



FOCUS ON COMPASSION

a quarterly newsletter

Organizations Donate More Than \$220,000 to FHSSA and the African Palliative Care Association

The funds will be used to improve pain management in The Gambia, Kenya, and Malawi

For many who are sick in Africa, freedom from pain is elusive. With generous funding totaling more than \$220,000 FHSSA and the African Palliative Care Association are partnering to improve pain management among palliative care patients receiving care in hospitals in The Gambia, Kenya, and Malawi.

These counties were selected because they each have well-established national palliative care organizations, strong clinical leadership, historical success with related projects, and sound professional relationships with APCA and FHSSA staff/leadership

Challenges to Pain Management

FHSSA and APCA have identified a set of challenges for the management of pain. Hospital-based health care workers sometimes have a limited understanding of the palliative care concept and the need for palliative care services. Often, physicians are not comfortable in effectively prescribing opioids. This can be due



to lack of skills in pain assessment and management, coupled with fears around the use of these powerful medications.

Another significant challenge is that there is a general lack of support for palliative care among hospital administrators and managers. This may lead to hospital bureaucracies delaying the implementation of palliative care, including access to pain management medications.

The Project's Framework

The project framework is based on the success of a pilot project in Uganda that was endorsed by the World Health Organization and the Ugandan Ministry of Health.

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Funders of the Pain Management Initiative

We thank the following for their financial support:

- Astellas Pharma US, Inc.
- AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP
- Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.
- Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- Grünenthal
- Lundbeck Inc
- OSI Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
- The Brin Wojcicki Foundation

FHSSA Welcomes New Board Chair, Shareefah Sabur

Sabur has served on the FHSSA board since 2002



Shareefah Sabur is the new FHSSA board chair. Here she is on the grounds of the Apartheid Museum during a trip to South Africa in 2005.

Shareefah Sabur, MA, MNO, DCP, has begun her two-year term as chair of the FHSSA board. Among her duties as FHSSA board chair, her responsibilities include representing FHSSA as a member of the executive committee of the NHPCO board of directors.

FHSSA's Importance to Her

“FHSSA is important to me because it was formed with the intention of building a foundation dedicated to supporting the provision of compassionate, dignified end-of-life care during the peak of the AIDS pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. A need was evident and FHSSA took on the challenge. Now, 11 years later, it is evident that FHSSA has made a difference. Although FHSSA is not a direct care provider, it supports and leverages the work of those organizations that do provide care. FHSSA, through its partnership program, has provided hospices in the United States an avenue to help also. Partnership is a fundamental building block in FHSSA and as it continues to forge new and different partnerships, the positive impact will increase exponentially,” says Sabur.

“My Feet on African Soil”

Sabur is the chief strategy officer at Hospice of the Western Reserve in Ohio, where she has been for 18 years. Her interest in FHSSA was cemented in May 2001 when she participated in a sub-Saharan hospice seminar tour. That was a very powerful experience.

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\$220,000 for Pain Management, continued from page 1...

The project has the following specific objectives:

1. To create awareness of, support for and prioritization of palliative care delivery among hospital management/administrators.
2. To train hospital physicians in pain assessment and management, with a central focus on opioid use.
3. To sensitize other health care workers in the hospitals and community to support palliative care service delivery.

Through the project, hospital physician and other senior health workers (e.g. nurses and pharmacists) will be trained in pain assessment and management, and the safe and effective use of opioids. They will receive follow-up and on-going support supervision and mentorship from APCA, FHSSA, and their respective national organizations following the training. Project activities will be implemented in hospitals in selected regions of each target country based on a needs analysis.

Do You Have Corporate Connections?

We could use your help in identifying companies interested in supporting FHSSA

Corporate support can make help FHSSA make a big difference in the provision of palliative care in Africa. If you work for a company that has interests in Africa, we invite you to help us identify partnership opportunities with us. For more information, please contact Sarah Meltzer at smeltzer@fhssa.org

Shareefah Sabur, Continued from page 2 ...

She explains, “Once I had my feet on African soil I felt an immediate connection. I believe we are a global society and that I am my brother’s keeper. I was in awe as I watched hospice staff do so much with so little. My heart ached for children who had become heads of their household all too soon. I became increasingly aware of what opportunity there was to offer support and I knew that other staff at Hospice of the Western Reserve would welcome the opportunity as well.”

Community Involvement

In addition to her work with FHSSA, Sabur has been active in a wide range of NHPCO’s committees and councils. She has just concluded three years of service as chair of NHPCO’s National Council of Hospice and Palliative Professionals (NCHPP) and was an NCHPP section leader prior to that. “I’ve enjoyed working with my colleagues on many NHPCO projects, particularly the Inclusion and Access Toolbox. I’ve always been very aware of the many disenfranchised groups in our society and see myself as an advocate for all of them,” said Sabur. This passion to care for all in need fuels her dedication to FHSSA.

In addition to her service to FHSSA and NHPCO, Sabur has an extensive resume of other volunteer work. She has served on the board of the Ohio and Palliative Care Organization and has volunteered with a variety of organizations serving women, children, and the elderly.

“We are fortunate that Shareefah is devoting her considerable energy, passion, and expertise into leading FHSSA,” says John Mastrojohn III, FHSSA’s executive director. “We’re excited to be working with Shareefah in this new capacity.”

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Sabur attended Miami University and Cleveland State University, earning an undergraduate degree and master’s in psychology. She also holds a master’s degree in nonprofit management from Case Western Reserve University.

New Board Members for 2011

4 new members joined the FHSSA board in January

FHSSA welcomes the following new members to the board.

- **Elizabeth Clark**, executive director, National Association of Social Workers
- **Terry Duncombe**, president and chief executive officer, Community Health Accreditation Program
- **Robin Fiorelli**, senior director of bereavement and volunteers, VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
- **Mark Murray**, President/CEO, Center for Hospice Care (ex officio in his role as NHPCO chair)

In addition, **Linda Todd** is the new treasurer and **David Lee** is the new secretary.

Becky McDonald serves for a year as immediate past chair.

We thank each of these individuals, plus all returning board members, for their dedication and commitment.

We heard you!

Starting in March, Partners Can Donate Online to African Hospices

A secure online form will soon be available on the FHSSA website for partners to use

We’ve heard many requests over the years from U.S. partners to make it possible for them to donate to their African partner online, rather than collect and send large numbers of checks to FHSSA. We heard you!

Starting in March, you will be able to donate online, using a credit card, on our secure website, and designate the funds for your partner hospice. We will be able to easily track donations and provide you with reports as needed. We will circulate more information once the form is live.

What an impact you have helped make!

Through FHSSA's Partnership Program, More than \$2 Million Has Been Sent to Africa Since 2004

By the end of 2010, FHSSA has 92 partnerships in 15 African countries

Since 2004, through our partnership program, FHSSA and our partners have sent more than \$2 million directly to African hospice and palliative care organizations to use in providing care to people in villages, towns, and cities.

These dollars represent donations—some large and some very small—from tens of thousands of people who want to make a difference in the lives of African people facing serious illness, death, and grief.

Rooted in HIV/AIDS— But Meeting Today's Needs

The impetus for the founding of FHSSA in 1999 was the overwhelming number of death from HIV/AIDS in Africa. Now, more than 10 years later, even though life-enhancing anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) are reaching some people who need them, the need for palliative care services remains vast.

While individuals with HIV are experiencing some signs of renewed health due to ARVs, they often experience other opportunistic infections due to decreased immune system function, social stigma, and financial hardship. In addition, over half the people who need ARVs still do not have access to treatment. Also, cancer rates in Africa are on the rise and other diseases have an impact as well.



FHSSA's partnership program provides a pipeline to send donations directly to African hospice and palliative care programs in 15 different countries. A dollar can go

a very long way in Africa, and so the impact of these donations is tremendous.

Significant Grant Funding As Well

In addition to these donations from partners, FHSSA has received significant grant funding from the U.S. government and other organizations, to conduct capacity-building work with African partners in Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Since 2006, more than \$5 million in grant funding has supported those efforts.

Have you ever wondered?

How African Partners Use the Funds

Top uses are patient care supplies, food and nutrition, and general operating expenses

Surveys returned by African partners in 2008 and 2009 reveal these are the most common ways funds are spent, in descending order:

- 1. General operating expenses**
- 2. Patient care supplies, including medications**
- 3. Food/nutrition**
- 4. Programs and services for orphans and other vulnerable children**
- 5. Transportation**
- 6. Home-based care visits**
- 7. Staff salaries**
- 8. Support services**
- 9. Training and related resources**
- 10. Day care services**



Nominations are being accepted for this new award honoring U.S./African partnerships

The deadline is February 15, 2011

We have established the FHSSA Global Partner Award to recognize the exemplary work of one U.S./African partnership. We are looking for a FHSSA Partnership that has demonstrated leadership, innovation, and has significantly contributed to the sustainable development of hospice and palliative care in 2010.

Eligibility

Each U.S. FHSSA partner program is invited to nominate themselves and their African partner for the work that they accomplished in 2010. All applications received by the FHSSA office by February 15, 2011 will be considered for this award. All applications must be approved and signed by your program's Director/CEO.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used to determine the award recipient:

- Successful completion of the basic partnership goals
- Creativity in fundraising
- Staff engagement in your partnership
- Collaboration with your African partner
- Local (U.S.) community engagement

Review Process

Each application will be reviewed by a committee consisting of FHSSA staff, members of the FHSSA Board of Directors, and representation from the leadership of the African Palliative Care Association.

Recognition

Both the winning US and African partner organizations will receive the FHSSA Global Partnership Award at the 2011 NHPCO Management and Leadership Conference during a special presentation at the FHSSA "Breakfast of Champions" on April 7, 2011. The partnership receiving

the award will also be announced during the conference's Opening Plenary. A prize of \$500 will be awarded to the recipient African partner. Additionally, the winning partnership will be depicted on a sign at the FHSSA booth during MLC. Each year the recipient partnership's organization names will be added to a public wall display at the National Center for Care at the End of Life.

The application can be downloaded from www.fhssa.org/GlobalPartnershipAward2011

FHSSA's "Breakfast of Champions": April 7, 2011

FHSSA Global Partner Award to be Presented at this Event

If you are attending NHPCO's 26th Management and Leadership Conference in April, please mark your calendars to attend the FHSSA "Breakfast of Champions" at 7:00 am on Thursday, April 7. Absolutely everyone is welcome to attend and there is no charge. There is also no need to register; just come! Details will be available in the conference brochure.

At the breakfast, you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet FHSSA staff, board leadership, existing partners, and special guests
- Learn more about staff exchanges, visits, and other projects
- Discover how to "champion" existing opportunities in Africa without committing to a partnership
- Hear lessons learned from existing partners regarding successful partnerships
- Learn how you can engage your community in developing other champions
- Find out who won the FHSSA Global Partner Award

NHPCO Reorganizes into Four Offices to Streamline Work

In the new structure, FHSSA and NHF are both housed in the Office of Philanthropy

Normally, we do not report on internal staffing matters. However, given the magnitude of the recent shift—and the very positive implications it has for our continued good stewardship of partnerships and donors’ funds—we decided to share the news.

FHSSA and the National Hospice Foundation (NHF) are both affiliates of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). All staff members of both FHSSA and NHF are employees of NHPCO and are detailed to work for the affiliate organizations. Our core back-office services, such as accounting, IT, and HR, are also provided by NHPCO staff.

In September of 2010, NHPCO announced the first major reorganization in 10 years. Under the new plan, NHPCO has four offices and four senior vice presidents leading them.

FHSSA and NHF are both in the Office of Philanthropy, which is led by John Mastrojohn III. He serves as executive director of both affiliates. Since NHF also raises money for FHSSA through the FHSSA



*Office of Philanthropy Staff- Standing: Mary Williams, John Mastrojohn, Maureen Lilly, Anthony Barnes, Susan Messina, Shelley Smith, Sarah Meltzer
Seated: Caitlin Lachaal, Heather Slack-Ratiu, Erinn Nanney*

Impact Fund, putting both organizations under one umbrella was logical.

“We are very energized by this change,” said Mastrojohn. “Within days of the decision, we made the immediate change to combine communications efforts for FHSSA and NHF. This makes terrific sense from an efficiency perspective.” He added, “The two teams are working together very effectively on a number of fronts and I expect we will reap many rewards in 2011.”

Mastrojohn is a member of the senior leadership team, along with Kathy Brandt (Office of Education and Engagement), Cathy Gibney (Office of Administration), Jon Keyserling (Office of Health Policy), as well as Beth Fells, executive office manager, Galen Miller, executive vice president, and J. Donald Schumacher, president & CEO.

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



FHSSA

Compassion has no borders

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