

**FHSSA***Compassion has no borders*

Quarter 1 – 2013

FOCUS ON COMPASSION

a quarterly newsletter

From Continent to Continent, VITAS and FHSSA Work Together for a Greater Good

**By Kal Mistry, Senior Vice President & Chief
Administrative Officer VITAS Innovative
Hospice Care**

As part of our mutual mission of working for a greater good, establishing partnerships through FHSSA has been a natural fit for VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, one of the nation's first and leading providers of end-of-life care. Together, we have made significant strides since 1999 in helping ensure access to high-quality care for patients and families at a critical moment: the end of life.

VITAS has been a strong catalyst in supporting the growth of FHSSA since its inception. Currently, 20 of VITAS' 51 programs nationwide have active partnerships with African hospice and palliative care organizations through FHSSA. And every year, more VITAS programs express interest in matching with a FHSSA partner.

Our programs provide their respective FHSSA counterparts with financial aid, medical and educational supplies, books, resources and technical assistance. One VITAS program is currently raising funds to help purchase a motor vehicle for its partner. Another raised money for its partner to buy bicycles that facilitate staff member visits to patients and families.

VITAS programs organize FHSSA fundraising activities among their staff members and in their local communities, and many VITAS employees across the country donate money to FHSSA through payroll deductions.

Many of our VITAS programs that have a partner have sent one or more employees as "delegates" to visit their counterparts in Africa. And, in some cases, representatives of the African organizations have visited our



Don Dolan, RN, manager of the VITAS inpatient hospice unit at Florida Medical Center in Broward County, FL, enjoys some down time with children at St. Bernard's Hospice in East London, South Africa. Don visited the FHSSA partner in 2009, bringing as gifts copies of "20 Common Problems in End-of-Life Care," which VITAS physicians wrote and edited.

VITAS locations in return, thus realizing true exchanges of knowledge and ideas about hospice and palliative care, while also building long-standing friendships.

"For all that we provide, our FHSSA partners give us tremendous inspiration and friendship," said VITAS Senior Vice President of Operations Bob Miller. "We also get the satisfaction of knowing we are supporting hospice in a region where there are minimal resources."

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Here are just a few examples of the many ways that our VITAS programs have, over the years, raised funds for FHSSA partners:

- VITAS in Brevard County, FL created a cookbook of staff members' recipes called "From Brevard to Kouga." Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook, sold for \$10 each, went to St. Bernard's Hospice in South Africa.
- VITAS in Waterbury, CT, raised funds for its partner, Gonja Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania, by hosting a wine-tasting and silent auction.
- VITAS in San Diego, CA, let employees pay to drop their managers in a dunk tank at a staff picnic. The proceeds went to San Diego's partner, Msunduzi Hospice in South Africa.
- A VITAS employee in Texas raised money by walking 20 miles across Houston. He used the money to buy a computer and projector for Jinja Hospice in Uganda, which uses the equipment to educate its community about its mission.



VITAS Community Liaison Kathy Phoenix of San Antonio, TX, visited with hospice patients and their families in the fall of 2009 while making rounds with a nurse from Nairobi Hospice.

- At the VITAS Corporate Office, employees purchased raffle tickets for an extra week of vacation time. The proceeds went to Sunflower Children's Hospice in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

We are proud of our partnership with FHSSA, which enables us to have a meaningful, positive impact on countless lives in a region that truly needs our help. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to continuing to expand our partnership with FHSSA in years to come.

APCA Names New Executive Director

A Family Physician, Dr. Emmanuel Luyirika, Will Build on Existing Partnerships to Take Palliative Care to the Next Level



The African Palliative Care Association, a close partner of FHSSA, this past summer announced its new executive director, Dr. Emmanuel Luyirika. Dr. Luyirika succeeds Dr. Faith Mwangi-

Powell who led the organization since 2005. Dr. Mwangi-Powell played a pivotal role in APCA's establishment and in advancing palliative care in Africa. FHSSA is grateful for her contributions to palliative care and for her commitment to establishing a strong collaboration between the two organizations.

Dr. Luyirika is a family physician who started his career as a medical officer in rural Uganda at Kagando Hospital. He has worked at the

Donald Fraser Hospital in Limpopo Province, trained in Family Medicine at the Medical University of Southern Africa, and in public management at the University of Stellenbosch's School of Public Management and Planning. In addition to practicing medicine in hospital settings, Dr. Luyirika also worked as a facilitator in the Rural Health Initiative of the South African Academy of Family Practice. There he trained multidisciplinary teams to care for HIV patients and developed HIV prevention strategies.

Upon returning to Uganda in 2002, Dr. Luyirika accepted the role of overseeing the health care program run by Mildmay International. He has since been actively involved in palliative care development both in Uganda and across Africa.

Dr. Luyirika's vision for APCA's work in Africa is to see a strengthened evidence base for

advocating for policy development and change for palliative care across the continent. He also values knowledge and best practice sharing in the region to influence stakeholders to ensure the integration of palliative care into national health sector plans.

Key to this agenda will be the development of new partnerships and strengthening those that exist. Dr. Luyirika has noted that building on the existing international, regional and country partnerships as well as ongoing empowerment of existing national palliative care associations will be key to moving palliative care development to the next level.

"We're delighted that Dr. Mwangi-Powell's legacy in palliative care is now in the hands of such a talented and committed individual. Dr. Luyirika's vision for palliative care in Africa goes hand-in-hand with that of FHSSA. We look forward to working closely with him to make that vision a reality," said John Mastrojohn, FHSSA executive director and APCA board member.



Pediatric Palliative Care

FHSSA and its Partners Continue Efforts to Expand Services for Children

Severe poverty and the AIDS epidemic in Africa have resulted in a great need for pediatric palliative care (PPC). Despite this need, there are significant roadblocks to the development of such care. The challenges include: limited funding, inadequate education for health professionals, and undefined development strategies. FHSSA is part of an international coalition developed to address these important issues.

This past October, FHSSA welcomed its first pediatric-focused partnership between Akron Children's Hospital Medical Center's Haslinger Family PPC Center and Garissa Pediatric Palliative Program in Kenya. While the Akron program is an established leader among U.S. PPC providers, the Garissa program is the first of its kind in Kenya. The organization treats 75 children, 65 of whom suffer from HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Mburugu, Garissa's founder and palliative care clinic coordinator, says, "We are excited about this collaboration and I believe both organizations will benefit from support, visits and exchange programs, and mentorship."

Though the Akron/Garissa partnership is the first between pediatric programs, many past partnerships have also featured a pediatric component. Among these are collaborations between The Denver Hospice and Selian Lutheran Hospice in Tanzania as well as the partnership between the VITAS Healthcare Corporation and Sunflower Children's Hospice and others. As the efforts for PPC development continue, FHSSA hopes to support more pediatric focused partnerships.

Pediatric Palliative Care Funder's Meeting

On December 1, 2012 in Rome, Italy, the International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN), in conjunction with Fondazione Maruzza Lefebvre D'Ovidio Onlus and the Open Society Foundation, held a Pediatric Palliative Care Funders' Meeting. This gathering brought together stakeholders from around the world to discuss approaches to advance the international development of pediatric palliative care (PPC). The meeting was attended by 48 individuals, representing 39 different organizations and 21 different countries, including FHSSA Executive Director John Mastrojohn. At this meeting, input was gathered that will be fashioned into a future strategy for global PPC development.

"Children with serious illness and their families have unique and special needs," said Mastrojohn. "Medication dosages, life expectancy and understanding of death must be approached differently than they might be in palliative care for adults. There is great need globally and creating a strategy for developing pediatric palliative care is vitally important."

While PPC differs from adult palliative and hospice care, it is rarely considered a separate entity in developing countries, which can lead to challenges. Children in need of care often receive inappropriate or no care from healthcare professionals who lack necessary training. Cultural norms also lead to problems, as limited resources in developing countries may be set aside for adults. These challenges are worsened by a funding shortage for PPC development overall.

The conference in Rome was organized to begin a discussion on how to overcome these challenges. Conference presentations included perspectives from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. In addition, discussions around policy development, access to medications, educational needs of healthcare professionals, and service development took place. The goal of the conference is to create a path to compassionate care for all patients needing palliative care – wherever they live and no matter how old, or young, they may be.



Global Partnership Award Applications Now Being Accepted

FHSSA is pleased to announce the opening of the 2013 Global Partnership Award Competition!

Partnerships are only as strong as the commitment of the two organizations involved. The Global Partnership Award recognizes the exemplary work of a partnership that has demonstrated leadership, innovation, and has significantly contributed to the development of palliative care through their FHSSA Partnership.

All U.S. FHSSA partners will receive an application and are invited to nominate their partnership for the award. The winning partnership

will be announced during NHPCO's Management and Leadership Conference at the FHSSA Breakfast on April 25, 2013 and will receive a prize of \$500 donated to the African partner. In addition, both partners will be recognized at the Opening Plenary, receive a commemorative plaque, and have their names engraved on a plaque displayed at the National Center for Care at the End of Life.

All applications must be received by February 22, 2013. For questions about the Global Partnership Award application process, contact Jeremy Taglieri, FHSSA Program Coordinator at jtaglieri@fhssa.org or (703) 647-5172.

FHSSA Opportunities at the MLC Conference in April

NHPCO's 28th Management and Leadership Conference has much to offer those interested in FHSSA, international partnerships, and the progress being made in furthering the availability of palliative care and hospice services in Africa.

The conference, which runs from April 25-27, 2013 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at the National Harbor in Maryland, will feature:

The FHSSA Breakfast April 25, 7 a.m.—an opportunity to meet U.S. and African hospice and palliative care leaders and learn about FHSSA. During the breakfast we will:

- Celebrate new program partners
- Announce the winner of the FHSSA Global Partnership Award
- Talk about FHSSA's new fundraising tool, Crowdfunding

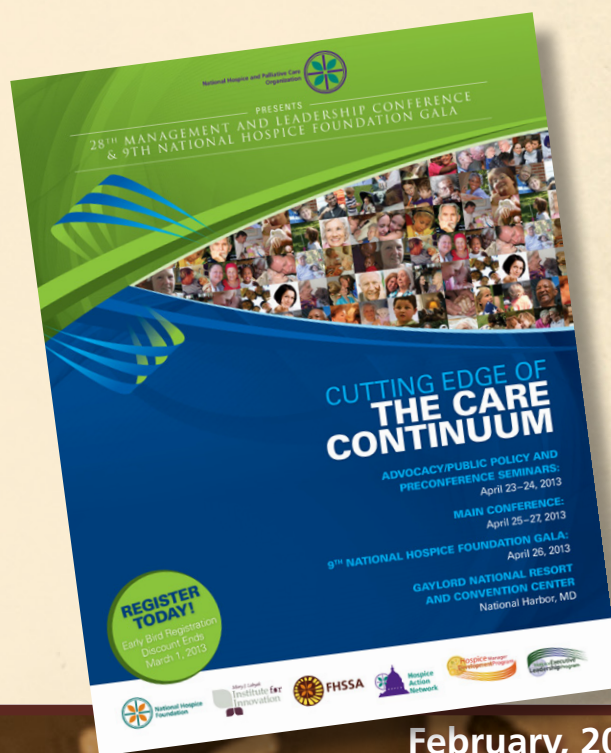
Three conference sessions will focus on international efforts:

- Palliative Care in Africa-The Similarities and Differences with the United States, **April 25, 3:15-4:15 p.m.**
- Going the Distance: Using Skype, Technology and Strategic Partnerships to Enhance Training and Care Across Two Continents, **April 26, 11 a.m.- 12 noon**
- African Hospice Partnerships-A Love Story in Three Acts, **April 27, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

A portion of the funds raised at this year's National Hospice Foundation Annual Gala will again benefit FHSSA. **The Gala will take place on Friday, April 26th.**

Also don't forget to visit the FHSSA booth in the Exhibit Hall! It opens **Thursday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m.**

Please check the final MLC program for session and event locations.



e-hospice: A New Resource for Palliative Care News, Views and Inspiration from Around the World

U.S. Edition to Focus on Information for Healthcare Professionals Referring to Palliative Care

A new online resource, e-hospice (www.ehospice.com), was launched in the fall and offers international news, commentary and analysis from the world of hospice and palliative care. Whether your interests are professionally or personally based, e-hospice offers a single point of access to intelligence and good practice from around the globe. A collaborative venture, e-hospice will have editions from around the world, and is delivered by several national and regional palliative care organizations, including NHPCO.

Current editions focusing on palliative care in Africa:

- Africa – Hosted by African Palliative Care Association
- Kenya – Hosted by Kenya Hospice and Palliative Care Association
- South Africa – Hosted by Hospice and Palliative Care Association of South Africa

Other international editions:

- Australia
- Canada
- India
- International
- International Children
- United Kingdom

The U.S. version of e-hospice, (www.ehospiceusa.com), will launch in April in conjunction with NHPCO's Management and Leadership Conference and will focus on information for physicians, their office staff, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, discharge planners, case managers, and professionals who refer patients and families to hospice and palliative care programs. It will also feature NHPCO publications, technical materials and resources. As with all other e-hospice editions, the U.S. version will include an app for iPad or iPhone use.

For further information on e-hospiceUSA, please contact Jon Radulovic at jradulovic@nhpco.org.

It's About How We Partner

Conference Attendees Celebrate FHSSA

During NHPCO's Clinical Team Conference, held in October in Orlando, FL, FHSSA Partners and supporters gathered at a special event to celebrate the successes of 2012. More than 150 guests mingled, danced, and bid on over 100 auction items during "It's About How We Partner."

Guests were greeted with the sounds of djembe drums, played by musicians of Global Rhythms, a group dedicated to performing and teaching to enrich and entertain communities globally.

NHPCO President and CEO J. Donald Schumacher, remarked on FHSSA's work and

accomplishments. NHF Board Chair Samira Beckwith joined Immediate Past Chair Shareefah Sabur in announcing the success of FHSSA's "One Cause, Two Continents" campaign to increase the number of partnerships. Seven new partnerships were formed during the campaign, bringing the reach of FHSSA to 14 countries!

During the program, FHSSA Executive Director John Mastrojohn presented Pixel Dust Studios with the Spirit of Compassion Award. This award recognizes individuals



or organizations whose leadership, philanthropic commitment, and generosity support the mission and vision of FHSSA. Pixel Dust Studios played a vital role in the success of the campaign, creating and donating the video used to promote the value of partnerships. The video can be seen on the home page of the FHSSA website at www.fhssa.org.

FHSSA is grateful to all of the following sponsors for their generous support:

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The Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa is now doing business as FHSSA.



FHSSA

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