

Focus on. Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

Partnership Helps Palliative Care Blossom in Zomba, Malawi

Hospice of Northwest Ohio & St. Luke's Hospital

Global Partners in Care (GPIC) currently supports 37 partnerships between U.S. and international organizations to enhance access to palliative care. Each partnership fosters collaboration among palliative care providers, which in turn promotes a strong, unified approach to solving unnecessary suffering worldwide. It is estimated that, globally, only 14% of those in need of palliative care will receive it, and the majority of the unmet need is in low- and middle-income countries. To improve this statistic, our partners have traveled winding paths and have worked together to ensure palliative care services are provided. As one of our oldest partnerships, [St. Luke's Hospital](#) in Malawi and [Hospice of Northwest Ohio](#) (HNO) have had a unique journey together over the past 13 years.

"[The partnership] is good because it provides motivation and support to do more for palliative care," said Mr. Winasi Boma, the principal administrator of St. Luke's Hospital in Malawi. Boma is among the many palliative care advocates around the world who challenges himself and others to do more for those in need. Palliative care is not a priority intervention in the Malawi Ministry of Health policy, so it does not receive a direct allocation of funding from the government. This means that human and material resources such as medicines and supplies are unavailable for palliative care unless funding is sourced



St. Luke's palliative care team delivering materials and providing care to patients after Cyclone Idai hit their community in 2019.

elsewhere. Despite this challenge, Boma and his colleagues at St. Luke's Hospital took it upon themselves to become one of the first palliative care providers in Malawi in 2005 because they saw the need.



St. Luke's palliative care team in front of the new offices in May 2021.

Hospice of Northwest Ohio (HNO) is the only independent, non-profit agency solely dedicated to providing end-of-life care in their area. Formed by a small group of volunteers in 1979, the organization now serves over 2,600 patients a year (2020) and continues to be a regional leader

in care, education and outreach. HNO's staff of nearly 400 not only serve their community in Ohio but they have dedicated support for the community in Malawi as well. Both of these partners are driven palliative care ambassadors, who, by working jointly, achieve so much more for their communities.

Their partnership started in 2007, and as evidenced by their initial interactions, it was clear that their relationship would be long-lasting. They have shared many ideas, and boosted each other's work, but as with any long-distance connection, there were points when the partnership decreased in activity. It is during these times that GPIC's partnership support is most important. In 2018 (one of the less active years), GPIC helped reengage the partnership and saw St. Luke's Hospital and HNO take their interactions to a new level. The partnership was reenergized, leading to the partners' first ever in-person meeting.



Winasi Boma (left) and Molly Nyondo (right) from St. Luke's Hospital visited with Tim Polakowski (center) and the team at Hospice of Northwest Ohio in February 2020.

[Continue reading story](#)

Want to See Your Story Here?

Email info@globalpartnersincare.org

Please share your stories with us so others may be inspired to act. We want to hear stories of your partnerships, research projects or other activities related to improving the lives of patients coping with life-limiting illnesses.

#GlobalPallCareHero

Continuing to highlight palliative care heroes across the globe!



[Learn more about #GlobalPallCareHero](#)

Suffering from Staff Burnout?

Health care workers are facing more demands than ever before. Check out this great blog by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement for five ways health care leaders can help ease the burden on their staff.

[Read the blog](#)

GPIC is only able to enhance access to hospice and palliative care through the generous support of donors and partners like you.

**DONATE TO
GLOBAL PARTNERS IN CARE**

Advisory Council Member Highlight:



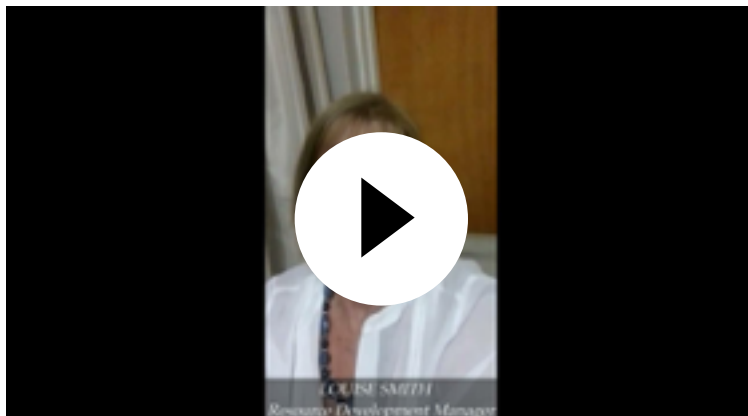
Jim Cleary, MD
Director of the Walther Center in Global Palliative Care and Supportive Oncology at Indiana University School of Medicine

An Australian-trained medical oncologist and palliative care physician, Dr. Cleary, who has been in the United States for 25 years, is recognized globally for his expertise in palliative care medicine and cancer pain.

[Read Jim's full profile](#)

Partnership Best Practices

Haven't connected with your partner in a while? Check out this great example of partners connecting with short video introductions and updates!



Help us spread the word!

Follow us on social media and share our story with your networks.



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}

