

IcFEM Dreamland Mission Hospital (DMH) Newsletter January to March 2016



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2016. The start of this year has been very busy. In October last year we broke the ground for our new and much needed laundry, children's ward & Doctor's house. The laundry and children's ward have now been completed with the Doctor's house due to be painted this month. Henry, Alfayo and all the domestic staff were thrilled with their washing machines; the laundry will make a huge difference to the time they have to spend hand washing.

Recently the wards have been so busy that children have had to sleep on mattresses in the gym. The extra 24 beds will allow all children to have their own bed, and a purpose built environment that suits their needs. Dr Hannington is looking forward to being on site, reducing the travel time to emergency and making on-calls in the dark and mud much safer. We are very grateful to all the donors who have made this project possible. The community, staff and children are delighted with the results.



The children's ward - there are 24 beds over 2 level



The domestic team with their new washing machines

In March we welcomed the Smile Train team back to Kimilili. They came for 2 weeks to review children from the previous clinics, and did 22 more surgeries on patients with cleft lip and palate. It is always a delight to have the hospital full of people of all ages. The team operated on children from 3 months old to adults of 80! Rose had lived with cleft lip all her life, but had never dreamed she could have it fixed before she died. Although not severe enough to mean she could not be fed as child, she was keen to have a smile! The team agreed to operate under local anaesthetic and 3 hours later she was able to drink through a straw for the first time her life (the surgeon bought her a coke!) which was another of her ambitions! It was a week of firsts for Rose, who arrived on the back of motorbike, soaking wet and covered in blood - she had fallen off on the way. She was given new clothes, her head was stitched back together, she was given wheelchair as she had previous leg injuries meaning she could no longer walk and for the first time ever she had a shower where water came from the wall! She also had the pleasure of meeting Miss World Kenya and the East Africa Smile Train Team. Miss Kenya is supporting the work of Smile Train in Kenya, and the DMH staff and patients were thrilled she spent the time visiting DMH.



Rose with Miss World Kenya before her surgery



Rose with her fixed lip

Some of you may also remember Belinda. Belinda was under 4 KG when she came to DMH in November 2014 and was very sick. She had to be put on a feeding programme and cared for round the clock. Last year she had surgery to correct her palate and lip and in March her dad came back to see the team. Belinda is now a healthy, smiling, eating, growing and walking 2.5 year old! She even starting to talk and over time should gain near normal speech. It's an amazing transformation.



Belinda in November 2014



Belinda in March 2016

Other services at DMH continue to grow. The hospital has gone from running one clinical room on weekdays to 3 rooms plus an eye service. Patients who have signed up to the National Hospital Insurance Fund can be treated for routine diseases such as malaria and typhoid for no additional cost. The hospital is working with community to raise awareness of this and encourage people to sign up; just £4 a month treats the whole family. We have found that news of the work DMH is doing is spreading far and wide.



One such example is Celestine. 10 year old Celestine lives with her Grandma. Having heard that special Doctors were visiting DMH, she travelled for hours to reach them - she was carried, taken on a bus, then on a motorbike and then walked. Celestine has been blind since birth, had never attended school, and had a broken arm from a nasty fall. When she arrived, it wasn't the Smile Train Doctors who could help her, and in fact it was Kiprop who came to her service. Celestine could only see a small movement in front of her face, but otherwise was totally blind. After assessing her, Kiprop identified that Celestine had congenital cataracts which could potentially be treated with surgery. After

2 surgeries, some strong medication and 2 weeks in hospital the results were remarkable. She is now a little girl who could see well enough to colour in the pictures, run into our office and ask to play and now wants to go school!

DMH work is expanding into community, we are delighted to welcome Ben Gardner to the team. Ben recently completed a degree in international development, with a focus on community health. He is heading up a team that is working on the community health strategy. This will include growing the HIV service and the chronic disease department including his work with jiggers as well as working with the current programmes such as eyes and dentistry that already spend time in the community. The dental department have been busy with school screenings and education on dental hygiene. This service is vitally important as dental care in Kenya is often neglected until the point that children or adults need their tooth removed because it is so rotten.



We hope that over a period of time we can change the views of the community by encouraging them that prevention is better than treatment and that early treatment is better than waiting. The hospital is gaining a reputation for fair and good quality treatment, and it is clear that the community are learning to trust our staff. We hope that the expansion of DMH's community health programme will allow the poorest people better access to all our services.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported and prayed for DMH, the hospital is providing a vital and very special service to the community around Kimilili and beyond. We hope that the stories in this newsletter give you a flavour of life at DMH. If you would like to hear more stories and news from DMH then have a look at our Facebook page. www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital

Becky Nightingale and Ruth Nabie

On behalf of all the DMH management (Sister Margaret, RCO Kiprof, Sister Jael, Sister Agnes and Claire) and with thanks to all the patients who agreed to tell their stories.

If you wish to donate:

Visit www.justgiving.com/IcFEMDMH, or

Text IDMH99 followed by the amount (eg £10) to 70070.

