

Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

International African Palliative Care Conference Brings GPIC Back to Africa

The 7th International African Palliative Care Conference brought together palliative care practitioners, researchers, advocates and patients for a few engaging, full days of learning and sharing. Three hundred fifty people from 40 countries joined in person or virtually. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with several of our partners and collaborators from across Africa – including Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

GPIC and the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) held a joint session on partnerships “Building strong cross-cultural relationships despite – or because of – challenges and disagreements.” Two partnerships shared their experiences of collaborating on projects, highlighting how emerging from challenges has made their relationships stronger. Our 2021 Global Partnership awardees, Hospice of the North Coast and Nkhoma Mission Hospital, were recognized as well. The award was first presented at the US National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) conference earlier this year.



At a pre-conference meeting between ministers of health, representatives from 13 African countries signed an important [declaration](#) affirming the need to integrate palliative care into infectious disease outbreaks and pandemic preparedness and response.



Speaker Highlights



Advisory Council member Jim Cleary gave a riveting presentation during the conference.

Several members of the GPIC Advisory Council had key roles in the conference and shared important insights with participants. The conference opening session was outstanding and included comments from Dr. Stephen Connor of Worldwide Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA) and Dr. Emmanuel Luyirika of APCA as well as patient testimonials. A virtual welcome was shared by Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization, and an official opening of the conference came from Honorable Margaret Muhanga Mugisa, the Minister of State for Health in Charge of Primary Health Care in Uganda.

[Read more here](#)

Partner Visits

In addition to connecting with partners during the conference, GPIC visited several partner organizations in Uganda including Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja (RHHJ), Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU), the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) and Kawempe Home Care. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with our longtime partners, and these face-to-face interactions always help deepen relationships and build trust.



Visit to Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja

[Read more here](#)

Reflections from Cyndy Searfoss, Director of Partnerships



Cyndy with Gerever Niwagaba, program manager at Kawempe Home Care

When a friend asked me what the most significant impression of my trip to Uganda for the 7th International African Palliative Care Conference was, my immediate response was “I needed more time.” And as I reflected further, I realized how many aspects that encompassed.

I needed more time to learn about the latest developments in palliative care on the African continent. The conference was chock-full of informative plenary sessions, presentations, posters and opportunities to talk during breaks.

[Read more here](#)

From Mishawaka to Uganda: My Summer Internship Experience

Lydia Thomas, MPH

This summer I had the pleasure of interning with Global Partners in Care in the Mishawaka office. This included the amazing opportunity to work with the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) and attend their International African Palliative Care Conference in Kampala, Uganda. During my time with GPIC, I was inspired by the incredible partnerships that have been formed. I feel honored to have been a witness to the work being done to alleviate suffering across the globe.



At the African Palliative Care Conference in Kampala, Uganda



With mentors Eve Namisango of APCA and Lacey Ahern of GPIC

During my time in Mishawaka, my focus was developing an evaluation plan for the APCA/GPIC African Palliative Care Education Scholarships. I also supported several ongoing projects through research and reports. These activities allowed me to harness the skills I had gained in my Master of Public Health program and apply them to real-world situations. Through the internship, I was also able to participate in several webinars and learn about hospice and palliative care both in the US and globally. Part of my time was also spent assisting the staff at APCA with preparation for their conference, and my summer internship culminated in a 3-week trip to Uganda to attend this conference.

[Read more here](#)

Upcoming Events

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2022

Don't forget that WHPCD is **October 8, 2022** with the theme: *Healing Hearts & Communities*. Let us know what activities you are planning, and we will help spread the word! Check out this helpful [toolkit](#) from WHPCA as you make your plans.



HEALING HEARTS & COMMUNITIES
WORLD HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE DAY **8 OCT 2022**

Hats On 4 Children's Palliative Care



Hats On for Children's Palliative Care is celebrated on the second Friday in October each year. **October 14, 2022** will be a day for raising international awareness of the need for children's palliative care (CPC). Resources to help publicize Hats On For Children's Palliative Care can be found on the [International Children's Palliative Care Network's website](#). Post a selfie with your hat on, use [#hatson4cpc](#) and be sure to tag GPIC!

Disaster Response Fund

Help support refugees from the war in Ukraine through our collaboration with Hospices of Hope Moldova. Palliative care needs don't disappear during a refugee crisis and our colleagues at Hospices of Hope are working hard to support patients in need as well as support their palliative care colleagues in Ukraine. When you make a donation, be sure to enter 'Hospices of Hope Moldova' in the 'Designate partner to receive fund' box and GPIC will match donations up to the first \$2,500.



hospicesofhope
Moldova

[Support the Disaster Response Fund](#)

[Read more here](#) if you missed our May story about expanding our global reach and partnering with Hospices of Hope Moldova.

Help us spread the word!

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