



NAIROBI UTUMISHI ROTARY CLUB

DISTRICT 9200

Thank You All

Humanitarian Project
Nairobi Utumishi Rotary Club
By PP Rt. David Muiru

Background to Nairobi Utumishi Gift of Life Project

Gift of Life Project is a Nairobi Utumishi Rotary Club being part of a world wide humanitarian program for the purpose of helping needy children between the ages of 4-16 years requiring corrective open-heart surgery. The program began in 1988 when the first child a young Kenyan boy Master Yasser Khalid aged 4 years was sent to a Gift of Life participatory hospital in co-operation with Rotary Clubs of New York, U.S.A. The boy survived through corrective cardiac treatment and we believe is now living a normal life though we lost touch with him. The commitment and care by Rotarians has often meant the difference between life and death for the young patients. We also recall the case of Master Abdi Ruggi of Garba Tulla who was sponsored to the Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio in early 1992 with congenital heart problems under the sponsorship of the Catholic Mission in Garba Tulla-Northern Kenya; Nairobi Utumishi Rotary Club in conjunction with the Rotary District

Some of the children sponsored for the heart operations at the Nairobi Hospital. Here PC Rt. David Muiru is presenting the Club's sponsorship of Kshs. 600,000.



6690, Columbus, Ohio. In a letter to our Club dated April 7 1992, Brother Andre Hotchkiss of the Garba Tulla Catholic Mission said,

“ In the name of Abdi Ruggi and his family, and in the name of the Boran people, and for the Garba Tulla Catholic Mission, I want to express deepest gratitude to the Utumishi Rotary Club for your generosity in becoming an indispensable partner in this adventure to save Abdi's life.”



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Service Above Self

The success of these two cases created motivation on the Project. In conjunction with the Gift of Life Program of the Rotary Club of Douglastown, New York Rotary International District 7250 a Matching Grant was prepared and approved by the Rotary Foundation in early 1996 amounting to US\$15,000 under Rotary Foundation Matching Grant No. 5398.

Under this Grant our Rotarians together with the host families in New York got very involved with the celebrated case of the heart patient the late Irene Nyambura Mwangi by organizing all the arrangements between Nairobi and New York. The Rotarians executed all the necessary logistics by obtaining passports/visa, air transport and sent the child with her father to New York where they were received by the host Rotarians. There they were given accommodation, clothing, etc, and the child sent to St. Francis Hospital in New York and returned to Nairobi alive.

A couple of years later, our Rotarians arranged for the heart corrective surgeries for five other desperate children for both local and international heart operations. The Rotarians arranged for medical check up for all the five children, promoted the program on the local media, visited the children in the local hospital during operations, arranged for medical operations in Madras Medical Mission in India by contacting the doctors there, arranged for flight and discounts by airlines, arranged for take off, continued to monitor the progress until return of the children.

The late Irene Mwangi was sponsored to St. Francis Hospital, New York in 1997 and after her condition deteriorated she was sent to Madras Medical Mission-India accompanied by her mother for her second complex heart surgery in November 2000. Although there was an offer to return her to St. Francis Hospital in New York but owing to the summer vacation and her deteriorating condition; our committee had to make alternative arrangements to sending her to India. Irene had been very unfortunate in that her parents had separated and for her to travel she needed her mother who required travel documents yet she continued appearing in her father's travel documents. She is now alive and carrying on with her school life. Francis Mureithi and Daniel Nderitu below 12 years were also sent to Madras Medical Mission in India for heart operations. Both operations were successful.

The program sponsored two other children Eunice Kimani and Moraa Moranga to the Nairobi Hospital for complex open-heart surgery and valve replacements. Both operations were successful and now these two are alive and well having gone through life threatening cardiac arrest during the operation in August 2000.

Master Stephen Mwangi was sponsored at the same time in August 2000 under the same program to the Nairobi Hospital for equally complicated open-heart operation. Unfortunately Master Mwangi suffered severe cardiac shortly after the operation and sadly passed away. How sad it was for the breaking news.

Recalling the words of Dr. John Kariuki the Team Leader of the Cardiac Group at the Nairobi Hospital during briefing before these operations,

"There is no guarantee given for survival during an operation of this nature, but sitting and doing nothing on such fatal cases is worse than trying to help the endangered life through such operations."

We were indeed proud of Rotary on behalf of these children and their families. We considered the project to have been a great success. Our program was given an Award of Appreciation by the Heart to Heart Foundation delivered by the U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Mr. Johnnie Carson in November 2000 when our sponsored children were introduced to a crowd of about 250 prominent personalities in a gala night.

The Rotarians from the sponsoring District had been very kind in offering both financial and material assistance to this project in many ways.



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We recognized the assistance of the sponsoring donor agency Gift of Life Program of the Rotary Club of Douglastown, New York Rotary International District 7250. Special thanks to Rt. Gayler Keller, Rt. Pat Coulaz and Rt. John Capri and the entire Gift of Life Program in the Rotary Club of Douglastown, New York Rotary International District 7250. We dedicate these compliments to the late PDG Rt. Antony J. Zino the founder of Gift of Life Inc. in 1974 who recently passed in mid 2002 and whose legacy we shall cherish for indeed along time,

'For every child whose life is saved under this program, we shall remember Tony'.

We appreciated our association and help from the Heart to Heart Foundation and Laser Medical Clinic in examining our patients and a compiling all the necessary medical data that enabled the success of the operations. We particularly singled out Dr. Betty Gikonyo and Dr. Naomi Gachara whose role was highly appreciated. We equally received great assistance from the open-heart surgery team of eleven doctors who volunteered their services to attend to our three patients sent there and their concern at the Nairobi Hospital. We also recognized the great support from Dr. K. M. Cherian the Director of the Institute of Cardiac Vascular Diseases and his team at Madras Medical Mission in India for concessions and for always being there to answer queries on our patients.

Our **Club Gift of Life Trust** had been instrumental in the success of this project and we recognized the efforts of its past Trustees PP Rt. Sumant Desai, PP Rt. Maina Wachira, former PP Rt. Boniface Kamau, PP Rt. Zul Dhanji, PP Rt. Lalji Karena, PP Rt. David Muiru, PP Rt. Fridah Shiroya amongst all other trustees and well wishers.

The needs for this project are tremendous. Lives of young and promising future leaders of this country continue to be lost lose yet most of these could be saved. We are hopeful that with the assistance of well wishers we could revive this program and assist the children already in our books most of who may not be alive as we commence in the future.

"There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets credit.... For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and work for his good pleasure."

Fund Raising & Revival of Nairobi Utumishi Gift of Life Project

PP Rtn. David Muiru Chairman

Participating Hospital: The Mater Hospital

Budget: Kshs.1,000,000 (20 children per year at Kshs.
50,000 each)

NURC Board Resolutions:

The Club's BOD Meeting of NURC on 21st February 2011 at Goan Gymkhana Club passed a resolution to the effect that Past President Rtn. David Muiru initiative of the re-launch of the Gift of Life project and the above proposals effectively approved.

The Club pledged its full support and adopted the project as the theme of the Club as an on-going project with a sponsorship of twenty children per annum.



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Fund Raising Campaign & Acknowledgements with thanks

Mr. Rasit Patel (through Rtn. Kundan Doshi)	50,000.00
Past Pres. Rtn. Cheryl de Souza	50,000.00
Mr. Daniel Kinyua	50,000.00
Rtn. Faye Morse (RC Tucson Arizona)	104,500.00 (US\$1250)
Past Pres. Rtn. Abdul Karim	20,000.00
Past Pres. Rtn. George Mac'Odawa	50,000.00
Rtn. Pam Nelson & Pres. Rtn. John Ferrel (Rotary Club of Harborside St. Croix)	278,400 (US\$3000)
Dr. Ralph De Haan (Pella, Iowa)	65,380 (US\$700)
District Governor Nominee Rtn. Geeta Manek	50,000.00
District Governor Rtn. Erik Kimani	50,000.00
Rtn. Bhanendra Bagda	200,000.00

Donation Function at the Mater Hospital

Donated amount Kshs. 700,000 to the Mater Hospital

2nd September 2011 at 10.30 am at the Mater Hospital

Guest of Honour District Governor Rtn. Eric Kimani
Grace Agwaru Gift of Life International Ambassador and
Rotary District 9200 Gift of Life Chair (2010-2012)

Kenya Rotary Office Attendance District Governor Nominee Rtn. Geeta Manek
Country Chair Rtn. Peter Mbui
Grace Agwaru Gift of Life International Ambassador and
Rotary District 9200 Gift of Life Chair (2010-2012)
Assistant District Governor Rtn. Joseph Thiga
Gift of Life Country Chair Rtn. Martin Ngugi

Attendance list:

RC Nairobi Utumishi: Pres. Rtn. Joachim Githinji
Past Pres. Rtn. David Muiru
Past Pres. Rtn. Cheryl De Souza
Past Pres. Rtn. Sumant Desai
Rtn. Dr. Balbir Singh
Rtn. Dr. Mir Mussadiq
Ms Jill Craig

RC Thika: Rtn. Mugo Kirika
Rtn. Dr. Wamaitha Kirika
Rtn. Geoffrey Maina

RC Nairobi North: Pres. Rtn. Evans Obuya
Rtn. Josephine Ndambuki

RC Hurlingham: Rtn. Sophie Njagi
Rtn. Muriuki Njagagua
Rtn. Elisha Kamau

The Mater Hospital Team: Sr Dr. Malion Dolan
Mr. Lawrence Muiga
Mr. Mohsen Karim
Ms. Susan Gachathi
Ms. Rose Nyabera & many others
Dr. Dan Ochiel Registrar

Guests Mr. Moses Muchiri Apex Communications Ltd
Ms. Lisa Gilmore Visiting Medical Team from USA
Ms. Joann Eisenberg Visiting Medical Team from USA
Ms. Carol Rosenberg Visiting Medical Team from USA
Ms. Lisa Gilmore Visiting Medical Team from USA
Mr. Ronnel Onchagwa Nation Media

Ms. Catherine Karogo Capital Fm
Mr. Peter Mbogo THAP
Past Recipients of Gift of Life

2nd September 2011 photographs of the function



Unveiling of memorial plaque for the late Dr. Hennein



Grace Agwaru and Cheryl de Souza



Jill Craig and Grace Agwaru



A recipient of Gift of Life



A recipient of Gift of Life



Sr. Dr. Malion Dolan, Rtn. Joachim Githinji, Rtn. David Muiru, District Governor Eric Kimani and Rtn. Cheryl De Souza



District Governor Eric Kimani



Rtn. David Muiru



Rtn. Joachim Githinji

