



Dreamland Mission Hospital

DMH Newsletter
December 2019

Happy Christmas and Thank You from everyone at DMH

Thank you so much to everyone who supported DMH this year. We have again seen over 50,000 patients, done in excess of 1,000 surgeries and have 10,000 people signed up to the NHIF scheme to allow them access to free care at DMH. We are so grateful to those of you who have invested in the infrastructure at DMH. This year we have gained a new ambulance, new solar panels and have working oxygen and suction in every ward. The whole team wishes you a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.



The funds and support you have given this year have helped some of the poorest patients get the care they need. Healthcare in Kenya is not free for everyone but with the national NHIF and surgery sponsorship schemes we can make it as accessible as possible to the poorest patients.



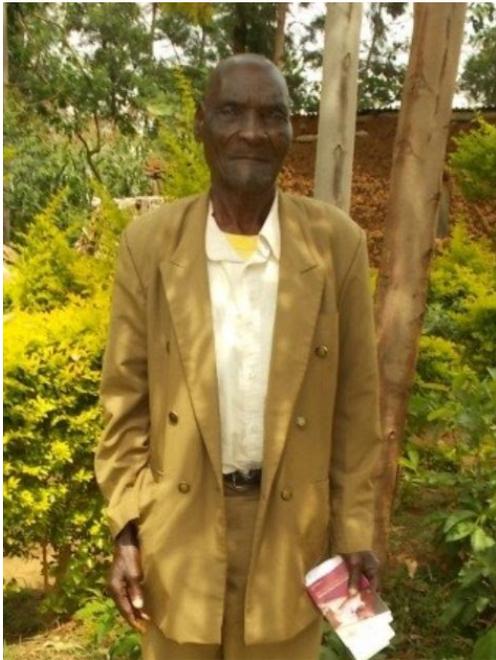
Ann lives in a rural location about 5km away from the hospital. Her husband does casual manual work in order to provide food for the family. He managed to work enough to keep Ann fit and healthy in pregnancy but could not afford the cost of a hospital delivery. Ann started to have trouble in labour but thanks to a government scheme for free maternity care and your sponsorship which enables traditional birth attendants to bring mothers in difficult labour to hospital, Ann was able to have safe delivery by Caesarean section at no cost to her family.



"I am very happy and excited to have this baby. Neema has brought joy in my life and family". Ann's little girl is now fit and healthy and also has healthcare covered for the whole family. She will get free vaccinations and free care at DMH for at least 6 months after the birth. Ann's husband said that he will now be able to spend money to ensure that his family are fed and not worry about healthcare costs. In the future he plans to pay for the insurance himself so that he has peace of mind about the health of his family. They would like to thank everyone that has made the NHIF sponsorship scheme possible.



Alice is 47 years old with 5 children. When she was 30, she began to notice a lump in her throat that was growing gradually, which turned out to be goitre. She thought about seeking treatment, but knew that her humble means would not be enough to afford treatment. Her husband left her around 10 years ago, finding another wife in his home village. This plunged Alice and her children into deeper poverty. The past 17 years have been very distressing. Our community workers came across Alice when following up former orthopaedic patients who had benefitted from free surgery at DMH. They noticed Alice, and brought her to Dreamland for consultation. Goitre is a condition we operate on quite regularly, and thanks to our health insurance sponsorship programme we were able to enrol her. She underwent a successful operation at no personal expense. Moreover, she now has comprehensive health insurance cover at DMH, meaning she never has to worry should she or her children need medical attention. Alice is deeply grateful for this service, and was surprised that people really do care about her. We followed her up at her home, meeting her sister and her youngest daughter. She thanked God for his mercy, and prays that other isolated women like her would be reached with the same love and care she received.



It is not just in the hospital that your support is important, as DMH does a lot of work in the surrounding community. 5 years ago we set up our first community healthcare initiative and thanks to the team's hard work it now has 300 families who all have NHIF insurance to get care both in the hospital and in the community. We take out a team of clinical officers and nurses who focus on screening for conditions such as hypertension. Medication can be provided in the community saving the health club members both the cost of transport and time. Jenrix and Samuel are both good examples of how this works. They were found

to have dangerously high blood pressure. Samuel's was so high that he could have suffered a stroke, but he had not got it treated because of money. We served him anyway, and decided to register him for subsidised health insurance. Today, Samuel is 91 years old, and is far healthier. His BP has stabilised to around 145/80, which is still high but is far better than it was previously. He is accessing the clinic every month on his health insurance, and has been so thankful for the extra years this intervention has given him.



The community healthcare initiative was originally set up by Ben Gardner. Ben had a international development degree and a special interest in community healthcare. Ben has spent the last 5 years volunteering at DMH ensuring all our special programmes run smoothly. He had been a huge asset to the team but is moving on to pastures new. We are so grateful for his work, and he will be greatly missed. A huge thank you to him and all his supporters; we wish you all the best for your future work.

Finally we will leave the last words of 2019 to Miriam and Erastus.....



Thank you so much for all your support, please do keep in touch we love hearing your questions and comments.

Further updates on the work that DMH does can be found at www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital.

To offer financial assistance towards other needy patients at DMH or to donate to general funds to help us provide this service, please donate via <http://www.icfem-mission.org/donate/> (make sure that you select Dreamland Mission Hospital on the dropdown menu) or email us at dreamlandhospital@icfem.org and we can provide you with UK banks details.

Have your friends or family lost touch with us?

If your friends or family say they are no longer getting updates from DMH it is because we did not get a reply to our previous newsletter asking to be kept on the mailing list.

If they wish to re-added please ask them to email dreamlandhospital@icfem.org or fill in the form at the attached link (*see right*).

We also would love you to like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/icfemdreamlandhospital



<http://eepurl.com/dtVLrj>

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Mailing address: IcFEM Europe, c/o [12 Ash Grove, Rode Heath, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST7 3TD.](#)

Tel. +44 (0)1270 747271 / Mob. +44 (0)7968 691163

If you would like to support us please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/IcFEMDMH>

If you would like more information about the hospital please contact the team at dreamlandhospital@icfem.org