



Welcome to our end of year newsletter, with some of the team wishing you Happy Christmas! We thank God for this year and for all your support.

DMH has seen a record a number of patients in 2016. By November we passed 30,000 appointments or hospital admissions; this is nearly 10,000 more than last year! The hospital has been particular busy in the last few weeks. Staff at the government hospital have been on strike over pay related issues, even emergency patients were being turned. DMH is very grateful to all its staff who worked around the clock to try and save lives. We had a shortage of blood, had to turn eye theatre into a main theatre and delivered 4 times more babies in just one week than we normally do in a month! If DMH had not been open many of these patients could have died. Staff worked 24/7, gave blood, found extra mattresses and generally went the extra mile. We were grateful that we have just employed a second medical officer and also welcomed Lindy (a Canadian Doctor) on an internship for a month.



Alongside the normal day-to-day work the special clinics continue to run. The Smile Train Team came to visit in November, performing 34 operations, admitting a further 10 patients for a feeding programme and screening many more. Children in Kenya born with cleft lip are often seen as a curse. They struggle to feed and it is common for them to die before they can have surgery. The team worked hard to encourage the community to bring their children for surgery. Children such as Andrew who came from 3 hours away to have surgery. His mother thought he would never be able to eat or drink; she didn't think help was possible. One day our clinical officer saw him in his home village and encouraged his mother to bring him to DMH. His mother carried him for 3.5 hours; on motorbike, bus and by foot. Andrew had surgery on his lip and then 6 months later on his palette. He can now eat and drink without a problem and is growing fast. He should also regain his speech and be able to go to school and interact like a normal child.



We would also like to say congratulations to Dr Tony and Ann Giles who won a 'Point of Light' award from the UK Prime Minister. We are privileged to benefit from their support. They do amazing work travelling the world, giving children back the ability to eat, smile and laugh!



As well as the work within the hospital, the community team continue to grow. Headed up by Ben Gardner, the growing team are improving the lives of people in the rural villages surrounding Kimilili. Ben and his team have already helped a village where a jigger (sand flea) that eats into the skin has been significantly reduced, if not eradicated. The team are also working to bring HIV and other chronic disease medications in to the

community. High blood pressure is major problem impacting 25% of Kenyans over the age of 25. Non-infectious diseases make up 50% of our hospital admissions, yet they tend to get forgotten because of need to treat malaria and other infections. Rose, Ben and their team are working to educate the community and bring health care nearer to their home.



DMH continues to expand, but with more surgery comes the need for more staff. We are currently looking for an anaesthetist to join our growing team. Our aim is to train our own members of staff but this is a 2-year process.

If you know if anyone who would like to join our theatre team, to train staff or to get involved at DMH in another way please do get in touch. Good accommodation is available!

We would also be grateful if you could share this need within churches, hospitals and communities that you are part of or connected with.

We are extremely grateful for all the support, prayers and encouragement we get. The hospital continues to have a significant impact on this community. If you would like to visit, to help financially, to pray for the hospital or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us. The best way is via email: [dreamlandhospital@icfem.org](mailto:dreamlandhospital@icfem.org) or by calling +44 (0) 161 408 0850. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Thank you again for all your support and Merry Christmas.

God Bless,

Becky Nightingale and Ruth Nabie

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

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