

The Kellermann Foundation Newsletter

Invest in Hope and Health Today

In 2001, Dr. Scott Kellermann and his wife, Carol, made the decision to move to the Bwindi region of Uganda to provide medical care to the Batwa pygmy population. From an open air clinic under a ficus tree, the Kellermanns treated more than 200 patients daily.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Kellermanns, many other devoted volunteers, and a dedicated Ugandan staff, that open air clinic has become a 112-bed hospital that provides services for over 100,000 people in the region. The Kellermanns were also instrumental in the founding of Uganda Nursing School Bwindi and the Batwa Development Program, both critical programs for the people of Bwindi.

Through the contributions that we receive from individuals like you, the people of Bwindi have been given hope and the tools that they need to break free from

the grip of extreme poverty that has held them hostage for decades.

Your financial support is not simply a gift to a cause; it's an investment in the quality of life, educational opportunities, health, and development programs that benefit the people of Bwindi.

Please join this work by making the most generous tax-deductible gift you can today or a convenient ongoing gift of \$15, \$30, \$50, or more per month. You can mail a check, call our office for a credit card donation, or make a secure donation online at www.kellermannfoundation.org or by clicking below.

[Donate](#)

If you have already made a gift, accept our thanks!

Volume 5 Number 3

July 2014

Issued quarterly by
The Kellermann Foundation,
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

In this issue:

Invest in Hope & Health	1
President's Message	
Volunteer Corner	2
Volunteer Needed	
Donor Corner	3
Anesthesia Machine UNSB Grand Opening	
Tidbits	4
Save the Date	

Your support will help:

Give the Gift of Hope

- \$125, or \$10.50 per month, sends a child to primary school for one year.
- \$1,400, or \$117 per month, builds a home for one Batwa family.
- \$2,500, or \$208 per month, pays for one primary school teacher.

Give the Gift of Health

- \$84, or \$7 per month, provides eQuality Health Insurance for 12 people.
- \$165, or \$13.75 per month, pays for a safe in-hospital delivery of a baby.
- \$240, or \$20 per month, treats a malnourished child.
- \$4,600, or \$384 per month, pays for a nurse to work at BCH for one year.
- \$62,500 will buy an ambulance for the hospital.



Contributed by Jean L. Creasey, DDS
President of the Board of Directors

President's Annual Message

Executing "bold plans" effectively without great anxiety requires not only careful planning, but also a good amount of faith and a tolerance for uncertainty. At times, I lack these qualities, and hence anxiety was precisely the emotion I experienced following this year's Kellermann Foundation Board retreat.

Our plans for the coming year were indeed bold and pivoted on the recruitment of new long-term volunteers to mentor several projects. Capable individuals who are willing to invest months, or even years, of their lives don't come along every day, and it was bold for us to assume that these folks would materialize in a timely fashion.

One thing about working with the Kellermann Foundation, however, is that our bold plans always contain equal measures of faith and

patient determination. This approach helps make what seems impossible at first into a reality as diverse supporters come together synergistically, creating unimaginable successes. Our new nursing school is a great example!

Just six months into 2014, this year's "bold plans" are now being realized. Miraculously, we have been blessed with several amazing long-term volunteers who have joined, or will soon be joining, our team on the ground at Bwindi. Their commitments are inspiring. I did not expect this kind of abundance, but like St. Thomas, I have seen, and my faith is confirmed.

I'm guessing that many of you share my joy of being a part of the continued miracles that happen at Bwindi. God's love is great, and His generosity is overwhelming. My intuition is

that our "bold plans" have made Him smile. I hope that you will support those plans with your prayers and generosity.



Dr. Creasey (left) congratulates Sylvia Kokunda on her recent graduation from university

Volunteer Corner: Bwindi Missionaries

Contributed by Barbara Thomas

My husband, Paul, and I had served as missionaries in Africa over a 12-year period and then had returned home when wars disrupted the area. We spent the next 15 years in Texas where I had an enjoyable job in the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL) library in Dallas. Paul was also there, teaching the next generation of cross-cultural missionaries language and culture acquisition, as well as traveling to South American countries and Africa to run workshops in oral biblical story-crafting.

Why, at near 60 years of age, would we change our assignments, pack up our house, sell the car, give away the dog, and go to Uganda? The short answer is "because God asked us to." Of course there were obstacles to our going. We put these before the Lord and watched as one by one He took care of them. At one point, I reminded God that He was running out of time, and He reminded me that He makes time! "You think that's a problem? Watch this!"



Home-building at Nteko

Both Paul and I felt that if we did not go, we would miss out on some blessings. Some we can name already. Paul was eager to see if the theory of language learning he taught held up under first-hand experience. Already he has revisions to offer. For me, the Lord is encouraging me to live more in the moment, and worry less about doing, to focus more on relationships and less on accomplishments. It is like the Lord's sense of humor that He took a librarian and put her in a culture where, with the exception of the Bible, there are almost no books! Yet, the people have a close relationship with the Lord. In their table grace, they ask that the Lord "come sit with us."

We are delighted to know the staff at Bwindi Community Hospital and their dedication to the people in this community. They really work to put themselves out of a job by teaching preventative medicine! We accompanied one community outreach to teach about using mosquito nets to prevent malaria. The staff was thorough in explaining the need to use nets and demonstrating exactly how to tuck in the net at night and put it up during the day. We had brought 100 nets with us that day, and we could have sold more.

We have hiked through the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest with the Batwa Development Program staff to visit Nteko, a Batwa settlement, and have been regaled around the campfire with songs and dance, folktales and riddles. The next day, the community came together to mud one woman's home.

At church I was honored to be asked to be god-mother to a young Batwa girl. Two young men there have decided they would teach the children Sunday School. We join them to listen to the simple stories they tell – a challenge for us



Barbara and her goddaughter at the baptism

as we speak a child-like Rukiga. Paul has been able to tell some of his Bible-crafted stories which the leaders then interpret into Rukiga. We are blessed by the many friends we have here who encourage us in our language learning, and hope we can be a blessing to them as well.



Paul (right) helps teach Sunday School

To receive Paul and Barbara Thomas' monthly email update, send your name and email address to paul_thomas@sil.org.

Finance Volunteer

We are grateful for the many skilled volunteers who support the work at Bwindi with their expertise. We are currently in need of a volunteer with accounting or financial management experience to support our work with the Batwa Development Program. The time commitment could range from one week to a month or more. If you are considering a trip to Bwindi and are willing to help, please contact Sally Stillings, our Executive Director, at (972) 685-0279 or sally@kellermannfoundation.org.

Congratulations to Sylvia



Sylvia Kokunda recently became the second Mutwa from our service area to graduate from university. Sylvia has completed her studies at Uganda Christian University and is now employed by the Batwa Development Program (BDP) as the Education Coordinator.

Sylvia is shown at left with Rev. Canon Enos Komunda, Coordinator of the BDP, at her graduation celebration.

Donor Corner: Why I Give to KF

Contributed by a dedicated supporter

While backpacking through eastern Africa in 2008, I was fortunate enough to visit a group of Batwa people in western Uganda. The parts of their story that I heard, through a Ugandan interpreter and missionary, highlighted the incredibly rapid fashion in which they had encountered the modern world. Removed from their forest home to settlements where the hotter climate caused sickness and death of the elders, they found themselves discriminated against, highly susceptible to the effects of alcohol, and possessing different skills than those required to live and work in mainstream Ugandan society.



A Batwa family

Though this particular group was then living on the edge of their past forest home, now a national park, I found that they were not even permitted to guide me into the park to share their incredible knowledge of the place, knowledge that I especially appreciate as a wildlife biologist. I came to learn that this has been the plight of many people groups, causing me to think back to my time with the Batwa.

When I found the Kellerman Foundation website recently and started to look into the work they are doing, I realized that this was a way to share the love of Christ with people like those I had met in 2008. Doing so has been a real joy!

Universal Anesthesia Machine Funded

Bwindi Community Hospital is proud to have several fine surgeons on staff, but they have needed improved anesthesia for surgical procedures. The length of surgeries at BCH has been limited by the available options: spinal anesthesia only, or short-lived general anesthesia from a portable machine.

The [Los Angeles Rotary Club](#) (LA-5) recently made a very generous donation to the Kellerman Foundation to fund the purchase of a new universal anesthesia machine (UAM) for BCH. According to Dr. Scott Kellermann, it is a reliable and robust piece of equipment that

can handle the humidity of the rainforest environment. The UAM will greatly improve monitoring of patients during surgery and will allow longer surgeries to be undertaken, such as vesicovaginal fistula repairs, club foot corrections, and cleft lip or cleft palate reconstruction. Staff will be trained in the UAM's use under the watchful eye of Dr. Henry Bukwirwa, whose specialty is anesthesiology.

We are very grateful to the incredibly generous members of LA-5 Rotary for the many lives that will be saved and improved with the new anesthesia machine. Thank you!



UNSB Grand Opening

The creation of [Uganda Nursing School Bwindi](#), an affiliate of Uganda Christian University, was celebrated by dignitaries, benefactors, staff, and friends on May 23 at Bwindi. A few key attendees are shown here.



Jane Anyango (head of UNSB) & Dr. Birungi Mutahunga (Exec. Dir. Bwindi Comm. Hosp.)



Uganda's Vice President H.H. Edward Ssekandi



Jerry Hall, Rotary International



Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi



Bishop Dan Zoreka (front) presents thank-you gifts to (L-R) UNSB benefactors James Jameson and Stephen Wolf and to Dr. Scott and Carol Kellermann



Providing hope and health in Uganda

P.O. Box 832809
Richardson, TX 75083-2809

Phone: (972) 685-0279
Email: info@kellermannfoundation.org
Website: kellermannfoundation.org



Staff

Executive Director
Sally Stillings

Executive Assistant
Janet Soo Maxwell

Development Director
Andy Ybarra

Volunteer Coordinator
Rachel Medina

Donations Associate
Brandi Thomas



Kellermann Foundation Board Members 2014

Jean Creasey, DDS, President
Nevada City, CA

Sarah Woerner, MD, Secretary
Nevada City, CA

Lana Valenta, Treasurer
Dallas, TX

Bert Barker, Grass Valley, CA

Clif Gardner, Dallas, TX

Gina Lambright, Silver Spring, MD

Robert Macauley, MD, Charlotte, VT

Gayle Porter, Coppell, TX

Lynn Schwaab, RN, Nashotah, WI

Alan Wong, MD, Nevada City, CA

Tidbits

- We are pleased to welcome **Brandi Thomas** as the Kellermann Foundation's new Donations Associate. Brandi manages all donations and donor correspondence. You can reach her at our office number, (972) 685-0279, or at donations@kellermannfoundation.org. Welcome aboard, Brandi!
- **Rachel Medina**, the Kellermann Foundation's Volunteer Coordinator since 2011, is leaving us to return to school full-time for studies in medical sonography. Best of luck with your future endeavors, Rachel!
- Our 2014 **Mission to Uganda** team leaves the U.S. on August 16 for two weeks' travel and work with our partners at Bwindi. The team includes senior staff members, board members, and other supporters. Prayers are appreciated!
- Kellermann Foundation supporter **Rachel Kinney** has moved to Uganda as the new manager of Bwindi Guest Houses. The many teams and individuals volunteering at Bwindi are grateful for her attention during their visits. Rachel is also serving as a business consultant to the Batwa Development Program.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for two upcoming Kellermann Foundation events.

Nevada City, California: The 4th Annual Batwa Challenge 5K and 10K run and 5K walk will be held on **Saturday, August 16**, in Nevada City, starting at Nimrod Park at 8:00 a.m. For more information, visit www.batwachallenge.com.

Dallas, Texas: The 2014 Hope and Health event will be held on **Thursday, October 16**, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Church of the Incarnation. More information will be available on our website soon, or call us at (972) 685-0279 to learn more.



The Kellermanns at the 2013 Batwa Challenge Race