



Kiwoko Hospital News

December 2023

Special points of interest:

- Thanking God for supporters and donations
- Recent big events: Kiwoko Chase, Christmas Party
- Visiting artist brightens the wards

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Welcome to a special Christmas Edition of our Hospital Newsletter! Our regular readers will notice a new format focusing on shorter, newspaper-like articles. This is with the aim of writing more frequent newsletters to keep our supporters updated on some of what is happening here at Kiwoko Hospital.

Happy Christmas and A Blessed New Year

As a Christian hospital, we want to share the Christmas spirit with our patients. Around our hospital little trees with lights, balloons and other decorations have been put up to share Christmas cheer. Yet, despite all this beauty, we have something much more important to share with everyone: **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THIS**

SEASON. And so, we share this important message in word and deed. One example is the Chaplaincy department, who organise carol singing, sharing from the Bible and gift giving (soap & sugar) around the wards on Christmas Eve.

Merry Christmas to our supporters, donors, staff and patients!



“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

Medical Equipment Donation & Solar Project Update

Set up after their 4 founding members visited Kiwoko Hospital (KH) and a neighbouring school on elective in 2018, Hilfe für Kiwoko is a German charity that is actively involved in fundraising for KH. It also helps organise student medical electives and specialist visits to share ideas and learn together.

Hilfe für Kiwoko recently sent UGX 37 Million to buy a variety of much needed medical equipment. We were also delighted to hear that they have secured a large grant towards the Solar Electricity Project, which will enable us to purchase 96 panels and associated equipment in the New Year.



Dr Ingmar on community outreach during his visit



Dr Iddi has ensured he can get to his patients by travelling with gum boots and so allowing him to more easily pass the flooded Luwero Road on his way to Kiwoko Hospital.

Heavy Rains Impacting Patients and Staff

In recent months, we have been experiencing much heavier rains than is usual for this time of the year. This has caused gardens to flood, and loss of much produce, which is particularly difficult for subsistence farmers. Additionally, many of the local dirt roads have been flooded and some damaged.

The main road to Luwero from Kiwoko, a road used by many to travel to

and from the hospital, has been flooded and even impassable at times. Unfortunately, this has resulted in many patients not being able to get to the hospital.

Some staff have also had challenges, and various KH community activities have required adjustments e.g. rescheduling activities, alternative routes/transport. Dr Iddi, an Eye Specialist from

Kampala who regularly attends to babies in KH NICU, recently commented about the importance of getting to premature babies on time to screen for treatable eye conditions: "In rain, in sunshine or in floods... where cars can't pass... we shall reach you..."

Thankfully, the rains have settled somewhat and accessibility has generally improved again.

"...a variety of activities, all with the intention of raising funds for HDU-like beds on male ward."



Kiwoko Chase 2023 Number 1 runner—15k later and still fresh!

Kiwoko Chase 2023

It was wonderful to see our annual Kiwoko Chase reinstated in 2023 after a number of years of absence post COVID!

This year, for the first time, Kiwoko Chase was opened up to the local community rather than just KH staff and students. This proved very successful, with great engagement from many within the community including local politicians and other local celebrities.

The KH Sports Committee organised a variety activities, all with the intention of raising funds for HDU-like beds on male ward. Currently we cannot provide care for the most seriously ill patients at KH, so they require transfer out to appropriate hospitals which are primarily in Kampala. There is a great desire within our hospital staff and local

community to progress our services and provide such services closer to home and at more affordable prices.

Kiwoko Chase activities culminated on Saturday 11th November, with the walking, running and cycling races, Ludo and Pool finals, as well as tug-of-war, eating and beard growing competitions.

We thank God for good weather, for excellent participation, and for all those who supported this fundraising endeavour in any way. We are looking

forward to organising a bigger and better event next year!



(Above) Crowd participation during some of the competitions was impressive. (Below) Local MP, Hon. Najjuma Sarah (centre) attended Kiwoko Chase 2023.



Family Planning Capacity Building Project

Improving health education of our community is of vital importance as we aim to see improved health over the coming years. This for long has been a vital part of the work of our Community Based Healthcare (CBHC) team.

It was with great excitement and thankfulness recently that they received a donation of 2 laptops, printer, projector and projector screen, as well

as other training materials to enable them to embark on Family Planning training with community leaders and community health workers. Through this training, potentially 40,000 residents of Kikamulo subcounty, Kiwoko Town Council and neighbouring villages will be impacted.

Thank you to ECHO International Health Services for this wonderful donation.



CBHC team receiving the donation from ECHO

New Student Hostel

In October 2023, the keys of the new student hostel at Kiwoko Health Training Institute (KHTI) were handed over from the contractor, Rebar Consult Ltd., to KHTI. It has been a long process since it was started in 2019, with the impact of COVID being substantial. We thank God that it has been completed and KHTI can

provide this high-quality accommodation for 56 students.

Sr Sarah Kyamulabi, Nursing School Principal, stated, "I thank the Lord first of all for all He has done. I thank all the donors, including ECHO International Health Services, who allowed this project to happen. Thank you."



"I thank the Lord... I thank all the donors... who allowed this project to happen."

Good Samaritan Fund

The Good Samaritan Fund (GSF) helps some of our most needy patients—those who could not otherwise afford essential health care. Patients are firstly identified, then assessed by our Customer Care Officer, Katongole JB and appropriate assistance provided.

Some examples of the help GSF has been in

recent months include: covering outpatient fees for treatment needed to stabilise a very ill baby before transfer to Kampala; providing essential medications for a mother who needed admission but declined due to difficult family circumstances; and, to partially help with hospital fees of a man who was being cared for by his mother who had

no means to pay the bill (Story shared on social media as Patricia's story). Yet, the needs are always greater than the fund can provide.

For further information about the GSF, contact KH Business Development Manager, Immaculate Apio: businessmanager@kiwokohospital.com



GSF beneficiary Patricia with JB and her sick son.



(Above) **Special Guest, Caretaker Bishop of Luwero.**

(Top right) **Traditional dancing**

(Right) **The rain added an extra challenge to some of the presentations, including this one from the theatres staff and doctors**

Christmas Party 2023

As is our usual tradition, the KH Christmas Party happened in late November. It is always a joyful event, where staff receive a special lunch and come together for singing, dancing and other presentations put on by various hospital departments.

Additionally, gifts are given to staff with long service, a cake is cut together and a special guest brings an uplifting speech.

Unfortunately, this year the inclement

weather curtailed the event, but not before some great presentations and encouraging speeches from Dr Peter and special guest, Caretaker Bishop of Luwero, Rt Rev James William Ssebagala.

Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



(Above) **Becky with one of the murals she painted in female ward. In a bay often used for older children, it is much appreciated! already**

(Right) **Becky with the wonderful new mural outside paediatric ward.**

Volunteer Artist Shares Talent at Kiwoko Hospital

Becky Gilmour, an artist from the UK, recently spent 2 months at the hospital. She had previously volunteered as a home-school mentor in 2018/9, but returned to volunteer her skills at the hospital.

Becky was involved in a variety of projects, particularly with the Mental Health and

Community Based Health teams. In addition to sharing personal experiences, Becky was able to encourage our teams and clients through drawing, painting and paper making. For many this was the first time they had tried these activities.

Becky also kindly gifted

the hospital some beautiful, vibrant murals. She refreshed the front wall of paediatric ward, and painted some smaller murals inside female ward in areas where younger patients are cared for.

Thank you so much Becky for your generous giving of time and talent.



For information on visiting, medical electives or volunteering, please get in touch with our Visitors & Volunteers Coordinator, Stephen Park, via email: visitors.kiwokohospital@gmail.com

KH Chaplain Moves on to Diocese Role

Recently we learned that our current chaplain, Rev William Mirimu Zziwa, will move on at the end of 2023 to a new post in Luwero Diocese as Chaplain to the Bishop and Diocesan Information Officer.

On Friday 15th December 2023, a farewell and thank-you service was held for Rev William, his wife, Ritah, and son, Peter, in St Luke's church within the hospital compound.

Rev William may have only been with us for 2 years, but he has had a significant positive impact, which was evidenced by the encouraging attendance at his farewell and the many messages of thank you he and his family received.

We wish him all the best and look forward to welcoming our new chaplain, Rev Sarah Nakayenga Lukwago, in January 2024.



Saying 'Thank-you' to Chaplain and 'Happy 2nd Birthday' to his son, Peter

ADARA Development & World Prematurity Day Magazine

We are continuously grateful for our many donors and supporters.

One of our major donors is ADARA Development who have been walking



alongside us through encouragement, support and donations for 25 years, with particular focus on maternal and newborn health. Adara now have a wealth of experience and expertise, and with this are striving to improve newborn care, not only at KH, but beyond, using their AdaraNewborn model. Adara state: "At Adara,

we feel privileged to work with tiny babies born too soon."

Adara recently had three articles published in the Ugandan Ministry of Health 2023 World Prematurity Day Magazine: <https://www.adaragroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Newborn-Health->

"At Adara, we feel privileged to work with tiny babies born too soon."

New Patient Monitors for OPD

KH OPD (Outpatient Department) is a typical Ugandan OPD, providing care for patients with a wide range of illnesses, including life-threatening conditions.

Within OPD, the 5-bed emergency area is designed to provide care for the sickest patients. For some time we have needed more patient

monitors to ensure timely and appropriate monitoring of blood pressure, pulse, oxygen levels etc.

Recently, OPD staff were delighted to receive a generous donation of 4 UMEC-10 patient monitors from GMMT (German Medical Mission Team). These will be fixed to the walls, giving

the option of continuous monitoring of the sickest patients.



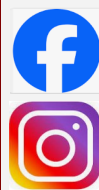
OPD/Medical Workshop staff receiving initial training on the new monitors from Herbert (Crown Healthcare)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Kiwoko Hospital is a private, not-for-profit, mission hospital in rural Uganda. We are so thankful to our supporters for their ongoing significant contribution to the work of the hospital. Without this support we would not be able to provide the high-quality healthcare that our patients deserve.

If you have enjoyed this newsletter please forward it on to family, friends and colleagues.

SOCIAL MEDIA



We try to post regular updates on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Why not follow along to keep in touch!

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We treat... Jesus heals

OCO Frank's Visit to Northern Ireland

KH Eye Clinic is headed by Ophthalmic Clinical Officer, Sekyewa Frank. Frank has been ably leading the Community Eye Outreach camps, which continue, usually twice monthly. This valuable outreach service not only treats and educates people in the villages, it has also resulted in increased awareness of the eye services at the hospital. Additionally, these

outreaches are done hand-in-hand with sharing the Gospel.

Ballygowan Presbyterian Church (BPC), Northern Ireland, is the major supporter of Community Eye Outreach. Frank has been invited to take part in their mission week from 21st-28th January 2024. All are welcome to these events. Further details will become available through BPC



Frank serving a patient during a community outreach

and FOKH (Friends of Kiwoko Hospital), or contact [Dr Roy Harper](#).

PRAYER POINTS

We are thankful for those who pray for Kiwoko Hospital, our staff and community. No doubt this issue of KH News has provided lots of items for prayer. Additionally, we ask you to keep praying:

- For those who are in leadership positions at the hospital, from the Hospital Board, to Management, to In-Charges. Pray for wisdom and guidance in every decision.
- For every member of staff, student and community with their various needs.
- For Hospital finances, which are proving increasingly difficult with the increasing costs of running the hospital.
- Thank God for what He has done. Pray that He will continue to be glorified by the work

"Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances."

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

DONATIONS

As well as individual supporters, a number of registered charities support the work of Kiwoko Hospital in bringing good news to the poor, in word and in action.



FOKUS MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

For more information about giving through these charities, chose the appropriate country and charity: [*please mark donation as for KH]

- UK: www.fokh.org.uk
- Various countries: www.adaragroup.org/development/get-involved/donate/ *
- Germany: www.hilfe-fuer-kiwoko.de/ *
- US: www.fokusministries.org *

DIRECT GIVING: For some people this may be the best option. If doing this, please contact our Business Development Manager for further details and to ensure the donation is allocated appropriately: businessmanager@kiwokohospital.com.