

WELLSPRING CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTRE



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

June 2010



To all Wellspring supporters

The Wellspring Children's Medical Centre in Kamutuuza, Uganda has now been operational for over 2 years and it has already had a tremendous impact on the lives of children within the local villages. Over 10,000 children have attended the clinics since opening, over 1000 have been admitted onto the acute day ward, most having been successfully treated for malaria, and thousands more have been provided with vaccinations and health care through the Wellspring outreach programme. Patient through put is increasing monthly as news of the benefits of health care at Wellspring spreads through the villages.

MEDICAL TEAM VISIT

The latest medical team visit took place in May this year. This visit was extremely productive and proved to be an amazing experience for all concerned....

1. The arrival of the Operation Uganda container on the same day as the team was a great relief. The team sorted out all the goods in record time. Wellspring has now been able to re-stock its stores of medical equipment, health and hygiene supplies, infant clothing, nappies and bottles. In addition, the ward has been supplied with 4 new beds, sheets and hospital blankets, drip stands and mosquito nets. Both the office and the reception area have been supplied with new computers and a TV has been installed in reception to be used for health education purposes.



Acute day ward

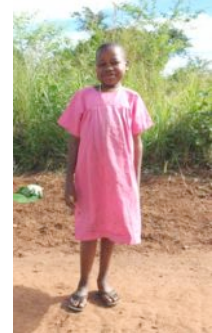
2. Further goods were distributed to Masaka and Kitovu Hospitals. These hospitals were visited following distribution of the goods. The nurses, doctors and patients were delighted with the quantity and quality of goods supplied. A baby incubator was taken to the Masaka Hospital neonatal ICU where 10 tiny infants were being kept warm under inspection lamps. One newborn baby had been admitted to this unit after having been found in a toilet where it had been thrown after birth. She is now recovering well and will soon be available for adoption. This is just one of the heart rending stories which we encountered during this visit.
3. 200 mosquito nets were purchased with funds received during the Toy Sale, which took place in December 2009 at the Operation Uganda shop in Frodsham. These were distributed in the villages and given to Wellspring for use in their outreach programme. A further 200 nets will be supplied later in the year.



Mosquito net distribution

4. The COIN child sponsorship scheme is proving to be very successful. The 10 registered children were all visited in their homes and clinically reviewed at Wellspring. A number of the children were referred for further medical advice to Kitovu and Masaka Hospitals, others received laboratory tests at Wellspring and all were given food, clothing, health and hygiene goods, mosquito nets and any necessary medication. It was apparent that many of the children have been able to experience a more normal and healthier childhood as a result of the COIN project and regular reviews enable any deterioration in the child's health to be noted and treated as soon as possible.

5. Josephine is an example of progress made in the life of a child on the COIN register. She is an AIDS orphan who lives with her grandmother. Josephine is 13 years old and has been HIV+ve from birth. She now has AIDS and is presently also being treated for pulmonary TB. For the past 3 years she has refused to go to school due to bullying. However, since being included on the COIN project, she has gained in confidence, she is well nourished, her health is stable and she has returned to school. The aim of the COIN project is to provide each child with an improved quality of life and a more normal childhood.



Josephine

6. Reviewing the COIN children has also brought to light other very needy children in the area. During the team visits 2 cases of severe malnutrition were discovered and referred to Kitovu Hospital, one 2 year old being found to be of the same size and stage of development as her 8 month old sister. A family of 5 deaf and dumb children and their deaf and dumb mother were discovered in extreme poverty and experiencing serious persecution. We are praying for funds to be released to enable this family to be re-housed in a place of safety. Other children were found in situations of extreme neglect, often due to physical or mental disabilities. Angel is one example of a disabled child discovered in extreme need. She is 6 years old and has been abandoned by her parents. Due to a spinal deformity on first sight she would appear to be 18 months old. She is severely underdeveloped and malnourished, can only stagger a few steps and is incontinent. She has been referred to the local hospital for medical review and is now being sponsored for her continuing care.

7. We are delighted to be able to report on a wonderful success story following the sponsorship of 3 year old Isaac who was born with bilateral clubbed feet. He has been



Isaac Oct '09

brought up at the Home for Abandoned, Disabled Orphans in Kasasa. After orthopaedic manipulation and surgery Isaac can now walk normally and is learning to kick a football. Sponsorship by Beechwood Primary School in Runcorn has transformed a crippled abandoned orphan into a normal healthy child who now has the opportunity to grow and develop, providing him with hope for the future.



Isaac May '10

FUTURE PLANS

1. William, the Wellspring clinical officer who has been responsible for the successful development of the COIN project, has applied to medical school in Gulu. He hopes to begin his 5 year training in September for which he is being sponsored by donors from the UK. A replacement for his post is presently being sought.
2. Proposals have been submitted to the trustees and medical committee for 2 new projects to be based at Wellspring – the “Know your status” HIV awareness campaign and the “Mother and child HIV prevention initiative”. The first project, once funded, will provide an HIV and AIDS service including counselling, education, testing and follow up; the second

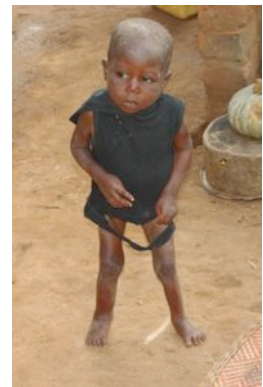
- will involve the employment of a midwife and the provision of antenatal and post natal services, with an emphasis on the prevention of the vertical transmission of HIV from mother to infant. Grants from within the UK are being sought to fund both of these projects.
3. 5 more children are to be added to the COIN register.
 4. A new accounting system is to be implemented to enable improved communication and accountability.
 5. Plans are being drawn up for a third Operation Uganda project to take place in Frodsham, Cheshire later in 2010.

FUND RAISING

1. £25,000 was raised by December 2009 to enable the running of Wellspring through 2010
2. A further £30,000 is to be raised in 2010 to enable the running of Wellspring through 2011. So far funds have been raised through a church family fun day, school fetes, a charity "catwalk" and personal donations. Plans are being made for a summer fund raiser, "Picnic at the Park", and a bonfire and firework display in November.
3. 2 applications for grants have been submitted to provide funds for the 2 proposed projects.
4. A third Operation Uganda project is to begin in the autumn, with associated fund raising and collection of medical and health and hygiene goods.

On behalf of the children of Kamutuuza and surrounding villages, the trustees and medical committees wish to express their sincere thanks to all Wellspring supporters and donors for their prayers, financial provision, practical help and encouragement. Your commitment to the work of the Wellspring Children's Medical Centre has enabled thousands to children to access previously unaffordable and inaccessible health care, saving many precious young lives.

Some people question the effectiveness of such a work as Wellspring. Our efforts often appear like a drop in an ocean. However, when individual children's lives are impacted on a daily basis as described above, every penny donated, every endeavour made, every plan put forward is of greater worth than can be imagined. No task is too great, no price is too high to save the life of a child.



Angel – aged 6 yr

God bless you

Pauline

Pauline Hutchinson
Trustee and medical advisor to Just Care

If you wish to make a donation to the work of the Wellspring Children's Medical Centre or sponsor a child on the COIN register please complete the following and return to...

Dr Pauline Hutchinson, Medical Admin, Kingswood Lodge, Kingswood, Frodsham WA6 6JQ

Further information and appropriate forms will be forwarded on to you.

I WISH TO MAKE A DONATION OF _____ TO THE WELLSPRING CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTRE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

TEL NO _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

I WISH TO GIFT AID MY DONATION

Yes / No

PLEASE SEND ME FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING SPONSORSHIP OF A CHILD ON THE COIN REGISTER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

TEL NO _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please note: All cheques to be made payable to "JUST CARE"