



Growing The John H and Marie Parrish Medical Clinic

The citizens of Fort Portal continue to find comfort and healing in the John H and Marie Parrish Medical Clinic. The clinic recently received high commendations from the Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG) and the community for its cleanliness, hospitality, and the accuracy of the staff's diagnoses. Conditions treated have ranged from bronchitis, to pneumonia, to hypertension. In their May report, the staff at the clinic noted an increase in pneumonia cases, mostly likely due to the cold, rainy weather.

New Pediatric Services

We are happy to report as of May, 2017, the Parrish Clinic is now able to provide childhood immunizations to Fort Portal. In an area where children often died due to treatable conditions, this is a wonderful and life-saving change to the daily lives of the citizens. The Clinic is receiving immunizations from the Health Department and will continue to receive them quarterly. Additionally, the Clinic has committed to providing free medical care to orphans without finances, further expanding their outreach.



Full waiting room at the John H and Marie Parrish Medical Clinic

Moving Toward Independence

When the John H and Marie Parrish Medical Clinic first opened its doors, the intent was for the facility to become self-sufficient within 5 years. Today, the staff is working toward a new goal: becoming independent by the end of 2018; two years ahead of schedule! Both the Director and his staff are so proud of the Clinic and they are looking forward to taking full ownership of it. In order to help achieve this goal, HHCharities is working to schedule medical teams to visit quarterly to train the staff, provide additional education, and assist with the Clinic's expanding medical services. Medical personnel from a local organization, a division of US AID, and other nearby clinics are also being solicited to provide expertise and help the Clinic meet its goals.

45 Lives Lost

Despite all its improvements, the community of Fort Portal still does not have all the basic life-saving necessities we enjoy in the United States. One of the most **desperately needed services continues to be an ambulance** and the community is suffering from this deficiency. On June 20th, a speeding truck transporting 70 people took a turn too quickly and crashed. The lack of emergency services in the area was clearly seen following this accident. Police took an hour to arrive at the scene. An ambulance was never dispatched at all. Instead, the Director of the John H and Marie Parrish Medical Clinic dispatched himself to the scene of the accident. Without emergency medical assistance, there was little he could do. As he triaged the scene he took count of the dead and dying. Without the aid of rapid transportation, 45 people died in the accident. Some of these were preventable deaths that likely would not have happened in an area with proper medical services. Had the community had an ambulance at their disposal, some of these lives may very well have been saved.



The Long Road Ahead

Equipment Shortcomings

In addition to emergency medical transportation, some of the most critical shortcomings in the Parrish Clinic's equipment affects its smallest and most fragile patients. Currently, the clinic cannot even make detailed and conclusive prenatal diagnoses because they do not have access to ultrasounds and x-ray services. To make this happen, the staff is requesting funding for:

Infant delivery sets, weigh scales, a wall clock, an incubation machine for premature babies, a baby warmer machine, oxygen machines, an ultrasound machine, sutures, and lignocaine.

While infants are some of the most at risk groups seen by the clinic, the rest of the community has also suffered because the clinic cannot perform full diagnoses on common diseases due to a lack of advanced medical supplies. The staff has also seen cases that required minor surgery but are constrained by a lack of surgical equipment. Some of the highest sought after items include:

Complete Blood Count, Respiratory Tract Infection, and Liver Function tests, serum electrolytes, oxygen concentrating machines, pulse meters, an x-ray machine, waste segregation bins, an incinerator, an oxygen concentrator, surgical instruments, a sterilizing machine, stretchers, and wheel chairs.

If the above challenges are addressed, the clinic will be in position to offer comprehensive quality health care services to all clients and increase clients' attendance!



Orphans in Need

Remember, Uganda still has orphan children who need your help to go to school. We are currently working to update the orphan assistance program and make it a more personal experience where donors can connect directly with the children they sponsor.

Tuition rates have changed, so please visit www.hhcharities.com today to learn more about sponsorship.

What You Can Do To Help

Sponsored orphans on the way to school

To donate to the orphans and/or the Parrish Clinic, Visit www.hhcharities.com and click on "Donate" to donate using credit or PayPal*.

Alternately, you can make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to:

**Humanitarian Hands Charities
P. O. Box 742284
Dallas, TX 75374-2284**

*92-89% of your payments are sent to Uganda (89% if via credit card/PayPal); the remaining 5% go to admin costs. Humanitarian Hands Charities, Inc. is a non-profit organization 501(c)3. All donations are tax-deductible as defined by the IRS. EIN: 20-5618632