17 Ugandan children received a second chance at life

The visiting team from Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana made its third trip to Uganda to provide training and skills transfer to the Ugandan pediatric cardiac surgical, cath and aftercare team. A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Greenfield, Rotary Club of Kampala North, Rotary Club of Makindye, Rotary Club of Ntinda and Rotary District 9200 for sponsoring this medical training visit through a Rotary Foundation Vocational Training Grant.
The Training Team from Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana made its 3rd trip to Uganda this past December. Over the past three years, this team led by Dr. Mark Turrentine and Dr. Stephanie Kinnaman has worked with the Ugandan surgical and aftercare team at the Uganda Heart Institute (UHI) to treat 40 children. The healthcare professionals from Riley Hospital for Children have clearly shown their dedication to working to advance the skills of the Ugandan team while caring for the children that are treated during each of their visits.

Over the years the Ugandan and Riley teams have come to respect one another and both have gained from the experience. The focus of this year’s mission was to integrate the surgical and catheterization aspects of the Ugandan program. Recently, UHI has opened a state-of-the-art catheterization lab and operating room. This mission provided training to the Ugandan team for not only surgical patients but also the first-ever interventional catheterization procedures on children in the new cath lab. In all, 8 children received open-heart surgeries and 10 received interventional/diagnostic catheterization procedures.

During the past 4 years, more than 300 Ugandan children have been helped under the ‘Our Hearts Are in Uganda’ program. This past year more than 100 children were treated at UHI by the Ugandan Surgical Team. The training team from Riley Hospital for Children has played a significant role in the success of this Gift of Life International initiative.
There is a great feeling of accomplishment at the Uganda Heart Institute (UHI) as the year 2012 comes to an end with the 4th and final training visit of the year. Each visit focused on the transfer of skills from the visiting teams to the Ugandan team with an emphasis on empowering the Ugandans to care for Ugandans, improving communication skills within the Ugandan cardiac team, working to gain proficiency in operating and recovering ASD and VSD patients allowing this type of surgery to be performed on a reliable basis between training visits, and striving to gradually take the entire Ugandan team to the next level of proficiency for slightly more complex cases like TOF and TAPVR.

During the December 2012 training visit, 8 children received open-heart surgery and 10 received interventional and diagnostic cath procedures. In total, 105 Ugandan children who suffered from congenital heart defects received care at UHI in 2012.

Tremendous progress has been made since the implementation of the ‘Our Hearts are in Uganda’ program in 2010. Over 300 Ugandan children have been given hope for a healthy future, 10 training visits have been conducted, over $200,000 of essential equipment, supplies and medications have been acquired, and the support of the Ugandan Government has been solidified with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Gift of Life International will continue to support the efforts of the Ugandan team as we move closer to a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program and continue to turn despair to hope.
This life-saving surgical and interventional catheterization mission would not have been possible without the kindness, generosity and dedication of many individuals and organizations from Uganda and the United States.

A special thank you to The Riley Hospital for Children’s Team for providing training to the Ugandan team and for donating supplies. We thank you for sharing your knowledge and for helping to enhance the skills of the Ugandan team. A heartfelt thanks to team leaders Dr. Stephanie Kinnaman and Dr. Mark Turrentine for all your efforts in coordinating logistics for your team and helping to make this training visit a success.

We extend another big thank you to the Rotary Club of Greenfield, Rotary Club of Kampala North, Rotary Club of Makindye, Rotary Club of Ntinda and Rotary District 9200 for sponsoring this medical training visit through a Rotary Foundation Vocational Training Grant. Your commitment to the development of a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program in Uganda is greatly appreciated and is a wonderful example of how the global network of Gift of Life and Rotary work together to save children’s lives and empower healthcare professionals around the world to care for their own children. A very special thank you to Oskar Semwa of the Kampala North Rotary Club and Grace Agwaru of Gift of Life International and the Kampala North Rotary Club for ensuring the logistics of the mission were coordinated. Your dedication to Uganda and your support for the ‘Our Hearts are in Uganda’ program have been greatly appreciated.
Gift of Life International would also like to thank the individuals and corporations that sponsored our Beneficiaries Reunion on December 8th: Century Bottling Company, Victoria Beverages Limited, Thumbelina Nursery and Day Care, PDG Edward Birdie, MTN Uganda, Ugandan Rotarians, Nakasero Primary School, parents of program beneficiaries, Rotaractors of Kyambogo Rotary Club and UICT Rotaract Clubs.

We were honored with the visit of a number of Rotary-leaders in District 9200. We would like to thank District Governor Geeta Manek, PDG Francis Tusubira, PDG Stephen Mwanje, Rotarian Jane Adam and Rotarian Sudesh Walia for taking the time to visit UHI during the training visit. They were able to observe a surgery and visit the children recovering in the ICU.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Rotary Club of Kampala North for hosting a beautiful farewell dinner. The Riley team was officially thanked for their efforts by Rotarians from the Kampala North, Ntinda and Makindye Rotary clubs.

Gift of Life International would like to give thanks to the entire nursing staff, residents, social workers, technical staff and everyone at the Uganda Heart Institute for their assistance in making this mission a success.
THE PARTICIPATING MEDICAL TEAMS

The Riley Hospital for Children visiting pediatric cardiac medical team:

Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon: Dr. Mark Turrentine
Pediatric Cardiologist: Dr. Tim Cordes
Pediatric Interventional Cardiologist: Dr. John Breinholt III
Anesthesiologists: Dr. Scott Walker, Dr. Matthew Hamilton
Perfusionist: Michael Horner
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner: Jennifer Helman, RN
Family Nurse Practitioner: Kara LaLiberte, RN
Cath Lab Nurses: Janelle Leary, RN, and Lisa Bauermeister, RN
ICU Nurses: Miranda Applegate, RN, Sheila Rocchio, RN
OR scrub nurses: Molly Shea, RN, Rachel Beach, RN,
Family Physician: Dr. Stephanie Kinnaman, (Rotarian team leader)

The Uganda Heart Institute pediatric cardiac medical team from Mulago Hospital:

Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeons: Dr. John Omagino (Director), Dr. Tom Mwambu, Dr. Michael Oketcho
Pediatric Cardiologists: Dr. Peter Lwabi, Dr. Sulaiman Lubega, Dr. Aliku Twalibu (resident)
Adult Cardiologists: Dr. Nyakoojo-Abwoli, Dr. Sebatta Elias, Dr. Okello Emmy (resident)
Perfusionists: Dr. Muraa Pascalina
Anesthesiologist: Dr. Cephas Mijumbi, Dr. Ejoku Joseph
ICT Technician: Enoch Kibalizi
Scrub Nurses: Munduru Gertrude, Obwin John, Oyang Ben
ICU Nursing Team: Among Grace, Arach Joyce, Ayikoru Leila, Ayaa Kate, Komugabe Penninah,
Musoke Leticia, Mwima Rachael, Nakisige Monica, Namanda Cissy, Munduru Jane F., Nabulya Edith,
Nalubega Madina, Nalule Grace, Berna Namayanja, Namuli Flavia, Namukwaya Harriet, Nawakonyi Susan,
Nyakakye Catherine, Byabakama Margaret, Samalie Kitoleeko, Ann Oketayote, Sendege Aley
Physiotherapist: Egwayu Nancy
Procurement Officer: Okwaro Edward
Secretary/Assistant Coordinator: Anne Bukenya
Biomedical: Milad Nashat (engineer), Robert Malungu (technician)
Pharmacy: Afidra Philip
Head of Laboratory: Kebba John
Records Officer: Jaika Patrick
Stores: Ngobi Bob, Birungi Suzan

As in every training visit, the UHI professional staff was matched with members of the visiting team to enable the transfer of skills. All health care professionals participating as the local team were UHI staff.
It has become a tradition for past beneficiaries of the ‘Our Hearts are in Uganda’ program to gather at the end of each year to celebrate another year of birthdays thanks to Gift of Life!

The Children had gifts and letters for the visiting Riley team members. The children put on a show and a beautiful cake was shared by all. It was heartwarming to see the energy and enthusiasm of nearly 150 of our past beneficiaries who have received life-saving surgeries over the past 4 years.
A total of 8 children received a second chance at life through open-heart surgery. Two of the eight children underwent cath procedures prior to surgery. All children have recovered and are back home with their families. Two of these children will be entered into a nutritional program in February 2013 administered by the Ugandan Rotarians in cooperation with the Watoto Church.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>DIAGNOSIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharuwa</td>
<td>8 years old</td>
<td>ASD Patch Closure, Rerouting of PV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamim</td>
<td>14 years old</td>
<td>Large Subpulmonic VSD, PR, reconstruct large PA, Severe PHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvellous</td>
<td>2 years old</td>
<td>PMVSD, PDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>8 years old</td>
<td>Bi Directional Glen Shunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>4 1/2 years old</td>
<td>TOF Total Correction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabitha</td>
<td>15 years old</td>
<td>TOF Total Correction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>3 1/2 years old</td>
<td>TOF Total Correction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalton</td>
<td>4 years old</td>
<td>PS, ASD, Pulmonary Valvotomy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED OPEN-HEART SURGERY

Thank you for turning despair to hope for these children:
Sharuwa, Shamim, Marvellous, Ben, Tracy, Tabitha, Catherine & Dalton
A total of 10 children received a second chance at life through non-invasive interventional/diagnostic catheterization procedures. All 10 of these children have recovered and are back home with their families. Sadly, one of the children lost his battle with congenital heart disease during his procedure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>DIAGNOSIS</th>
<th>TYPE OF CATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicky</td>
<td>11 months old</td>
<td>Pseudo Trancus</td>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia</td>
<td>7 years old</td>
<td>AP Window</td>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorcus</td>
<td>10 years old</td>
<td>Double Outlet Right Ventricle</td>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xavier</td>
<td>5 years old</td>
<td>Aortic Coarctation, Angiography</td>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard</td>
<td>15 years old</td>
<td>PS, Pulmonary Valvotomy</td>
<td>Interventional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kizito</td>
<td>7 years old</td>
<td>PS, Pulmonary Valvotomy</td>
<td>Interventional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saleh</td>
<td>4 years old</td>
<td>PS, Pulmonary Valvotomy</td>
<td>Interventional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>13 years old</td>
<td>Large Pulmonary AVM</td>
<td>Interventional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalton</td>
<td>4 years old</td>
<td>PS, ASD, Pulmonary Valvotomy</td>
<td>Interventional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estheria</td>
<td>1 1/2 years old</td>
<td>PS, Pulmonary Valvotomy</td>
<td>Interventional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED CATH PROCEDURES

Thank you for providing these children with a second chance at life:
Vicky, Sophia, Dorcus, Xavier, Bernard, Kizito, Lawrence, Dalton & Estheria

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Saleh. Our prayers are with his family as they mourn the loss of their precious child.
TURNING DESPAIR TO HOPE...
ONE HEART AT A TIME

REDEFINING CHARITY IN UGANDA

WWW.GIFTOFLIFEINTERNATIONAL.ORG