

# Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide



## Center for Hospice Care Welcomes Partners from Palliative Care Association of Uganda

Center for Hospice Care and Hospice Foundation (CHC/HF) hosted the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) on an exchange visit from October 24th – November 12th. Exchange visits are an important aspect of our partnerships; they provide an opportunity to learn, share and deepen relationships. Connecting in-person is vital in building the strong relationships, and it offers our partners' staff a way to be engaged in the partnership. In the community, hosting partners helps promote awareness for hospice and palliative care, explore new relationships and collaborations and engage in strategic planning for partnership activities. PCAU's last visit to CHC was in 2018 when they [celebrated 10 years of partnership](#). Normally a team from PCAU visits CHC every two years, but these visits were on hiatus since the emergence of COVID-19. CHC and PCAU stayed in touch using Zoom, but there is nothing quite like in-person meetings and conversations to catalyze deeper engagements.

CHC/HF hosted Mark Mwesiga, PCAU's country director, who has steered the organization successfully through unprecedented and financially difficult times. In addition to the challenges of the pandemic, the global palliative care field has seen several long-standing funders of hospice and palliative care retract financial support across Africa. Mark has brought strategic vision and leadership to his role to navigate these challenges and bring PCAU to the national spotlight as a leader in palliative care.

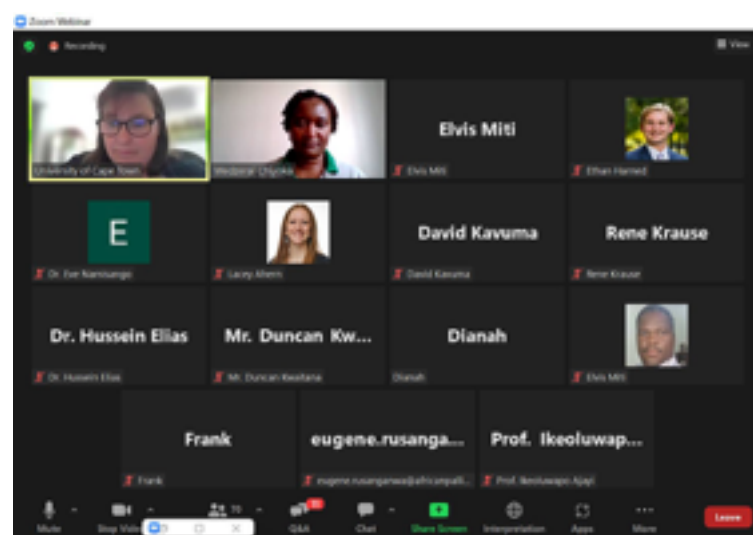


Mark was joined by Joyce Zalwango, PCAU's capacity building officer responsible for coordinating activities aimed at strengthening the development of palliative care work in Uganda. She works closely with Mark in advocating for palliative care and providing general support to all PCAU programs. This was Joyce's first visit to the United States, and she couldn't hide her excitement during her stay. She was eager to meet CHC/HF staff in person, visit new places and try new foods! While meeting with a group in the community, she told them, "getting a US visa is like a miracle. When I got the visa, I was excited and while the many stopover checks I encountered on my way worried me, somehow, I trusted I would make it to USA."

[Read more about the Exchange Visit](#)

## Virtual Palliative Care Education Fair

African Palliative Care Association (APCA) and Global Partners in Care (GPIC) share a mission to enhance access to palliative care services across the continent. A crucial component of this is ensuring that appropriately trained providers are available and accessible to those in need. This is why we collaboratively established the African Palliative Care Education Scholarship Fund in 2011. Our primary objective is for health care workers to gain knowledge and skills to provide compassionate care. Our secondary objective is to increase the awareness, clinical and research skills and knowledge of palliative care for recipients so they can become advocates and palliative care educators to diverse in-country stakeholders (e.g., policy makers, health care workers and the public). Since the program's start, more than 70 nurses and social workers from 13 African countries have received funding to complete palliative care courses that range from certificate courses to diplomas as well as BS degrees and MA/MS degrees. We are continuously working to grow the scholarship program – both in the number of scholarships offered and by expanding our geographical reach across the continent.



Toward this goal, APCA hosted an exciting virtual fair showcasing many of the palliative care education courses offered across the continent. The education fair was cohosted by GPIC and offered prospective students an opportunity to learn about and engage with various institutions offering palliative care training across numerous countries.

The education fair webinar had an outstanding turnout of over 70 participants. Some of the educational institutions presenting included: University of Cape Town (South Africa), Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care in Africa (Uganda), Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences (Uganda), Kamuzu University of Health Services (Malawi), Moi University (Kenya), Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (Tanzania). These institutions shared information on various course offerings, costs, application requirements and more.



Prospective students were able to ask questions and had the opportunity to discuss the challenges of entering a palliative care training program – including cost which is a major barrier. The education fair brought together many leaders in palliative care education and was an exciting way to engage with the next generation of palliative care providers.

## Last Minute Shopping?

Need to get that last, perfect gift for a friend or family member? Shop AmazonSmile and designate Global Partners in Care to receive a small percentage of your purchase amount! It's an easy way to make a big difference in making hospice and palliative care more accessible globally!



## Enhancing Access to Palliative Care through Education

Partnering with universities and other research institutions to support global palliative care with research and learning opportunities is one important way Global Partners in Care enhances access to palliative care.

We do this by offering opportunities to work in our office and with our partners. Our strong network of dedicated individuals includes our partnership organizations, national associations and international organizations that facilitate meaningful learning opportunities for student interns. These internships are guided by the needs and interests of our partners, and we work to meet the students' needs as well.

Your support of our 2022 Annual Appeal will allow us to expand our internship program and make it possible for more students around the world to engage in bilateral global knowledge exchanges about palliative care. With your help, we can engage and educate the next generation of palliative care leaders.



[Donate to the 2022 Annual Appeal](#)

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