



FOCUS ON COMPASSION

a quarterly newsletter

Palliative Care in Tanzania Now Integrated into National Health Care System

National Level Policy Change Heralded by Providers and Advocates

In May 2013, a dream was realized for palliative care providers, advocates, and beneficiaries of palliative care in Tanzania, when the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare ratified its long-awaited Palliative Care Policy. This statute unifies the work of Tanzanian palliative care providers, and further integrates palliative care into the national health care system.

The ratification of the Palliative Care Policy was celebrated by Tanzanian palliative care stakeholders throughout the world. Dr. Elias Muganyizi, executive director of the Tanzania Palliative Care Association, described the development as a dream come true. Marleen Masclee, programmes manager at APCA, said, "Thousands of people across Tanzania will no longer have to live in unnecessary pain and this is a tribute to everyone involved."

The significance of a policy change such as this is shown in Rwanda, which was one of the first countries in Africa to implement a national palliative care policy, strategic plan and practice standards. Released by the Ministry of Health in 2011, these policies commit the country to provide high-quality yet affordable palliative care services to all Rwandans suffering from life limiting illnesses by 2020.

As a result, palliative care services have been scaled up throughout the country including at district hospitals and community-based palliative care providers. According to Dr. Christian Ntuzimira, a Rwandan physician and palliative care pioneer, "Previously palliative care was only available to those with sufficient resources to seek such services abroad. Now, patients with end-stage diseases in Rwanda have access to palliative care at their doorstep."

As the work of African palliative care development continues, policies that promote the integration of palliative care into the broader health care system will be critical. FHSSA congratulates all those who worked tirelessly where integration has occurred and continue to support those who strive to make palliative care integration a reality.

FHSSA Champions Campaign

A New Opportunity for Partners to Raise Funds and for Individuals and Organizations to Support Palliative Care

This September, at NHPCO's Clinical Team Conference, FHSSA will launch the "FHSSA Champions Campaign." FHSSA Champions are a level of FHSSA supporters who work to raise funds to support a specific project or goal of an African organization in need. Champions differ from FHSSA Partners in that their commitment is for a one-time purchase or project.

Over the course of the campaign, which is scheduled to close at the 2014 Management Leadership Conference, FHSSA will work to recruit 10 individuals/groups/organizations to become FHSSA Champions. FHSSA Champions can range from a hospice that wants to be involved in end-of-life care in Africa without making a long term commitment, to a school or business seeking to support compassionate care in Africa, to an inspired individual wanting to make a difference globally. This is FHSSA's way of opening up the opportunity for people not necessarily associated with palliative care to show their support for our work.

Currently, FHSSA is working with our American partners to create a list of tangible needs for their individual African partners. Some examples may include the purchase of medical supplies to be bought in-country, bicycles or a car for transportation of team members, sponsorship for training courses or conferences for hospice staff, or other items that may be needed to strengthen the African program.

If you are a U.S. FHSSA partner that wishes to submit a list of tangible needs for your African counterpart, or a person/organization interested in becoming a FHSSA Champion, please email FHSSA Program Coordinator, Jeremy Taglieri, at jtaglieri@fhssa.org for more details.

APCA and HPCA to Hold Triennial Conference in September



Experts will Exchange Ideas on Innovative Ways to Strengthen African Hospice and Palliative Care Services

The African Palliative Care Association (APCA) and Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa will host their triennial conference: *The Net Effect: Spanning Diseases, Crossing Borders* in Johannesburg, South Africa September 17-20.

The conference will offer attendees an opportunity to come together to improve the lives of African patients living with life-threatening illnesses through innovation and dialogue.

Experts will be able to bring their knowledge to the table for an exchange of ideas to uphold and strengthen the health care systems that African patients and their families rely on for physical, social, psychological and emotional support.

Four conference tracks will cover current priority areas and emerging issues. These tracks are:

- Spanning Diseases with Palliative Care (adults and children)
- Crossing Borders with Health System Strengthening
- Showcase Impact
- Sustaining Our Work

For more information about the conference, visit www.africanpalliativecare.org/conference2013.

New Partnership Program Survey for 2013

FHSSA's annual partnership survey, which is completed annually by both African and U.S. partners as part of their partnership agreement, is a critical tool in helping us better understand the challenges facing our

partners, how these circumstances affect the quality of the partnerships, and how FHSSA can improve its services.

Currently, FHSSA and NHPCO staff members are reviewing the survey, discussing how it

can be both sharpened and shortened. Our goal is that the 2013 Yearly Report will be a more effective tool that will provide us better results with a higher rate of participation.

Longtime Hospice and Palliative Care Advocate, Dr. Zipporah Ali Receives Honorary Doctorate

FHSSA congratulates Dr. Zipporah Ali, executive director of Kenya Hospices and Palliative Care Association (KEHPCA), on receiving an honorary doctorate from Oxford Brookes University. Dr. Ali, known as "Zippy" by colleagues and friends, has devoted her career to developing and expanding palliative care in Africa. She was one of six leading figures from the worlds of medicine, motorsport, healthcare and business, and the only African to receive the award.

Zippy's own experience of watching her brother suffer and die from cancer at the age of 33 led her to become one of the first students to complete a medical school course run in partnership with the first hospice in Nairobi. As a young doctor, she felt ill-equipped to care for patients with life-limiting illnesses since palliative care had not been a part of medical school curriculum at that time.

Dr. Ali shared this message as she accepted the award, "It has been an honor and a humbling experience to work towards changing the way patients and their families are treated at a most critical time, when cure is no longer possible; at a time when they need our support most, a time when most doctors will say 'there is nothing more we can do for you.'"



Dr. Zipporah Ali

She added, "What this award symbolizes is the growth and evolution of hospice and palliative care in Kenya as well as many other countries across the world."

FHSSA has worked closely with Zippy for many years in her role as the leader of KEHPCA, a FHSSA Partner, partnered with Hospice and Community Care in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Under her leadership, KEHPCA was awarded the prestigious Red Ribbon Award at the XIX International AIDS Conference in 2012 for work conducted within the community to improve the quality of life for those living with cancer and HIV/AIDS.

FHSSA invites you to celebrate

From Kansas City to Africa

Held in conjunction with NHPCO's 14th Clinical Team Conference
**Sheraton and Westin at Crown Center
 Kansas City, Missouri**

**Friday, September 27, 2013
 6:30pm – 9:30pm**

Hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, entertainment, silent auction featuring items from Africa, and much more...

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For more information, contact Joy Nguyen at (703) 647-5167 or jnguyen@nationalhospicefoundation.org.
 Event Website: www.fhssa.org/CTC2013

Meet Jeremy Taglieri, FHSSA Coordinator

Where are you from?

I think of myself as a “hometown” kind of guy. I was born, raised, and went to college in upstate New York near Albany. I come from a very tightknit community, in fact, to this day, some of my closest friends are ones I met back in the first grade.

What was the focus of your education?

I have a deep interest in social issues. As such, I received my bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Union College in Schenectady, NY. While in college I had thought that I would work for a political think tank after graduation, but I eventually realized that I wanted to take a more hands-on role in solving problems. As a result, I became very active in community service.

What was the first step in your career following college?

Directly after college, I wanted to continue working in community development. So I became an Americorps volunteer in my college town where I led an effort to renovate an inner-city park.

After Americorps, I joined the Peace Corps and was sent to work in the Republic of Moldova which is a small, former soviet country located between the Ukraine and Romania. As a Peace

Corps Volunteer, my primary assignment was to assist in the development of a small, home based care hospice in the rural south of the country. The two years I spent there were extremely formative.

In Moldova, hospice care is still a new concept. The hospice director, Maria, had worked for many years as a nurse in the district hospital where she saw the need for palliative care in her community. She decided to quit her job, open a hospice, and dedicate her life to aiding those facing life-limiting illness. People thought she was crazy, but she was that kind of person. Working with her was a real honor.

Through my experience at the hospice I learned a lot about the need for and challenges facing palliative care in the developing world. Though my role was primarily administrative, I occasionally joined the medical team on home visits. I have so many memories seeing the impact our hospice had on people’s lives. I remember one day a husband of a patient who had recently passed away called our office and read us a poem he had written about his wife. It was so powerful.

What interests you most about working for FHSSA?

When I arrived home from the Peace Corps, I had a strong desire to continue working in



Jeremy Taglieri, FHSSA's new coordinator

international palliative care development. I was fortunate that there was a position open with FHSSA. I think the most interesting part of my work is seeing the process of palliative care development from a very different perspective. It is interesting comparing and contrasting programs in Africa and Eastern Europe, while there are differences, there is a striking amount of similarities.

In the short time I’ve been with FHSSA I’ve had the pleasure of working with and meeting many of our wonderful partners, both American and African. I look forward to meeting many more of them in the future!

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



FHSSA

Compassion has no borders

1731 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

CFC# 11018 • (703) 647-5176

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