

Focus on Compassion

COMPASSION HAS NO BORDERS

CONTENTS

Siyabonga from Swaziland; page 1

Lessons Learned; page 2

Upcoming Professional Conferences;
page 2

Thank you, Scholarship Donors;
page 3

**A Letter From a Scholarship
Recipient;** page 3

Become a Partner Today; page 4



The Rocking Horse Project physiotherapists and volunteers.

Siyabonga from Swaziland

By: Denise Mortlock, Director, The Rocking Horse Project

Siyabonga (“we thank you” in SiSwati, the beautiful language of the Kingdom of Swaziland), is what children and families affected by life shortening conditions say to Global Partners in Care, Vitas Healthcare – Inland Empire (California), regarding the new partnership with The Rocking Horse Project for Children’s Palliative Care.

The mission of The Rocking Horse Project is to mitigate current gaps by bridging existing services to optimize care for the children in Swaziland.

Swaziland is located in southern Africa between South Africa and Mozambique. With a population of 1.1 million and an HIV prevalence of 31%, 10 000 children are infected with HIV and 47 000 children have been orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS.

However HIV is not the only medical condition affecting children in Swaziland. Limited resources compounded by poverty and the current extreme drought exacerbate the pain experienced by children living with life-threatening conditions

A big thank you from me personally to Laurie Rexford Volunteer Manager Vitas Healthcare - Inland Empire for her kindness and understanding of the many challenges we face in Swaziland and her encouragement to continue to do what we can and should for the children of Swaziland. My hope is that both parties learn from each other and that this shared experience will benefit children around the world.



Inpatient play therapy at The Rocking Horse Project.

Upcoming Professional Conferences

Indian Association of Palliative Care's 24th International Palliative Care Conference

February 10 -12, 2017
 Pune, India
www.iapcon2017cbe.com

REGISTER NOW!

32nd Management and Leadership Conference*

Preconference Dates: April 29 -30, 2017
 Main Conference: May 1-3
 Washington Hilton, Washington DC
www.nhpco.org/education/upcoming-conferences

REGISTER NOW!

* Global Partners in Care is extending a special invitation to our international partners and offering a reduced registration fee of \$100.

To register for the conference contact info@globalpartnersincare.org.

15th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care*

May 18 - 20, 2017
 Madrid, Spain
www.eapc-2017.org

REGISTER NOW!

*The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) is pleased to announce it will provide twenty (20) scholarships to support the travel of palliative care workers to attend the conference. Visit website to learn more.

For more information and to learn about other professional education opportunities, visit www.globalpartnersincare.org/conferences.

Lessons Learned

By: Fatia Kiyange, Programmes Director, African Palliative Care Association

The 5th International African Palliative Care Conference

Like the theme of this year's conference, "Differentiated care for diverse communities", every category of people were considered throughout the entire conference. Palliative care cannot go further if we do not involve stakeholders at all levels. It should be a shared responsibility of all key players including the governments, health ministries, and politicians because they are the ones who pass the policies. Patients should be key people involved in their care if any success in palliative care is to be achieved. Patients are the ones who are having the problem and if they do not have treatment or any other palliative care intervention then it might not work out. Though palliative care is a human right, many patients who need it are not accessing it because of some of the following reasons:

- Lack of training of health workers in palliative care
- Misconceptions about pain relief medications like morphine and possible addiction
- Lack of resources to purchase pain medications
- Inappropriate regulations as concerns narcotics in some countries i.e. morphine is still under 3 cupboard lock



Fatia Kiyange exchanging information with a Zambian delegate during the APCA conference.

Partnerships are very important in palliative care. Through partnerships, we share knowledge, best practices in palliative care and are able to obtain funding because most resources used in palliative care are donor funded. Key populations are missing out on palliative care especially in African countries. These key populations include prisoners who are not accessing palliative care when they need it and the gay and lesbian community, who are more often left out in palliative care because of laws that ban them in most countries and also due to stigma.

Employers should be key players in palliative care and should be involved because they are the ones who suffer most when a palliative care patients can no longer work,

or refuse to grant their employee sick leave. Children's palliative care is still lacking in most African countries yet they need it most.

Through this conference, I found out that all of us in the world are beneficiaries of palliative care so it should be everyone's responsibility to advocate for it because you never know when you will need it.

Social marketing of palliative care is very important. This could be through use of social media platforms to air out views on palliative care and where one can access it from, use of campaigns which helps in creating awareness about palliative care.

Thank you, Scholarship Donors!

The African Palliative Care Association would like to sincerely thank Global Partners in Care's partners and private donors along with its committed collaborators for improving the knowledge and skills of palliative care providers in Africa. APCA is especially grateful for the conference scholarships which were awarded to two social workers in Uganda to fully participate in this year's 5th International African Palliative Care Conference.

And from all of us at Global Partners in Care - thank you to those who made a donation to the nursing and social work palliative care education scholarships in 2016! Your donations make a difference.

Rebecca, a scholarship recipient, is pictured with her poster at the 5th Annual African Palliative Care Conference.



Dear Global Partners in Care,

I take this opportunity to thank Global Partners in Care in the USA through the African Palliative Care Association for funding the costs of my participation in the conference.

Experience at the conference

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the opportunity that exposed me to sharing and learning from not only the palliative care experts but also the beneficiaries who helped me learn a lot about palliative care.

Secondly, I had an opportunity to present a poster on the integration of Palliative Care in the Social Work Curriculum. This was a very good experience for me because it was appreciated by the participants and they gave me positive comments. I also got to network with people who have already integrated palliative care in their social work programmes and hope that this will yield into professional collaborations that will help to enrich our program at Uganda Christian University.

Thirdly, I was able to sign-up for free membership to APCA; this will help me have access to resources which are key in instructing the course of palliative social work. Being a member will also open doors for me to involve myself in Palliative Care related research opportunities and also participate in joint grant writing.

In conclusion, this conference was significant to open new channels of engaging with palliative care experts and people who are already integrating palliative care in the social work curriculum.

Again, I would like to thank you for sponsoring me to attend the conference.

Rebecca Mirembe
Social Work Educator, Uganda Christian University
Scholarship Recipient

Pay it Forward. Become a Global Partner Today.

Our partner program provides the opportunity for hospice and palliative care organizations in the U.S. to support a hospice and palliative care organization in another country. To help our partners engage in a wide variety of activities to expand and improve services, Global Partners in Care:

- **Provides personalized consultation** and ongoing technical assistance
- **Wires financial donations** from U.S. partners to their respective international partner
- **Collaborates and coordinates** with international and national hospice and palliative care associations
- **Networks partners together** so they can learn from each other

Learn how your organization can become a global partner at www.globalpartnersincare.org/become-partner.

From Our Global Partner Application Files

Nyakahanga Hospital

Who? Nyakahanga Hospital

What? Provides preventative, curative, and palliative care services to 140 patients daily.

Where? Kagera, Tanzania



Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute

Who? Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute

What? Provide quality cancer treatment and palliative care services at affordable cost.

Where? Telangana, India

TO PARTNER with Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute or Nyakahanga Hospital please contact Global Partners in Care.

Learn more about our partnerships and how your organization can become a global partner by visiting the **PARTNERSHIPS PAGE** on our website.



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