

# Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

## Happy Thanksgiving!



Thursday, November 24th is a special holiday in the US. It's a day to focus on gratitude for the many gifts and blessings in our lives. It is also a day dedicated to spending time with loved ones, giving thanks for one another. At GPIC, we are very thankful for each of you – our partners who are working daily to improve the lives of those facing life-limiting illness – and the many of you who believe in and support this work with your time, talent and financial support. **THANK YOU!**

## Training Palliative Care Leaders in Africa

**Ndizi Eric Ngah** is a registered nurse pursuing a Master of Science in Palliative Care at the Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care in Africa (IHPCA) in Uganda. Eric previously received a scholarship through the APCA/GPIC African Palliative Care Education Scholarship Fund in 2011 which allowed him to pursue a long-distance Diploma in Palliative Care at IHPCA. Eric has been working in palliative care since completing his diploma and serves as a palliative care nurse and supervises palliative care services within the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Service. Eric has seen the benefit of the palliative care approach with his patients and their families. But he has also seen how palliative care is limited as awareness among communities and healthcare providers is low. This has piqued his interest in furthering his own palliative care training so he can share knowledge and skills with others. This year, Eric started his master's at IHPCA and is soon completing his second semester exams.



Photo courtesy of Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Service

*“I am in this master’s so that I can gain in-depth knowledge and become more qualified to teach in the health care institutions, nursing and medical schools in my country – a thing that has not been given any close attention. More research will be done on palliative care and the findings used to improve the service in my country and beyond. Gaining knowledge on advocacy will help me approach policymakers to ensure that palliative care is prioritized as part of universal health coverage.*

*“This dream has not been easy to pursue for financial reasons. This scholarship from APCA is a great leap forward for me to fulfill my purpose of existence.”*

– Ndizi Eric Ngah

Eric is not only training staff in his own institution, but also reaching out to the public to increase awareness through radio talk shows and visits to communities to talk about palliative care. There is also an internally displaced population in Cameroon due to the sociopolitical crisis in the country. Eric and his colleagues are conducting online education for palliative care workers on management of cases in crisis situation.

The goal of our scholarship program is to expand the trained palliative care workforce in countries across Africa. But it is also important to deepen learning for those who seek to be leaders in palliative care in their community and country. Higher level degrees such as the Master of Science in Palliative Care at IHPCA increase the awareness, clinical and research skills and knowledge of palliative care for scholarship recipients so they can become advocates and palliative care educators to diverse in-country stakeholders. This is exactly what Eric is doing and we are pleased to support his efforts to establish greater access to necessary and compassionate palliative care in Cameroon.

The demand for palliative care education in Africa is much greater than we can accommodate, and we seek to grow our scholarship program in number and scope. If you would like to help support palliative care providers, teachers and trainers on the continent, please consider donating to the GPIC/APCA scholarship fund!

[Donate to the African Palliative Care Scholarship Fund](#)

## World Hospice and Palliative Care Day Celebrations Continue

The Palliative Care Association of Malawi (PACAM) held a day of celebrations on the 11th of November to bring awareness to hospice and palliative care services in Malawi. The event was put on in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners including Lighthouse, Kamuzu Central Hospital, University of Carolina, Baylor International, National AIDS Commission and Malawi Interfaith Association.



Organizations shared information about their work in palliative care, while patients and families shared their stories about the value of palliative care. In addition, several dignitaries from the government participated.



In line with the international theme for WHPCD, *Healing Hearts and Communities*, PACAM organized interdenominational prayers and music. Choirs from five different faith traditions performed and leaders from these traditions also prayed together. The advisor to the president on religious affairs joined as well.



Photos courtesy of Palliative Care Association of Malawi

Over 100 people attended the event drawn from various organizations including civil society, palliative care providers, PACAM members, religious leaders and members, policy makers, patients and families. Participants really appreciated the shared prayers and interdenominational nature of the event, which highlighted the inclusiveness of palliative care. They prayed together for souls of the departed, for their bereaved families, for access to resources and freedom from theft and mismanagement and finally, for peace.

## 2023 South African Palliative Care Conference – Abstract Deadline 21st November

“Palliative Care is Everyone’s Business” will take place **26 – 29 April 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa**. It is hosted by three leading palliative care associations in South Africa: Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA), Palliative Care for Children South Africa (PatchSA) and the Association of Palliative Care Practitioners of South Africa (PALPRAC). [Abstract submission](#) for this conference is open until **21st November 2022**. All forms of research, studies and reports are eligible. Visit <https://pcconference.co.za/> for more information.



## Celebrating "Movember"

Khanya Hospice in South Africa (partnered with VITAS Healthcare of Philadelphia) is celebrating the month of “MOVEMBER” to raise awareness for the importance of early detection and testing for prostate and testicular cancer. According to Khanya Hospice CEO, Neil McDonald, Halfway Malanda in Widenham and their wonderful staff have always supported the work that Khanya Hospice nursing staff are doing in the larger community. “We do encourage men to get in contact with their GPs or clinics and get tested,” McDonald said.



## Shopping Season is Upon Us!

We're all shopping this time of year (except for all of you early birds that already finished). Why not support a great cause at the same time? You can support Global Partners in Care by shopping at AmazonSmile and designating us as the beneficiary. It is the same service as regular Amazon shopping with the benefit of doing a little bit of good with your purchases!



**Help us spread the word!**  
**Follow us on social media and share our story with your networks.**



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