

Message from Executive Director

Greetings,

I hope you have had a good start to 2025.

A heartfelt thanks for your support for Hospice Africa Uganda last year. Your generosity has allowed us to continue providing compassionate care, comfort and dignity to our patients and their families.

The last quarter of 2024 was extremely busy. We launched our 2023/2024 Annual Report at the AGM; students who completed the Home Care course at the Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care in Africa (IHPCA) graduated, and in November our teams in Kampala, Mbarara and Hoima held Memorial Services remembering patients who died during the year.

We are looking forward to a successful 2025.

Prossy Nakyanja.

Home Care Graduation

On 6th December 2024, the IHPCA Home Care students graduated with a ceremony in HAU. This course is designed to help caregivers provide excellent care to patients including the elderly, people with dementia, children with challenging behavior and those coping with mental health issues.



The Home Care graduates attended the Caregivers Trainer's Symposium organized by The Aged Family Uganda (TAFU) at Nsambya Sharing Hall from 18th- 19th December 2024. Hospice Africa Uganda was thanked for its professional training and in particular the clinical team for its care and love for the students.

Visit to Benin

Our International Programmes Director Dr. Eddie Mwebesa and nurse/ trainer Sylvia Dive travelled to Benin in October to assess the country's suitability as a model for palliative care for Francophone Africa, and to explore the potential for a long term placement for Sylvia to offer technical assistance there. Benin showed much promise as a potential model for palliative care. HAU was recognized at Benin's 3rd National Palliative Care congress for its support to Benin's Palliative care development.



News from Mobile Hospice Mbarara (MHM) & Little Hospice Hoima (LHH)

MHM Fundraising Drive



The Mobile Hospice Mbarara team held a fundraising breakfast on 13th December to raise money to support the renovation of the clinic. The Chief guest was MP. Hon. Robert Rukaari. It was attended by HAU board members including chair Joy Mirembe, and the Senior Management Team members.

Meeting with MTI

The LHH team was privileged to host the Executive Director and Clinical Director from 3rd to 5th December, 2024. During the visit, they had meetings with some of their partners, including Medical Teams International and Hoima Regional Referral Hospital. The engagements sought to formalize and strengthen HAU's working relationship with these institutions.



Patient's Christmas Party



Hospice Kampala



Mobile Hospice Mbarara

Our teams in Kampala, Mbarara and Hoima hosted Christmas parties for patients with decorations, entertainment, gifts, and delicious food – a reminder to the patients that Hospice really cares for them. Many patients gave powerful testimonies of the impact of the wonderful compassionate care they receive in an inclusive environment.



Little Hospice Hoima

The party was held on 13th December 2024 in Hoima and 191 patients and carers attended. The Hoima Deputy Lord Mayor, Hon. Sylvia Nalumaga Balyesima attended the Hoima Christmas party and thanked Hospice for the great work. She expressed an interest in signing up for membership.

Thank you!

We would like to express its immense gratitude to all who donated for the patient's Christmas parties. Here are some of the donations in pictorial.



Staff Christmas Party

The Christmas spirit shone brightly as our teams in Hoima, Mbarara and Kampala gathered to celebrate the festive season on December 17th. The energy and excitement was palpable, with laughter, games as team members celebrated their hard work throughout the year. Across the three sites, the much- anticipated Secret Santa gift exchange brought smiles and surprises, creating a sense of unity among colleagues.



Mobile Hospice Mbarara



Little Hospice Hospice



Hospice Kampala

Bidding Farewell to Rachel Stephens

The team in Kampala bade farewell to Irish volunteer Rachel Stephens who was with us for almost 4 months. Hardworking, collaborative and committed Rachel made a big impact in her time here assisting various organization activities. The team said goodbye to Rachel at the staff Christmas party.



World AIDS Day

HAU marked World Aids Day - which had the theme, “Take the rights path” - by joining with PCAU for a session raising awareness of palliative care in All Saints Church in Lweza. The message was that the world can actually end AIDS if everyone’s rights are protected, and medicines are universally available and accessible.



Annual General Meeting 2024

We finished off our years' activities by holding our AGM, and launching our 2023-2024 Annual Report, on 18th December 2024 at the Hospice Africa Uganda offices in Makindye. We also recognized employees of the year, long serving employees, and HAU life time HAU members. We were delighted to have many supporters and partners with us on that day.



Employees of the year



Nakanwagi Resty (HKLA)



Muhumure Allen (MHM)



Karungi Mpabaisi Elizabeth (LHH)

Long Serving Employees & Life-time members

Hospice Africa Uganda acknowledged Dr. Eddie Mwebesa, John Kobweme, Elizabeth Mbabazi, Octivia Evelyn Nazziwa, Susan Nakibirango, Prossy Nakyanja, and Ajuna Christopher for their long service in the organisation. Appreciation was also extended to our life members.



Appreciation

Scooby Doom Boom was thanked for supplying bouncing castles for patient parties for free. Ecobank was also thanked for its continued support to Hospice Africa Uganda.

Memorial Service



Hospice Kampala

The annual Memorial service day is a significant event at Hospice Africa Uganda, held every November to honor the memory of all patients who passed away during the year. The November event featured interfaith prayers and a poignant candle-lighting ceremony involving family members who also shared heartfelt testimonies about their loved-ones journeys. It was an opportunity to celebrate the unwavering dedication and compassion of HAU staff, particularly the nurses.



Little Hospice Hoima



Mobile Hospice Mbarara

Teams in Mbarara and Hoima also held memorial services in November. In Hoima prayers were presided over by Rev. Fredrick Bigabwenkya, the Hoima Regional Hospital chaplain, Sheikh Musa Babanja, the Hoima District Kadhi and Rev. Fr. Paul Bigirwa, the Parish Priest St. Cyprian Town parish.

I STILL MATTER, NO MATTER WHAT: A PATIENT STORY

60-year-old JK walked into Mobile Hospice Mbarara having battled chronic liver disease for the past three years. Despite seeking treatment from various facilities, his condition had not improved, and he had lost hope. His primary goal was to completely eliminate the discomfort he was going through, something that was proving really challenging.

The hospice team provided medications, conducted paracentesis (tapping), and offered counseling to help JK understand his condition and to establish care goals.

Socially, JK's life was complex. He had four wives: one was deceased, he was separated from two and one, SK, remained by his side. In total, JK had 10 children from all his marriages. Once a thriving businessman who enjoyed a vibrant social life, JK's illness forced him to abandon his work, leaving him with debts exceeding 75 million Ugandan shillings across four financial institutions. The team discovered a financial claim on his house, with the words "PAY BANK LOAN" written prominently on it.

To address this, the team encouraged SK to communicate with the financial institutions to explain JK's condition. This alleviated some pressure. However, JK remained adamant about repaying his debts before passing, motivated by the desire to secure his family's future.

In addition to his financial troubles, JK faced land disputes with his first wife, who hoped to claim all the land for herself and her children after his death. Despite having already allocated portions of his land to each wife for their children's benefit, JK's first wife contested his decisions. The case was in court, moving at a slow pace. With the team's support, consultations were made with AKAO Refugee, an organization providing legal aid, particularly for gender-based violence cases. AKAO confirmed that JK had a strong case and offered him legal advice. Remarkably, JK insisted on personally attending all court hearings and ultimately won the case.

The hospice team continues to provide comprehensive support for JK and his family, including pain and symptom management, ongoing counseling, and family support. The local council (LC) has also remained actively involved. After the court's final decision, JK's first wife ceased her legal case, allowing the family some peace.

JK regularly reminds the team that he still matters to his family, and he will fight for their well-being as long as the hospice stands by them. His resilience exemplifies the hospice's belief: "You matter until the last day of life."





Thank You

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Contact Details

Tel: +256701968098/ 0393000912

Email: infoug@hospice-africa.org

Website: www.hospice-africa.org

Address: Plot 130, Makindye Road,
Makindye P. O. Box 7757,
Kampala

Instagram: Hospiceafrica X: HospiceAfricaUg Facebook: HospiceAfricaUganda