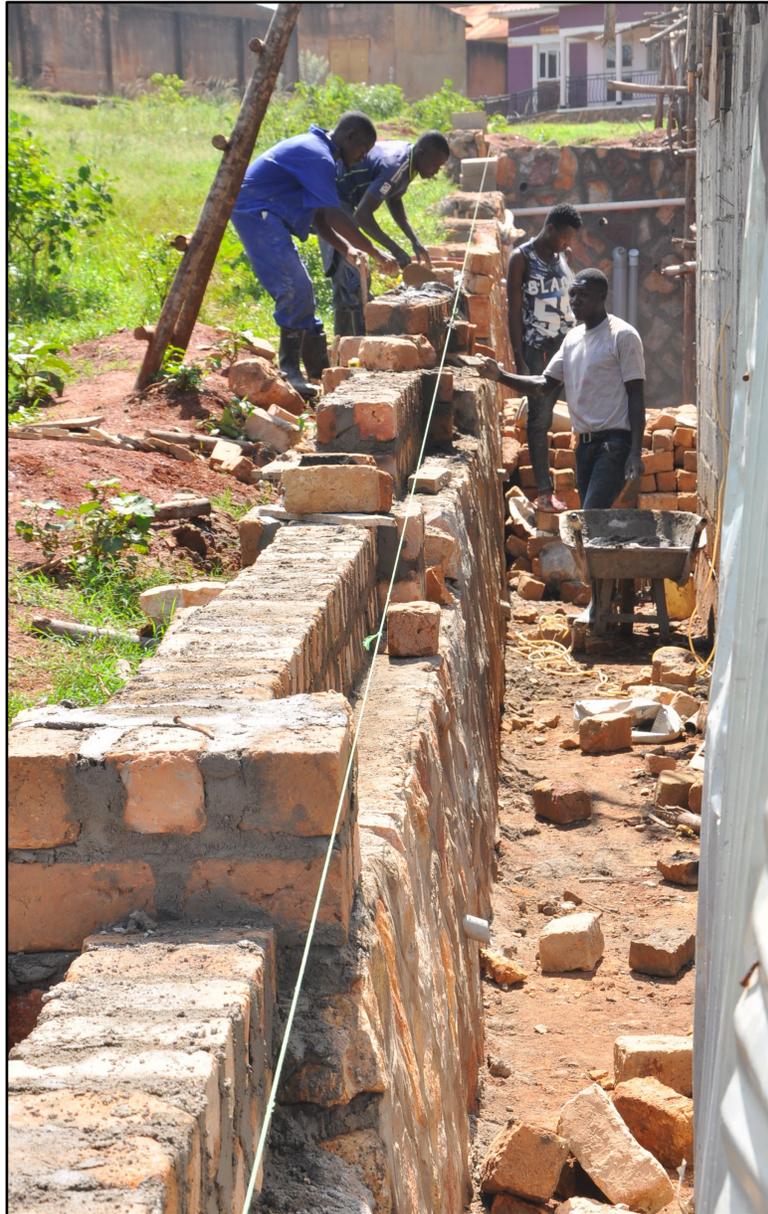
All gifts qualify for the Holmes CSM match. As you complete your charitable giving plans this year, remember: We'd be doubly grateful!

## Working together, step by step, brick by brick ...

Visitors to the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo are always impressed when they see the beautiful perimeter walls – a common landscape feature in Uganda – securing the hospital's campus.

If you thought it must have taken an army of heavy equipment to construct them, you'd be sorely mistaken.

Every brick is hauled, laid and mortared by hand. It's not an easy job by any means, but the workmanship is a source of pride for the builders and the community.



### Questions?

Call (651) 962-8520

Learn more at

[www.foeafoundation.org](http://www.foeafoundation.org)



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The Friends of East Africa Foundation, 2130 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55015.