



Foundation  
for Hospices  
in Sub-Saharan Africa

April 2008

# Quarterly Report

## FHSSA and FHI Host Congressional Briefing on Palliative and End-of-Life Care as Congress Prepares to Reauthorize PEPFAR

**T**he Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa and Family Health International hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill on January 29th focusing on ways comprehensive and well-integrated palliative care services have contributed to and should be an ongoing part of the global fight against HIV/AIDS. This was scheduled strategically as Congress prepared to examine reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

The assembled experts shared accomplishments made through PEPFAR and offered important recommendations for continued progress in addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic. They stressed that quality palliative and end-of-life care should

be a stronger component of essential care and treatment efforts, particularly in Africa.

"It's important to acknowledge the positive impact that PEPFAR has made in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa and the promotion of palliative care services. Palliative care is now spoken in the same breath as HIV/AIDS management and that is a significant achievement," remarked Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell, Executive Director of the African Palliative Care Association.

In addition to Dr. Mwangi-Powell, FHSSA and FHI brought together an accomplished panel: Dr. Liz Gwyther, Hospice and Palliative Care Association of South Africa; Dr. Ya Diul Mukadi, Family Health International; Dr. Richard Payne, Duke University/FHSSA; and Donald Schumacher, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, and president of FHSSA.

In supporting the reauthorization of PEPFAR legislation, presenters voiced the importance of dedicated funding to build and sustain comprehensive palliative care services in PEPFAR focus countries and the need to include recommendations of global health experts. They



*L to R: Mary Callaway of the Open Society Institute, NHPCO's Stephen Connor, Faith Mwangi-Powell, Liz Gwyther, and Kathy Foley of OSI on Capitol Hill.*

also explained that to ensure good health outcomes, both palliative care and ART services must be available with the strong commitment to making these services available on an ongoing basis.

In hosting this briefing, FHSSA was pleased to work collaboratively with Family Health International, whose mission is to improve lives worldwide and the health of women and children through the synergistic strengths of research and programs in public health. Dr. Ya Diul Mukadi, Director, FHI Care and Treatment Division, stressed the importance of palliative care as the corner stone of successful HIV care programs. ☺



*L to R: Faith Mwangi-Powell, Don Schumacher, Liz Gwyther, and Richard Payne at the congressional briefing.*

# Bishop Dowling to Speak at FHSSA Networking Breakfast: Learn about Ways to Support Work in Sub-Saharan Africa



*Bishop Kevin Dowling, recipient of the 2006 FHSSA/NHPCO International Person of the Year Award, pictured receiving his award from Don Schumacher.*

**N**oted international humanitarian, Bishop Kevin Dowling, will be the distinguished guest speaker at a special networking breakfast being hosted by FHSSA at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's upcoming Management and Leadership Conference taking place in Washington, DC, on April 10 – 12, 2008. This event on April 10 will provide an opportunity for conference participants to meet American and African hospice leaders involved in promoting hospice and palliative care in sub-Saharan Africa.

Many U.S. hospices are familiar with FHSSA's partnering initiative, yet that is not the only way to lend support and be involved in the shared mission to make hospice and palliative care available in Africa. Supporting

the Diana Legacy Fund, offering technical assistance, raising funds at the local level, and engaging local faith-based communities are some examples of other ways to get involved. This event will be of particular relevance for board members, senior leaders, and staff from U.S. organizations who want to contribute to the FHSSA mission.

"We hope that all those interested in hearing Bishop Dowling and learning about some exciting opportunities for global outreach in Africa will join us," said J. Donald Schumacher, FHSSA president. "Being involved with the work of FHSSA affords a special opportunity for a connection to African outreach efforts in your community. This will be a wonderful chance to learn how to be involved." ☺

## Kenya Hospice Programs Impacted by Violence

**H**ospice and palliative care leaders in Kenya report serious disruption in care for the terminally ill patients they serve in the post-election violence and uncertainty that has plagued Kenya for months. FHSSA and the international hospice community extend support and prayers to our Kenyan colleagues during this difficult time.

Dr. Zipporah Ali, Executive Director of the Kenya Hospice and Palliative Care Association, reports the greatest challenges have been in maintaining operations (some hospices had to indefinitely close), having home care services curtailed or stopped altogether, and seeing numbers decrease significantly in outpatient clinic and day care program attendance. Security and safety for staff has also been a major concern, as has access to pain medications and food, communication with medical personnel, and population displacement. There has also been interruption in the provision of ART treatments for those patients already on such treatment. Patients have reported severe emotional stress when relating some of the violence they have experienced or witnessed.

Overall, the situation has resulted in untold unnecessary suffering. KHPCA is working with government and other groups to minimize the impact on patient care, and at the same time to highlight issues of palliative care in Kenya. ☺

**Networking Breakfast Event: Omni Shoreham, Washington, DC  
Hampton Ballroom, April 10th, 7:00am – 8:30am  
For more information or to RSVP, please email [info@fhssa.org](mailto:info@fhssa.org)  
or call 703/647-5176.**

# Partnership Report: Mission Possible

## Alex Shade, FHSSA Partnership Manager

**U.S. partners** travel miles overseas to visit, share in fellowship, and learn from their African partners. Exchanges have been made in both directions – establishing connections across continents to build relationships of mutual respect. A visit to a partner hospice provides the foremost opportunity to witness and to actively participate in a world of hospice and palliative care outside one's own.

December 2007 marked the beginning of my own journey as FHSSA Partnership Manager, embarking on several trips to our hospice partners to listen, share, and understand the souls of our U.S. programs.

My travels took me back home to southeast Michigan and out west to southern California. Over the course of the last two months, I visited with four out of the fifty-five FHSSA partners: Hospice of Henry Ford Health System in Southfield, MI; VITAS San Diego that included time with Robin Fiorelli from VITAS' corporate staff; and Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara. Each experience was eye-opening, offering real appreciation for the diversity of our partners.

I spent time listening to Lillian Birrell and Ken Grunow explain how the colorful handicrafts made by patients at Hospice North West in South Africa are sold at Hospice of the Henry Ford to



*Robin Fiorelli and Ellen Easton of VITAS meet with Alex Shade in San Diego.*

assist in raising funds for their African partner.

At VITAS San Diego, I had one-on-one time brainstorming and strategizing with Robin Fiorelli and Ellen Easton. Additionally, I participated in the first quarterly conference call for all the current VITAS partners – listening to each VITAS champion report on the success of their recently completed activities.

Susan Sapperstein, Holly Gendron and the 12+ task force



*Alex Shade with Ken Grunow and Lillian Birrell, Hospice of Henry Ford Health System.*

from Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara welcomed me with open arms. Not only did I meet their entire team, but I was also able to dialogue with their executive staff and accompany Holly Joseph on two home based visits.

These trips are not only about establishing connections and formalizing relationships, but about sharing the

passion for working in the African hospice effort. It is about providing fresh ideas and new energy so that it can be directed to the urgent needs of so many, in such a direct way. It is about empathizing for the work our partners do internally and locally; realizing the complexities behind strengthening partnerships domestically and internationally.

As this report goes to press, I am preparing for a trip to Africa in mid-February where I will be able to visit with some of our partners in Africa. I look at these site visits in the U.S. as more than just meetings, but as preparation for my travels abroad. I am thankful for the first-hand accounts, stories and testimonials that our partners share with me.

Now that I am settling into my position, I hope to serve as more than just a conduit for linking U.S. and African hospices, but as a change agent for hospices and organizations in the U.S. seeking to be a global partner in the world of hospice and palliative care. ☺



# FHSSA Receives Ford Foundation Grant to Aid Zimbabwean Youth

**FHSSA is proud to report that the organization has received a two-year \$220,000 grant from The Ford Foundation to aid youth in Zimbabwe.** The grant is intended to mobilize youth into self-caring clubs in rural areas that will provide peer support and mutual reinforcement for finding and developing local solutions. This will be particularly valuable in Zimbabwe, a nation hard hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, economic decline, and abject poverty, with the lowest life expectancy of any nation in the world.

In each Youth Care Club, youth will be mobilized as leaders and receive leadership training, academic tutoring, and health care education. Bereavement services will also be provided. Each Club will also develop an income generation scheme and receive initial and ongoing training in the specific livelihood skill (agricultural or technical) for that area. A Youth Care Club will be developed in the expansive rural areas of Seke, Mutambara, Old Mutare, and Nyadire.

Overall coordination of the training and education, as well as monitoring the project for outcome measures, will be done by the FHSSA partner hospice in Zimbabwe, Island Hospice Service in Harare. The Ford Foundation grant will be part of additional rural expansion of services that will be linked to two rural health care providers: The United Methodist Church health care system and Seke Rural Hospice. Additionally, a significant element of the overall expansion to rural areas includes FHSSA's Partnering Program.

The Youth Care Clubs are one component of an overall strategy being developed with the African Palliative Care Association and the Hospice Association of Zimbabwe to scale-up hospice and palliative care services in rural Zimbabwe. ☺



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