

Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

When Funding Gets Tight

Umodzi Children's Palliative Care Unit and Uplifted Care Partnership

The provision of palliative care in a low-resource setting calls for dedication and innovation, even in the best of times. In rural settings, simply getting to patients – or getting patients to clinics or hospitals – is a major challenge. Our partners in these settings overcome barriers to care that those of us in high-resource countries can barely imagine.

The COVID-19 pandemic added another layer of difficulty. And for our partners at the Palliative Care Support and Trust (PCST) at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi these challenges became even more complicated as their funding from an overseas trust came to an end.

PCST oversees a children's palliative care program called Umodzi, which means "solidarity" in Chichewa, one of Malawi's officially recognized languages. The trained palliative team identifies children who may benefit from palliative care while they are patients in wards of Queen Elizabeth Hospital or who are referred to the program throughout the country. In 2017, Umodzi was partnered with Uplifted Care in Bourbonnais, Illinois, who was then known as Hospice of Kankakee Valley. The two organizations built an engaged partnership focused on sharing knowledge and experiences.

As the twin forces of the pandemic and reduced funding hit PCST, restructuring how children's palliative was delivered became a necessity. And that necessity has help redefine the partnership's focus. One of Umodzi's primary needs retaining its trained pediatric palliative care nurse.



Umodzi exchange visit to Uplifted Care in 2019



Umodzi's pediatric palliative care nurse, Mary

According to Connie Lemon, RN, CHPN, Executive Director of Uplifted Care, "We are always reminded to never assume what our partner needs, but to ask about their greatest concern and how we can help. Our staff is ready to re-focus with PCST on assisting with funding for critical staffing and food boxes for their patients. As we sit around our tables of abundant food over the holidays, let us remember those around the world who have so little."

[View the Online Story to See More Photos](#)

Don't Miss this Webinar!

Taking Action for Quality Palliative Care Services

24 November 2021

10:00am EST / 3:00pm UTC / 6:00pm EAT

This webinar will focus on [two new WHO resources on quality and palliative care](#). Those working in quality or palliative care in planning, policy, strategy or service delivery should join. Others with interest in measurement and health information systems, or sectors of health, development, academic and non-government organizations are welcome as well.

Learning objectives for the webinar are to:

- Understand the key linkages between quality and palliative care;
- Articulate the purpose, scope and key messages contained within two new WHO resources closely linked to quality and palliative care;
- Access a range of important WHO technical resources on the topics of quality and palliative care;
- Outline key actions that can be taken to enhance the quality of palliative care services.



[Register for the Webinar](#)

Exclusive Men of the Year Africa Humanitarian Award

Monsignor Bobby Benson, founder and director of [Matthew 25 House](#), recently won an EMY (exclusive men of the year) Africa Humanitarian Award.

Matthew 25 House, located in Koforidua, Ghana, supports people living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and patients in need of hospice care. It was one of the first hospices established in Ghana. Matthew 25 House is partnered with VITAS Healthcare in Chicago.



[View Monsignor Benson's acceptance of the award in the video below](#)



Gilchrist & Nkoaranga Palliative Care: a Beautiful Partnership

In 2014, Gilchrist fundraised to purchase a 4-wheel drive vehicle for their Tanzanian partner, Nkoaranga Palliative Care. They continue to support the costs for gas and vehicle upkeep to enable Nkoaranga to serve their patients and ask their staff and community to support the initiative.

[Check out this video to learn more](#)

Supporting Global Partners in Care is as simple as placing an order on AmazonSmile and designating us as the beneficiary!



Advisory Council Member Highlight:



Dan Maison, MD
*Regional Medical Director,
Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care*

Dr. Daniel Maison has been practicing hospice and palliative medicine for over 20 years, working as a full-time hospice and palliative care medicine physician since 2001.

[Read Dan's full profile](#)

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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.

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