



# FOCUS ON COMPASSION

a quarterly newsletter

## Choose Your Cause and Become its Champion!

To further our mission, FHSSA launched a new Champions Program that gives any individual or organization the opportunity to fund a one-time cause for a hospice and palliative care organization in Africa. FHSSA Champions can fund causes that include vehicles, medications, continued education and training, or even clinic and inpatient facility construction. Individually, they are relatively small-scale efforts that, together, can make a great impact.

Staff at NHPCO have committed to being FHSSA's first Champion and chose to make the construction of a clinic in the African village of Mopala, Sierra Leone its cause. This region has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the country and the new clinic will provide Mopala with an affordable/accessible means to receive needed medical treatment, including palliative care.

You can be a champion, too. To learn more, visit [www.fhssa.org/champions](http://www.fhssa.org/champions).



## APCA/HPCA Triennial Conference Report

Hospice and palliative care representatives from across the globe met in Johannesburg, South Africa for the African Palliative Care Association and Hospice and Palliative Care Association of South Africa conference.



*Dr. Anne Merriman, founder of Hospice Africa Uganda, (3rd from left) received a Lifetime Achievement Award and is pictured with Hospice Africa Uganda and APCA staff.*

This triennial gathering held September 17 – 20, 2013, brought together over 580 palliative care leaders from 25 countries to discuss the challenges, successes and future of African palliative care.

Jeremy Taglieri, FHSSA Coordinator, attended the conference and provided the following report.

The theme of the conference, *The Net Effect: Spanning Diseases, Crossing Borders*, addressed the inclusive nature of palliative care. Considering this unique characteristic of palliative care, integration and collaboration were frequently cited as the most powerful way to improve palliative care on the continent. That integration and collaboration must happen on multiple levels – government policy, public health systems, public consciousness and the expectations of patients and their families – was emphasized.

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### APCA/HPCA Triennial Conference Report, continued

The major challenges that continue to hinder the development of palliative care are poverty, poor infrastructure and culturally based aversion from opioids. However, despite these challenges, the need for palliative care continues to grow. According to the Non Communicable Disease (NCD) Alliance, Africa will see a 27% increase in the number of cases of NCDs including cancer, stroke and heart disease. The rise of NCDs will also continue to compound other current problems created by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which already affects 22.5 million Africans. This all serves as a strong reminder of the importance of hospice and palliative care provision in Africa.

The APCA/HPCA conference also provided an opportunity to share important news of progress. Among the highlights of the conference was the announcement that the HPCA was awarded a \$50 million grant from USAID to undertake the Care and Support for Improved Patient Outcomes (CaSIPO) project. The goal of CaSIPO is to integrate palliative care with primary health systems in order to reduce mortality rates and strengthen district health systems.

In addition, more than 50 African Ministry of Health representatives met to address palliative care integration in Africa. A draft consensus statement was released from the meeting affirming the need for palliative care development in Africa. According to Dr Luriyika, Executive Director of APCA, this was “the first ever palliative care session for health ministers in Africa, [and] is a strategic turning point



*Ministry of Health representatives with conference attendees.*

in the effort to reduce suffering among patients with life-limiting illnesses as Africa moves towards entrenching palliative care into health systems.”

Also, during the conference, FHSSA and the International Children’s Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) held a focus group with several pediatric palliative care providers in Africa to learn more about their specific models of care. FHSSA and ICPCN are collaborating to learn about best program models for pediatric palliative care in Africa with the hope of providing more support for pediatric programs in underserved countries.

This conference provided a forum to celebrate successes, discuss challenges and plan for the future of palliative care in Africa – affirming the work and mission of FHSSA.

## FHSSA Welcomes Two New Partners

**September was a wonderful month for FHSSA, as we proudly welcomed the formation of two new partnerships!**

### **Saint Jude Hospice, Clive, Iowa & Our Lady’s Hospice, Limuru, Kenya**

Saint Jude Hospice is a network of hospices located throughout the Midwest, and is headquartered in Clive, Iowa. As a Catholic institution, the staff at Saint Jude has been involved in mission work both at home and abroad. With their new partnership, hospice staff members are looking forward to engaging in a meaningful cultural exchange and providing guidance with innovative psycho-social services.

Our Lady’s Hospice is a small standalone unit located in Limuru, Kenya that was founded in 2010 by the Irish Province of The Daughters of

Charity chapter. The Daughters of Charity is an international Catholic organization and congregation of religious women dedicated to aid the poorest of the poor. The hospice provides an inpatient facility with nine beds, and 13 employees, which cares for nine patients a day. Through this partnership, the workers at Our Lady’s Hospice are hopeful that they will have the opportunity to engage in a staff exchange to learn about palliative care in America and share their experience of palliative care in a developing country.

### **Children’s Hospital and Research Center, Oakland, CA & Living Room International, Eldoret, Kenya**

For Children’s Hospital and Research Center in Oakland, CA, their FHSSA partnership with Living Room International will be about building friendships, and formalizing an already strong bond. The two

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### FHSSA Welcomes Two New Partners, continued

organizations began collaborating three years ago and already have a history of successful fundraising, trainings and visits. Though the initial interest in FHSSA began nearly ten years ago, the leadership at Children's Hospital and Research Center in Oakland recently decided to formalize their partnership through FHSSA in order to attain a higher level of international engagement. Staff of Children's Hospital and Research Center are excited to continue supporting their new partner, looking forward to what they will learn.

Living Room International was founded in 2004 as a community-based HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment program. In 2008, Living Room became involved in providing pediatric palliative care to orphans, which eventually led to the creation of their hospice program. Currently, Living Room provides palliative care services to over 200 patients while running a 26 bed hospice home. The staff at Living Room is hopeful that their FHSSA partnership will lead to, "friends who are willing to share... their expertise...knowledge and experience... [as well as] partners who will...share the mission and vision of Living Room."

To learn more about becoming a FHSSA Partner, visit [www.fhssa.org](http://www.fhssa.org) or email [info@fhssa.org](mailto:info@fhssa.org).

## FHSSA Partners Focusing on Compassion

- **Center for Hospice Care, South Bend, Indiana** – Center for Hospice Care staff and actress/NHPCO ambassador Torrey DeVitto traveled to Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan to film a new documentary about the orphans of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, "The Road to Hope."
- **TRU Community Care, Superior, Colorado** – Children at Superior Elementary School in Colorado raised \$500 to support the Orphans and Vulnerable Children of Bumbuli Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania.
- **Hospice of the Siouland, Sioux City, Iowa** – Staff raised \$3,285 to support the Children's Community Care Worker at Howick Hospice in Howick, South Africa.

Have an inspirational FHSSA partnership story? Email us at [info@fhssa.org](mailto:info@fhssa.org) so we can highlight your efforts in future editions of Focus on Compassion and on the FHSSA website.



*The music and dance from "Soundz of Africa" was a highlight of the evening.*

## From Kansas City to Africa

Thank you to everyone who joined us in Kansas City to celebrate the important work of FHSSA at "From Kansas City to Africa" in conjunction with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's 14th Clinical Team Conference. Conference attendees, board members, and special guests mingled, danced, and bid on auction items which included authentic African treasures and a safari trip in South Africa.

The program began with "Soundz of Africa" marching in to the beat of their drums to capture everyone's attention. FHSSA President and CEO, Donald Schumacher, made remarks about FHSSA's work and accomplishments. His presentation was followed by remarks from FHSSA Executive Director, John Mastrojohn III, who spoke about the FHSSA Champions Campaign.

The FHSSA Champion Program provides the opportunity for any individual or organization to fulfill a one-time cause for hospice and palliative care organizations in Africa. He was proud to announce that the staff of NHPCO and Affiliates has become the first Champion of the campaign, choosing to fund the construction of a new clinic for The Shepherd's Hospice in Sierra Leone, Africa. The new clinic, which will be in the village of Mopala, will serve an area that faces one of the highest HIV rates in the country.

Generous sponsors for the Event contributed \$45,000 and the silent auction raised an additional \$8,800. We are grateful for all who attended and thank you for your support.



*A drummer from "Soundz of Africa" serenades guests Heather Bradley-Geary and her son.*

# From Kansas City to Africa

September 27, 2013  
6:30pm–9:30pm

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



**FHSSA**

*Compassion has no borders*

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