



Foundation for Hospices
in Sub-Saharan Africa

Quarterly Report

FHSSA PARTNER CONTINUES TO THRIVE AND TO ADVOCATE FOR PALLIATIVE CARE IN KENYA



Hospice team members from Viagenco Integrated Comprehensive Care Program and Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara in front of Viagenco's new facilities.

Viagenco Integrated Comprehensive Care Program serves a community of 46,000 in the Gembe district of Kenya. Until recently, the staff and volunteers worked from temporary clinic buildings. While still without running water and with electricity that comes from a generator, a new facility was built providing a reception area, consultation room, director's office, a three bed male inpatient ward, and a four bed female inpatient ward. The program has also experienced significant staffing increases in the last three years - moving from a staff of eight to a staff consisting of 14 employees and eight volunteers. These infrastructural and staff increases now allow staff to see a daily average of ten patients in the clinic, 46 home based palliative care patients, and maintain an in-patient palliative care ward.

Officially registered with the Kenyan Ministry of Health and the Kenyan

Hospice and Palliative Care Association (KEHPCA), Viagenco has now gained access to services such as morphine for patient pain control, regular site visits for feedback on care, and trainings for staff. The reciprocal relationship with their FHSSA partner Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara (VNHC-SB) has made this possible. Additionally, the hospice is increasing their outreach into the community by raising awareness and understanding about hospice and palliative care. Two annual events highlight these efforts: Palliative Care Advocacy Day gathers local groups from primary schools for a boys' soccer competition and girls' netball tournament and World Hospice and Palliative Care Day which involves the community in competitive sporting events while educating on the benefits of hospice and palliative care.

VNHC-SB and other US partners assist Viagenco in providing 150 identified children and widows with free healthcare and social services, including monthly deworming, mosquito nets, and malaria treatment. A program funded through their partnership with VNHC helps to identify additional orphans as high-risk and places them in boarding schools where necessary. Other children's services sponsored by Viagenco include an early childhood education program and a school for the physically challenged, thereby providing educational opportunities for both boarding and non-boarding students.

Following their third partnership visit in February 2009, VNHC staff commented: "The VNHC team was extremely impressed by the progress and achievements of Viagenco over the past 18 months. The program provides a holistic interdisciplinary approach to health care and social programs for the community. We feel proud of our involvement and support of Viagenco Comprehensive Care." ☺



Child and hospice worker from Viagenco decorating their new facility.

NEW FHSSA VICE PRESIDENT: JOHN MASTROJOHN III

In 2009, FHSSA has had the pleasure of welcoming John Mastrojohn, III as



its new vice president. John joined NHPCO in September 2006 and is the vice president of palliative care, quality, and research. He has over

18 years of experience in healthcare leadership and has focused on end-of-life care for the past 11 years. He has Master's degrees in both nursing and business administration. During the 2004/2005 academic year, John served as a Fulbright Fellow in southwestern Hungary where he worked with local providers to enhance hospice services. John's interests are in hospice and palliative care development with a special interest in the global development of quality end-of-life care. ☺

FHSSA ON FACEBOOK

FHSSA partners, staff, and supporters can stay connected through FHSSA's new



Facebook page. Those who are interested

in the work of FHSSA are encouraged to send pictures, start discussions, and share stories. To add your photos and stories to our new page, please send them to our Program Assistant Erinn Nanney at enanne@fhssa.org. If you have a Facebook account, we look forward to more effectively connecting with you! ☺

FHSSA'S NEW LOCATION AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CARE AT THE END-OF-LIFE



Entrance to the National Center for Care at the End-of-Life.

At the end of 2008, FHSSA made a move along with its affiliate organizations, NHPCO, NHF, and the Alliance for Care at the End-of-Life, to a new location in Old Towne Alexandria, Virginia. Located at 1731 King Street, this new location allows FHSSA staff to work more closely with staff from the other organizations in our new home which is known as the National Center for Care at the End-of-Life. ☺



Staff from the National Hospice Foundation and FHSSA meeting in one of their new conference rooms.

NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR FHSSA: HEATHER SLACK-RATIU

Heather joined the FHSSA and NHF teams in March 2009 as director of development.

Her experience developing and managing fundraising operations spans higher education, international, and non-profit organizations.



Over the past two years, she implemented a comprehensive fundraising plan and building campaign for the National Corvette Museum. Prior to that, she and her husband volunteered with Caminul Felix, a multinational non-profit organization working to provide a home to once abandoned and orphaned children in Romania and Thailand. She received a Bachelor's degree from Campbellsville University and a Master's degree in higher education administration with an emphasis on institutional advancement from Vanderbilt University. Heather looks forward to helping share FHSSA's story to those who wish to make a difference through their commitment of private support. ☺

For more information about the work of FHSSA visit our website at www.fhssa.org. There you will find FHSSA's latest news and publications.



Q & A

WITH BECKY McDONALD CHAIRPERSON, FHSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1 Tell us about your career and what lead to your interest in work related to hospice in sub-Saharan Africa.

I've been in hospice for 31 years after starting a hospice in 1977. I have traveled to other countries...Russia, Poland, Australia and New Zealand... to support and network with colleagues and bring supplies. In 1999, I had the chance to meet the people who started FHSSA and became intrigued with FHSSA's mission. Our hospice was partnered in 2000 and I took my first trip that year to visit Tanzania and South Africa and our partner...and was truly humbled by what I saw there and the great works the hospices in Africa do with so little in resources and support.

2 What is the role of the FHSSA BOD related to the work of FHSSA?

The FHSSA Board's role is that of governance, support, assuring staff and volunteers have the resources necessary to do the work. We are stewards of the organization's resources and our job is also to move the mission and vision and assure FHSSA remains as a viable, vital and relevant organization.

2009 FHSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chairperson: Becky McDonald

Vice Chairperson: Shareefah Sabur

Immediate Past Chairperson: Richard Payne

Secretary: Bev Sloan

Treasurer: Bob Clarke

Directors:

Beatrice Greenbaum, Bob Miller, Christine Swann, Christine Warnke, David Lee, Gretchen Brown, Jan Jones, Joseph O'Neill, Sharon Latson, Stanley Straughter, Faith Mwangi-Powell and J. Donald Schumacher

3 What are the goals for the coming year?

The goals for this next year are to develop the resources to keep FHSSA self-sustaining, to increase partnerships and assure they are strong, to develop a marketing platform and to increase in friends and funds raised.

4 What are some of the current challenges facing FHSSA and what are future plans to address those challenges?

As above, funding for FHSSA is a big challenge and our priority. We will be developing and fine tuning marketing/development materials, strengthening our Board to assure a broader base of contacts and possible funders, and attempt to develop a broad base funding plan that can capitalize on monies available through foundations and other sources.

The economy is definitely a challenge but there are still monies out there to support initiatives in Africa and donors whose hearts lead them to support hospice in Africa. We will definitely be friend-raising this year. ☺

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:

The beginning of 2009 has started with the addition of four new partnerships. The addition of these new hospice and palliative care organizations to the FHSSA Partnership Initiative brings the total number of partners to 78 hospice partnerships in the United States and 16 countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa: Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Our newest additions to the Partnership initiative are:

Hinds Hospice (Fresno, CA) & Kitovu Mobile AIDS Program (Masaka, Uganda)

Hospice of Lancaster County (Lancaster, PA) & Kenya Hospice and Palliative Care Association (Nairobi, Kenya)

Hospice of Washington County (Hagerstown, MD) & Coast Hospice (Mombasa, Kenya)

VITAS Innovative Hospice Care of Chicagoland (Lombard, IL) & Eldoret Hospice (Eldoret, Kenya) ☺

BECOMING A FRIEND OF FHSSA UNION COLLEGE SETS AN EXAMPLE

Union College in Schenectady, New York is now a **FRIEND OF FHSSA**. This means that it is involved in an ongoing relationship officially linking it to the work of FHSSA, including raising funds annually through its student organization, UNITAS. Other colleges, churches, civic organizations also can support the global mission of FHSSA by becoming a FRIEND OF FHSSA. This is a brief outline of the Union College story.

In October, 2007 Union College invited and sponsored Naomi Tutu for a day on campus to meet with students and faculty about The Diana Legacy Fund, launched earlier that year by her father, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Union had learned about the Diana Legacy Fund from its alumnus who is a FHSSA staffer, Phil Di Sorbo. Naomi immediately sparked interest among the student body, faculty, administration, and the local media. After a period of discussing the various ways Union could link with FHSSA, a three prong approach was decided upon: fund-raising, technical assistance, and service learning.

For two years now, UNITAS and Union students have held a winter fund-raising event with proceeds going to The Diana Legacy Fund. Approximately \$10,000 has been raised to date. Technical assistance was envisioned as a way that Union alumni could bring to bear some of their health care expertise to the cause of AIDS in Africa. It was through one such alumni contact that funds for a much needed vehicle for FHSSA's palliative care program in Tanzania became a reality. There is now a UNION COLLEGE vehicle serving rural Tanzania. Service learning also became a reality this year, when two Union students were placed for a 10-week service learning experience at South Coast Hospice in Port Shepstone, South Africa. South Coast Hospice is a FHSSA partner with Community Hospice, which is in the Union College area. The Union students completed the Community Hospice volunteer training program before commencing their service learning experience.

For more information about becoming a FRIEND OF FHSSA, contact Alex Shade at ashade@fhssa.org.



Individuals from Itete Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania in front of their palliative care program's vehicle donated through Union College.

The Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa

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