



# FRIENDS OF EAST AFRICA FOUNDATION

## December 2020 Newsletter



**G**ratitude: I feel it profoundly – especially at this time of year.

Many of you will remember Charles Lugemwa, a Ugandan alumnus of the University of St. Thomas who

chairs the board of Hope Medical Clinics Uganda and worked tirelessly to co-found Ruth Gaylord Hospital with me in 2013.

At that time Charles and his wife, Maria, were still grieving the 2007 death of their



*A best-ever Christmas gift, “Baby Ruth” is pictured on Dec. 15, 2015, a week after her arrival.*



oldest daughter, Collette, who was just a toddler when she fell victim to medical malpractice in their country. So building a good hospital for mothers and babies in Uganda had become a personal mission for the Lugemwas. That mission soon provided a gift beyond compare.

Early on Dec. 9, 2015, a tiny newborn – a premature baby girl just under three pounds – was abandoned outside the gates of the new Ruth Gaylord Hospital. Later that month, after specialized neonatal care in another hospital, “Baby Ruth” was big enough to go home with her adoptive family: the Lugemwas.

Today, the Ruth Gaylord Hospital has a neonatal intensive care unit of its own, and Ruth (left) is a healthy and beautiful young lady of almost 5!

As we begin another season of grateful anticipation, Advent, I wish Ruth a happy birthday – and you, every blessing!

*Dennis Dease*

Reverend Dennis Dease  
Chair of the Board of Directors



## Foundation board reviews hospital's 2019-20 successes

On Oct. 1 the Friends of East Africa Foundation board of directors held its 2019-20 annual meeting – the first conducted virtually in two countries!

In time zones eight hours apart, the board enjoyed a review of the year's highlights by Charles Lugemwa, country director of Hope Medical Clinics Uganda, the parent organization of the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo (RGHM):

Workers continue finishing touches on three apartment residences – named for their lead donors, Gary S. Holmes, Susan and Thomas Bisanz, and Megan and Dennis Doyle – on the RGHM campus. Two of the buildings should be ready for residents this month, and one is slated for completion in January 2021.



*Little Gideon, 20 months old, and his mom, Florence, visited RGHM in October for a follow-up visit after his surgery for an umbilical hernia. He's healthy and happy!*

Generosity also enabled the hospital to open a second surgery suite, construct an X-ray center, provide ultrasound scan services, upgrade its suite for mothers in labor and double its generator capacity.

During FY 2019-20, the hospital provided 13,083 free malaria tests, valued at nearly \$16,354, to Maganjo area residents. Free vaccinations kept three nurses busy every Thursday, and 89 free pairs of eyeglasses, valued at \$2,670, were distributed too.

Lugemwa also noted the success of 41 free surgeries, given at RGHM in partnership with the University of Minnesota Medical School's Department of Surgery, and three new hospital facilities dedicated in February: the Karen Fults Kaler Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation Surgery Theatre and the Hubbard-funded Joseph & Mary Alice Dease Centre for Diagnostic Imaging.

RGHM CEO Peter Kiggundu (another St. Thomas alumnus) reported significant growth in patient visits: 35 percent in 2019 and a projected 19 percent in 2020, despite a sharp fall during Uganda's spring lockdown to combat the spread of COVID-19. More than 33,140 patients sought treatment at RGHM last year.

Prevention programs, such as free nutrition and diet education, continue to benefit the community, offering assistance to those with conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity and malnutrition.

Hospital finances remain strong, Kiggundu said, with a \$36,018 surplus reported this year. "With the continued support of the FOEAF and revenue from the endowment apartments, we shall add more equipment and serve this community even better," he said.



# Friends: Help make Christmas wishes come true!

As you make your year-end giving plans, know that we are eager to check off these “wishes” on Ruth Gaylord Hospital’s Christmas list:

■ CBC hematology analyzer –\$16,667. This equipment detects a wide range of disorders, including anemia, infection and leukemia. It is a top priority for the hospital.

■ Cardiac phased array probe and Doppler kit – \$7,000. For cardiac diagnostics and echocardiography, this equipment is a second top priority.

■ Endovaginal/transvaginal probe – \$5,500. Used to examine women’s reproductive organs, this equipment is a third top priority for RGHM.

■ Oxygen piping to all essential areas in the hospital – \$32,473.

■ Sterilizer, infusion pump, injection pump – \$9,778. These new items, plus other upgrades, will make the new Karen Fults Kaler Neonatal Intensive Care Unit top-notch.

■ Mini High-Dependency Unit – \$9,518. These funds would create a two-bed unit for some critical patients and post-operative monitoring.

■ Optiflow system – \$6,994. These funds would be used to purchase and install an Optiflow system for delivery of warmed, humidified oxygen, used in treatment of respiratory distress.

■ Ultrasonic nebulizers – \$3,250. For treatment of respiratory diseases.

*Dear Santa,*

**Even you can donate online!**

We’re now able to accept your gifts online via PayPal!

Visit our website,  
[foeafoundation.org](http://foeafoundation.org)  
and click ‘DONATE TODAY’  
to get started.

It’s quick, easy and secure!

■ Dental Clinic upgrades – \$11,452. Needs include a new chair, X-ray viewer, intra-oral camera and monitor, scaler and suction unit, stools for the dentist and assistant, magnifiers, medicine trays and towel racks.

■ Pavers and landscaping – \$63,000. These finishing touches will ready the new endowment apartments on the RGHM campus for their first residents.

■ Endoscopy Unit – \$14,740. Your gift could equip an Endoscopy Unit for diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal disorders.

■ Ambulance – \$30,000. Yes, Virginia, we need another. Six years of dependable service on Uganda’s roads are all we could expect from the first.

■ Construction – \$37,000. RHGM is growing. It needs a building to house proposed High-Dependency Unit, Endoscopy Unit, and an isolation room (for patients sick with COVID-19 or other highly contagious illnesses).



*Shamila brought 21-month-old Hamid to RGHM in October. The poor guy had acute gastroenteritis. After four days, he was discharged and smiling again.*

**‘Be Blessed.’**

~ A Ugandan greeting from the Ruth Gaylord Hospital Maganjo

**The Friends of East Africa Foundation is a nonprofit corporation designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are fully tax-deductible. Checks may be mailed to:  
The Friends of East Africa Foundation, 2130 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 5510**