

The Kellermann Foundation Newsletter

Bwindi Community Hospital Excels

The Kellermann Foundation is honored to help support the institution that is making significant differences in the immense healthcare needs in the Bwindi area of Uganda. During the 2013-2014 reporting year, **Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH)** once again achieved a number of outstanding successes.

The hospital recently celebrated 10 years of serving the community. This 112-bed facility continues to be rated the best-performing hospital in Uganda in the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau rankings. It was also nominated for the Europe Business Assembly Award in the health sector.

A few of BCH's statistics may be among the best in sub-Saharan Africa. Although Uganda is struggling to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals in many categories, BCH has made great strides in showing how

significant change can be effected with a collaborative, multi-pronged approach to health education and treatment. For example, the success rate for facility-based EMTCT (Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV) at BCH was 100% in 2013-2014. This astounding statistic means that of all the babies born at BCH to HIV-positive mothers, not one baby tested positive for HIV. Every single infant was HIV-free!

The hospital's dedicated staff, outstanding leadership, and many volunteers help make BCH a growing success. We encourage you to read more about their work in the BCH 2013-2014 annual report. It can be accessed at www.bwindihospital.com under Vision and Mission (click on the Annual Report & Finance link on the left) or click here: [BCH 2013-14 Annual Report](#).

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Nursing School Growth Continues

Uganda Nursing School Bwindi (UNSB), an affiliate of Uganda Christian University, is continuing on its road to success with growing class sizes and a focus on high-quality education. Its goal is to produce nurses and midwives who practice excellence with compassion.

In May 2014, 16 advanced students entered the program, joining the 12 entry-level students who started at UNSB in November 2013. The school will continue to add one new group of students each term (November and May) until it reaches its capacity of 90 students.



UNSB students listen in class

Swiss Surgical Team Visits BCH



Swiss and Ugandan surgical team members in the operating theater

For eight days in late August and early September, a dedicated Swiss surgical team worked day and night during their annual visit to Bwindi Community Hospital. The team of

volunteer surgeons, other physicians, a dentist, radiography professionals, nurses, and assistants was led by **Dr. Forat Sadry**. This talented team has visited BCH annually for several years, at their own expense, to provide essential surgical services to many needy patients.

The team treated more than 90 patients, completing surgeries running the gamut from goiter removal to complex fistula repairs. The surgeries were made more efficient for the team and safer for the patients by the use of the new universal anesthesia machine purchased for BCH through the generosity of the **Rotary Club of Los Angeles (LA5)**.

BCH staff worked side-by-side with the Swiss team. This relationship, together with a partnership with Mbarara University Teaching Hospital, has allowed BCH to become a recognized obstetric fistula center.



Staff member checking the anesthesia machine

Volunteer Corner: Gail Enjoys Sharing

Contributed by Barbara Thomas

The students stand as Gail Jones enters the elementary classroom. She teaches them math, English, and science using methods that differ from what they are used to: rote memory-set questions with memorized answers. Gail would like to introduce them to critical thinking skills.

All are quiet as their eyes are glued on Gail. Today she is reinforcing their multiplication table with a Math Bingo game. She is in her element. Her eyes sparkle as she passes out blank paper and explains the game. The students draw their own bingo cards, placing



Gail in the classroom

certain numbers at random on their 5 by 5 square grid. Gail has made a pair of dice out of folded paper. Students roll them in turn while another child is called on to give the product of their numbers. Gail instructs them to place a plastic marker on their cards for that number. Finally, one student gets five across for bingo. Gail has the students write their names on their bingo cards and tuck them safely away for another game next week.

Gail always wanted to be a teacher and always thought of herself teaching in the grasslands of Africa under a thatched roof. What ensued for her instead was the experience of an exchange student in her home, her father's helping hand to a foreign worker, and her own experience of teaching a Laotian family English and helping them to start a new life in the States. Her father always told her, "If you want to be a missionary, all you have to do is open your door." Now after 33 years of teaching in public schools, she finds herself teaching in Uganda.

When she is not teaching, you might find her helping build a Batwa home, or even mending roads! The drive to the Monkey House (main guest house) had become badly rutted after



Newly repaired driveway

heavy rains. Undaunted, Gail organized, underwrote, and directed filling in the ruts to even out the long driveway. When asked where she learned how to repair roads, she answered, "My parents didn't raise a boy and a girl. They raised two children." So cooking and cleaning, as well as changing oil and driving a stick shift, were lessons taught to both children.



Gail passes mud during home-building at Kihembe

Now it's English time in Primary 4. Gail has invited a class from the States to be pen pals with her Ugandan students. She teaches them how to write a letter and has them draft letters to their new friends, telling about themselves and asking questions about life in the States. "I've always enjoyed people who are different. Their views of the world give new perspectives and enlighten my own way of thinking."

Gail is also giving new perspectives to her students and her friends at Bwindi. She is leaving a special mark on many hearts.

Volunteers Needed Online and at Bwindi

We recently posted two exciting online volunteer projects on **Catchafire.org**, an organization that matches professionals who want to volunteer their skills with nonprofits who need their help. These projects are 1) a website audit and 2) a donor acquisition plan. If you know of talented website engineers/designers to help with the first, or fundraising advisors for the second, please send them to the website www.catchafire.org to apply for our projects.

Our partner programs in Uganda also need volunteers for a variety of roles:

For **Bwindi Community Hospital**:

- Radiologist to instruct staff members in basic x-ray reading

- Biomedical technician to maintain the universal anesthesia machine and other equipment

For **Uganda Nursing School Bwindi**:

- Qualified nursing instructors (Master's level or above)

For the **Batwa Development Program**:

Individuals or couples with skills in:

- Teaching for primary levels: English, math, science, or social studies
- Education counseling
- Teaching arts and crafts, with ability to bring new crafting ideas, such as soap making or clothing/jewelry design
- IT maintenance, website development
- Fundraising

- Public relations
- Agriculture/farming, with emphasis on gardens and rearing rabbits and pigs
- Spiritual advising, with capabilities in couples counseling, fellowship missions, and self-sustainability

Although long-term commitments are preferred, any assistance can be helpful. Whether you are available for a week or for a year or more, we encourage you to apply for one of our open volunteer positions.

For more information, contact Rachel Savant, Kellermann Foundation Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@kellermannfoundation.org.

Donor Corner: Lodge Manufacturing

Many thanks go to **Lodge Manufacturing** of South Pittsburg, Tennessee, for their generosity. The family business, which is led by Scott Kellermann's cousins **Bob Kellermann** and **Henry Lodge**, donated three sets of Lodge Elements high-quality stainless steel cookware for the Bwindi Guest House kitchen. The cookware is now in daily use at the Monkey House to provide meals for resident volunteers, staff members, and missionaries.

The cookware was hand-carried in the luggage of Kellermann Foundation team members who

visited Bwindi in August. Unpacking the sets and presenting them to guest house staff was a moment met with laughter and excitement.

Lodge Manufacturing is widely recognized for its outstanding cast iron cookware. Recent additions to their line include seasoned cast iron, enameled iron, and the stainless steel shown here. The company was established in 1896 by Joseph Lodge, great-grandfather of Bob and Scott Kellermann and Henry Lodge. It is still owned and managed by Lodge descendants.



Cookware in use at the Guest House

Student Profile

Attending university, once an impossible dream, is now a future possibility for 10-year-old Nkamwesimira Anivious, a hard-working pygmy student at Bishops' Primary School who wants to become a nurse. A U.S. couple participating in our Batwa Student Sponsorship program had generously committed to the support of a Bishops' School student from primary school through university to



Nkamwesimira Anivious

complete his or her education. Following a comprehensive selection process, Anivious, from the Batwa settlement of Byumba, was chosen as their sponsored child.

Anivious views this opportunity as a reward from God for working so hard in class, and she said she is dedicated to tripling her efforts to make her sponsors happy and to perform well.

We anticipate more success stories to come!

Bwindi Guest House Updates

Rachel Kinney, Kellermann Foundation friend and prior volunteer, is now the manager of the **Bwindi Guest House** system, the five guest houses at Bwindi that accommodate volunteers, interns, and visitors.

Two of the guest houses are adjacent to Bwindi Community Hospital: the Monkey House (our main guest house) and the one-room Blackie Shackie. The other three guest houses—the Upper, Middle, and Lower Gorilla Houses—are about 2 km away, near the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park entrance. Occasionally the famous mountain gorillas that live in the nearby forest can be seen close by.



Lower Gorilla House

The three Gorilla Houses have recently been joined by the new home of missionaries Paul and Barbara Thomas (see page 4).

Volunteers are assisting with repairs, maintenance, and refurbishing of the guest houses. Visiting teams and individuals have worked on projects ranging from repairing steps and driveways to assisting with Wi-Fi installation.



Kellermann Foundation team member Tony Norskog carries rocks to repair a stairway



Bwindi Guest House cooks Brian and Joseph examine new chef's hats, gifts from Jerry and Tasha Hall.

Volunteers who visited Bwindi in 2014 also brought donations of new linens, towels, and pillows for all the guest houses. Individuals and corporations (see above) have also donated specific items that were needed.

Upcoming projects, which will be undertaken as funding and volunteer labor become available, include a bathroom addition at the Monkey House, enlarged and improved kitchen facilities, new roofs, painting, and possibly solar water heating units.

The guest house system was begun by **Scott and Carol Kellermann** when they lived at Bwindi as full-time missionaries from 2001 to 2009. The Kellermanns are still actively involved in making the guest houses functional and welcoming.



Providing hope and health in Uganda

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Dallas Event Sponsors

Many thanks to the major sponsors of Hope and Health in Uganda 2014, held on October 16.



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Tidbits

- We are pleased to welcome **Rachel Savant** as the Kellermann Foundation's new Volunteer Coordinator. Rachel coordinates local Dallas-area volunteers and all volunteers going to Bwindi, serving as a liaison with our Ugandan partner organizations. You can reach her at our office number, (972) 685-0279, or by email at volunteer@kellermannfoundation.org. Welcome aboard, Rachel!
- Congratulations to **Paul and Barbara Thomas**, missionaries to Bwindi, on moving in to their newly completed home. Their beautiful two-room efficiency cabin, called the Deacon's Den, is adjacent to the Lower Gorilla House and enjoys a front-porch view of the Impenetrable Forest.

