

# The Kellermann Foundation Newsletter

## BCH at STARS Health Impact Award Ceremony

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In November, [Bwindi Community Hospital's](#) Medical Superintendent, Dr. Birungi Mutahunga, received the STARS Health Impact award in London on behalf of the hospital. The ceremony was also attended by the hospital administrator, Charles Byarugaba, the former Medical Superintendent, Dr. Paul Williams, and former volunteers Andy and Jenny Farrer.



Dr. Birungi being handed the award at the ceremony in London

While in the UK, Dr. Birungi and Charles were privileged to meet various supporters of the hospital, including Friends of Bwindi Hospital Charity Trustees.

BCH was thrilled to be chosen last fall as the 2011 STARS Impact Award recipient in the category of Health. Eight organizations across the Africa/Middle East and Asia/Pacific regions were selected for this prestigious award from 976 applicants across 60 countries.

The unrestricted \$100,000 grant provided by the STARS Foundation as part of this award will help the hospital continue to provide outstanding health care in the Bwindi region.

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## Collaborative Care Saves a Life

Contributed by **Rev. Canon Bernard Bagaba**  
BCH Chaplain and BDP Coordinator



Barugahare Daudi sleeping peacefully

Barugahare means "the one who survived narrowly" in the Batwa language, a fitting name for an 8-week old baby boy we recently admitted to [Bwindi Community Hospital](#) (BCH). His story of difficulty and perseverance highlights the ways in which BCH and the [Batwa Development Program](#) (BDP) are working together to achieve their common goals of health and prosperity for the Batwa people.

Barugahare was brought to the hospital in August after the untimely death of his mother, who was a victim of domestic violence.

The BDP learned of Barugahare's plight after Mr. Eric, who is both a BDP staff member and the Assistant Chaplain at the hospital, attended the mother's funeral at the Batwa settlement in Kebiremu.

BDP staff then made arrangements to bring the 2-month old Barugahare and his Aunt Annet, who would serve as his caretaker, to Bwindi Community Hospital. At the hospital, Barugahare was welcomed by the pediatric ward staff with warmth and love.

After one week in the hospital, Barugahare was christened by the Hospital Chaplain at a colorful Sunday service because his health was failing and we feared that he might die without being baptized. He was named Daudi after the Biblical David, who survived the battle with the lions and later became the King of Israel. It is our hope that Barugahare Daudi will grow into a strong man and become a leader of his people someday.

During their time at the hospital, the BDP has given Annet all of the necessary food for her to



Rev. Bernard Bagaba baptizing baby Daudi at Bwindi Community Hospital

remain at the hospital providing care to baby Daudi and has donated all the food, clothing, and needed supplies for the baby. BCH, in turn, has provided all of Daudi's medical care, shelter, and facilities.

Barugahare Daudi is now five months old and is a smiling, healthy baby. He is growing steadily in a peaceful environment provided by BCH and BDP. It is this new, strengthened relationship between BDP and BCH, combined with the expertise, skills, and commitment of hospital pediatrician Dr. Leonard, that has helped to save this baby's life.

Annet is a happy woman and although she misses her home, she is filled with joy when she sees Barugahare Daudi smiling. BCH will be her home for the next 6 months until Daudi is strong and old enough to eat solid food on his own. BCH and BDP will continue to provide support as funds are available.

Please pray with us for the resources needed by the BDP and BCH to continue their important work. Pray that the relationship between these two wonderful organizations continues to be maintained and strengthened. Finally, please join us in praying for an end to domestic violence and for its victims, including Daudi's late mother. Our thoughts are with Annet as she finds the patience and commitment to provide Baby Daudi's ongoing care.

## Carol's Corner

Thoughts from Carol Kellermann

Mention of a Nevada City doctor working in Uganda surprised Judy Goldman before she and a friend left for Africa some years ago. Never did she expect to run into him. Judy went to the Bwindi area to trek the mountain gorillas. While there, she asked if there was an American doctor named Kellermann who ran a hospital. (She was not sure if he even worked in that area.) They said, no, there was only a Dr. Scott.

Judy, a nurse, went on a tour of Bwindi Community Hospital and ran into Dr. Scott Kellermann. Judy saw how the hospital benefited this isolated area and asked Scott how she could help. She hoped to donate to something specific so she could get feedback and enjoy seeing how her money made a difference. At first, Judy sponsored two nursing students. When that commitment ended, Scott told her about a young Mutwa (singular of Batwa) woman, Sylvia, who needed financial support. Sylvia was the first girl from the Batwa pygmy tribe to go to high school. Judy agreed to sponsor her.

This began a 5-year relationship as Judy committed to supporting Sylvia's education. Sylvia would occasionally send an email during her breaks from school. When Batwa Development Program staff sent one of their regular updates on Sylvia's progress, they would let Sylvia use their computer to say hello and that she was "doing well." This happened every 3 to 4 months for several years. Then, during Sylvia's senior year, Judy found out that Sylvia had

become pregnant and was still attending school despite regulations against it. Judy was shocked and disappointed, but she did not give up on Sylvia. Judy said, "I remember several emails with Sylvia while she was pregnant and after she delivered her baby. Sylvia told me about her feelings that this man, who had promised her so much, might not be able to fulfill his promises to her and her dream of going to university. I wrote back to Sylvia about her faith in herself, her current long term goals for herself, and how we all get through difficult times. It was Sylvia's response to me, her email, that gave me a great feeling. She thanked me for my supportive words and told me that she would call me her mother. I felt honored."

About three years ago, in the same month as Judy's third grandchild, Sylvia's baby was born. Understandably, Sylvia did not do well on her entrance exams to university. Judy supported Sylvia in repeating her senior year. The second time she did well enough to get in. Judy's commitment to support Sylvia was through high school, but she helped with the transition by purchasing a computer for Sylvia to use at the university. Judy continued to write to Sylvia and tell her about her family and grandchildren.

Although the success of Judy's mentoring seems obvious, Judy will not take a pat on the back. She said, "It was Sylvia; it was something within Sylvia that kept her going." Although Sylvia may have had the backbone and the focus, I believe that without Judy's support, both financial and

## Nature vs. Nurture: The Benefits of Student Sponsorship



Kokunda Sylvia, first Mutwa student to attend Uganda Christian University in Mukono

emotional, without her wisdom and belief in Sylvia, the outcome would have been far less positive. In the old question of nature versus nurture, I believe that both build on each other and are the necessary ingredients for success! Supporting Batwa students can change their entire future. Judy's memories of her time trekking gorillas will always be intertwined with her relationship with Sylvia and how she helped her become the first Mutwa woman to make it into university.

## Maternity Addition Commissioned



H.E. Kazuo Minagawa cuts the ribbon as Bishop Dan Zoreka and Dr. Birungi look on

H.E. Kazuo Minagawa, the ambassador of Japan to Uganda, visited Bwindi Community Hospital on November 18th, 2011, to commission the new maternity ward. Ambassador Minagawa, accompanied by his wife, Kazuo, was very impressed by the work of Bwindi Community Hospital.

"With the new facility now complete, expectant mothers will have easier access to the professional medical services at the hospital, and maternal mortality rate in the district will be reduced," H.E. Kazuo Minagawa said.

Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) performs more than 100 deliveries a month, of which 30% are referral cases from other health centers. The completion of the new maternity ward, funded by a \$102,190 grant from the Embassy of Japan, increased the number of beds from 21 to 40 and provided larger delivery, postnatal and post-surgical wards, a larger waiting area, and more private rooms. The grant also helped the hospital acquire more equipment such as delivery beds, oxygen concentrators, vacuum concentrators, delivery sets and Caesarean sets. This will enable the hospital to deliver even better services to women in the area and will consequently help further reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates.

## Volunteers in Action: Improving Research

One of the strengths of Bwindi Community Hospital (BCH) is the value placed on evidence – on data – to inform both clinical and community health programs and chart progress towards the goals of the hospital to reach its mission. I have had the privilege to witness the fine work of BCH since 2006 when I first traveled to Uganda and took a tour of the hospital. In recent years, we at Colgate University have been invited by BCH to bring undergraduates to the hospital to assist the staff in conducting research on social dimensions of HIV/AIDS, family planning and maternal health, and water quality and household sanitation. Our students have been transformed by working with the staff of this very special hospital.

Making plans for my sabbatical this year, I turned to Dr. Birungi, Medical Superintendent of BCH, to inquire about the possibility of assisting the hospital in my capacity as a population scientist with a background in public health. Always generous and keen, Dr. Birungi responded to my inquiry with enthusiasm and, very importantly, a clear objective for my time there: revision of the annual community health survey, a cornerstone of the hospital's program of data collection to evaluate the effectiveness of hospital programs and initiatives.



Professor Kraly and American volunteer Justin Denney collaborating with BCH staff

I arrived in Buhoma in mid-September 2011 and, under the supervision of the hospital leadership, immediately began to work with members of the units in Community Health and Batwa Services Unit and Information Technology on the planning for the 2012 community health survey. Dr. Birungi set very high expectations for the survey and for our work to improve it. I was tasked with researching international standards for the measurement of maternal mortality, infant and child mortality, child nutrition, symptoms of chronic diseases, contraceptive use, stigma concerning HIV/AIDS, and social, economic, and environmental characteristics of families and households.

Contributed by **Ellen Kraly, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Geography, Colgate University

I so enjoyed this work — I was returned to fundamentals of demographic analysis. But even more joyous was my interaction with my colleagues at the hospital who taught me the meaning of relevance – what is important to the hopes, dreams and lives of the people in the Bwindi region – and about the joy of good and hard work! Our days started at 8am and ended at 6 or more often 7pm, with seriousness and smiles throughout these long hours.

The staff of Bwindi Community Hospital gave me a precious gift in allowing me to serve. The staff mentored me and inspired me to do more, to do better, on behalf of the health of mothers, children and families everywhere.



Filling out family information forms

## “White” Christmas: Visiting Dentists

Bwindi Community Hospital greatly benefits from volunteers who visit regularly and help in various ways. The month of December saw the arrival of two dentists, Ashley and Moira from the United Kingdom, who selflessly gave their time, energy, and talent to enrich BCH's health care program.

This is the fourth year that Ashley and Moira have visited the hospital. They stayed for nine days on this trip, and during that time over 117 patients had their teeth fixed.

Members of the BCH staff say that hosting Ashley and Moira has been an enriching experience, as it has brought more insights to the staff's knowledge and practice. These generous volunteers also sponsor a BCH staff member, Elly Byaruhanga, who is enrolled at Mulago paramedical school. Elly is studying to be a dentist and is greatly inspired by Ashley and Moira.

BCH is very grateful for all the support their volunteers provide and are always open to welcoming more volunteers who are interested in serving at the hospital. Details about volunteering at the hospital can be found at

their website, [www.bwindihospital.com](http://www.bwindihospital.com). American volunteers will coordinate their visits through the Kellermann Foundation ([volunteer@kellermannfoundation.org](mailto:volunteer@kellermannfoundation.org)). Other visitors can send inquiries directly to the hospital at [bchvolunteering@gmail.com](mailto:bchvolunteering@gmail.com).



Ashley and Moira carry out a dental procedure on a patient as Dr. Richard assists

## Tidbits

The Kellermann Foundation is pleased to welcome Rachel Medina of Houston, Texas, to the staff as our new Volunteer Coordinator, replacing Letty Biedenharn, who recently retired. We wish Letty all the best. Welcome aboard, Rachel!

## Volunteer Corner

The Batwa Development Program is in need of three long-term (6-12 month) volunteers in Uganda.

- 1) *Education Officer*—help promote education among Batwa children and help parents realize the importance of education
- 2) *Public Relations Officer*—fundraising, publicity, and marketing of BDP income-generating program areas
- 3) *Community Health Volunteer*—mobilize the Batwa communities for health education and sensitize/instruct the Batwa on health issues

To learn more or to apply, contact Rachel Medina at the Kellermann Foundation at [volunteer@kellermannfoundation.org](mailto:volunteer@kellermannfoundation.org)

# The Kellermann Foundation

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[www.batwaexperience.com](http://www.batwaexperience.com)

Blog: [www.scottkellermannblog.wordpress.com](http://www.scottkellermannblog.wordpress.com)



Supporting the Batwa pygmies  
and Bwindi Community Hospital  
in southwest Uganda

## Staff

### Executive Director

Sally Stillings

### Volunteer Coordinator

Rachel Medina

### Marketing & PR Coordinator

Dorothy Nakaweesi Gonsalves

We offer our heartfelt thanks to outgoing President Dr. Simi Lyss for his leadership of our Board of Directors over the last few years. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Jean Creasey as the new Board President.

## Donation Corner

Do you have a laptop, netbook, or notebook computer in good condition that you are no longer using? Consider donating it to the Kellermann Foundation to support our programs in Uganda. Contact Executive Director Sally Stillings at [sally@kellermannfoundation.org](mailto:sally@kellermannfoundation.org) or call our office at (214) 519-9279.

## Prayer Team

The Kellermann Foundation is forming a prayer team under the direction of an outstanding core of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to be part of this group that will pray for our work, our partner programs, and the people of the Bwindi region, contact us at [info@kellermannfoundation.org](mailto:info@kellermannfoundation.org) or (214) 519-9279.

## Board Members

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## Batwa Women's Center: A vision for the future...the strength of the past

Progress is underway for the new Batwa Women's Center being built adjacent to the Batwa Craft Banda, which is near the gate of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. It will be a flexible space that will provide a warm and comfortable place for Batwa women and girls to gather for education, training, crafts production, and more.

We are grateful to all the donors who are making this project a reality. The center is one of the first of its kind in Africa, providing programs specifically designed for an indigenous women's group based

on their input. The Batwa Women's Center will provide hope and training to help these women break the bonds of poverty as they learn to provide for their families.

Funding for Phase I of construction has been completed thanks to a substantial start-up contribution from Seattle artist Marsha Conn and gifts from other generous donors. We still need to raise approximately \$13,000 for Phase 2. To be part of this exciting project, please visit our website or contact our office to donate.



Batwa Women's Center nearing completion

Live in or visiting the Seattle area? Don't miss

## Uganda Undercover

March 14- April 29

An exhibit inspired by a collaboration with the Batwa Development Program to help the Batwa pygmies develop craft products as a means of self sufficiency.

Artists: Carol Brady, Judy Chambers, Marsha Conn, Lynn Di Nino, Cheryl Johnson, Elinor Maroney, Annie Moorehouse, Joan Robbins, and Batwa pygmy artisans from Uganda

Columbia City Gallery — 4864 Rainier Ave. S.  
Seattle, WA 98118 — (206) 760-9843

Hours: Wed-Fri 12-8 pm, Sat and Sun 10 am-6 pm

**Proceeds will help fund the Batwa Women's Center**