



Spring 2019

# Tenwek Today

A publication by Friends of Tenwek

## New Oncology Unit: A Priority for Tenwek Hospital and FOT

*New service will provide coordinated, comprehensive care for patients with cancer*

For decades, Tenwek Hospital has been unable to meet the critical medical needs of cancer patients. This is not unusual in a nation that is still developing medical systems and solutions that can be delivered in rural and remote regions. But addressing the need for earlier detection, proper diagnosis, and effective treatment of multiple kinds of cancer has become a top priority for Tenwek Hospital leaders. The commitment to provide oncology services reflects their dedication to maintaining the hospital's designation as a Christian teaching and referral hospital at the highest level.

John Spriegel, M.D., a long-time missionary doctor at Tenwek, knows first-hand the critical need to add a comprehensive oncology service. "While Tenwek has become a referral hospital in many medical specialties for much of Western Kenya, we are also referring out two cancer patients each day. Some of these patients can handle the travel and expense of seeking treatment in Nairobi. But most, in fact, go home and die. And, like many of our patients, those who come to us with cancer need the spiritual touch of Christ's healing ministry and not just the medicines we that we have to offer."

### Development of a Dedicated Oncology Unit is Underway

"Tenwek's Oncology Unit will usher in a new era of outpatient oncology care," continues Dr. Spriegel. "It will be the only service of its kind in the region to offer coordinated cancer care that encompasses diagnosis and treatment for a range of cancers."

The new Oncology Unit will be established in two phases. Renovations are underway in an existing building to transform it into a patient-centered, hygienic area that promotes comfort, dignity, and privacy for individuals receiving chemotherapy treatments. The building improvements include floor tiling, painting, new wiring for electrical outlets and computer stations, enhanced lighting, and additional outside doors.



The new Oncology Unit will be housed in a building formerly used as a hostel for Tenwek's Chaplaincy School students.

When renovations are complete, the building will feature examination and administration rooms for chemotherapy, offices for clinicians,

and specialized areas for processing, storing, and preparing treatments. The medical equipment and furnishings purchased to launch this new service – including a chemotherapy hood – will be moved to the Oncology Unit's permanent location in the Steury Building when expansion and renovations there are completed in several years.



Dr. John Spriegel consults with Tenwek staff.

Tenwek's financial and staffing plan will ensure the unit's sustainability. Two clinical officers with higher diplomas in oncology care currently are on staff at Tenwek. The hospital's head pharmacist has advanced training in chemotherapy medications. Additional oncology nursing training and consultation services are being developed with colleagues at another Kenyan teaching and referral hospital.

The cost to open the phase one version of the Oncology Unit is \$182,000 USD. This includes renovation expenses, specialized treatment equipment, and furnishings.

**Recognizing both the need to offer cancer care and Tenwek Hospital's commitment to adding this critical new service, Friends of Tenwek has made the Oncology Unit one of its top fundraising priorities for 2019. FOT is committed to raise \$91,000 – half of the necessary funds.**

Your gift today in support of the Oncology Unit will extend life and hope to patients with cancer and ensure that Tenwek's exceptional medical and spiritual care will be delivered in this new specialty area for years to come. Visit [www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate](http://www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate) to make a gift.



Renovations to transform the building are underway.

# Tenwek Impact

## Your Giving Creates Impact!

Since FOT began to build a network of supporters for Tenwek Hospital in 2012, it has funded numerous projects that enhance the medical and spiritual care extended to hospital patients and their surrounding communities. Every gift supports Tenwek's mission of providing compassionate health care that reflects the love of Christ for all people. All of FOT's funding decisions are made in full partnership with Tenwek Hospital leaders – their priorities are our priorities! We also support outreach programs that enhance the health, spiritual life, and well-being of residents in the greater Bomet area.

### FOT Sets Fundraising Record in 2018

FOT received \$805,972 USD in donations in 2018 – the highest amount raised since inception! With an all-volunteer staff, FOT expenses are kept to a minimum; just 5% of revenue (\$40,438) was needed for fundraising, communications, and operational expenses. That means **95% of every dollar** raised was available to support the mission and work of Tenwek Hospital.

### 2018 Highlights

Since 2014, FOT has provided \$217,000 USD (50% of the total cost) to renovate and equip the Bomet Annex, with \$63,000 donated in 2018. Tenwek's first outpatient clinic located beyond the main hospital campus opened in August 2018 and over 10,000 patients have been treated there to date!

Following a serious fire at Tenwek in February 2017, FOT raised a total \$247,000 USD to assist with restoration efforts. Early gifts provided immediate relief for critical needs, which allowed all vital services to become quickly operational. Additional gifts supported rebuilding efforts and safety improvements that continued throughout 2018.

FOT provided \$50,000 and a \$150,000 interest-free loan that enabled Tenwek Hospital to purchase a new, 64-slice Siemens CT Scanner to replace an aging 4-slice scanner installed in 2011. (See story on page 3.)

To support a new vision for the Tenwek Hospital College School of Chaplaincy, FOT invested \$10,000 USD to help develop a new, three-year curriculum that will train chaplains from throughout Africa for service in hospitals, prisons, and schools; for work with police and the military; and for front-line service in times of natural disaster or national trauma.

Donations to support housing for residents training in various medical specialties at Tenwek totaled \$37,339 USD.

**Thank you – and read on for a closer look at several other outstanding projects that FOT donors made possible!**

## Threads of Hope

### *Claiming God's Plan for a Future and a Hope (Jeremiah 29:11)*

Threads of Hope is a vocational training center for vulnerable women living in extreme poverty in the greater Bomet area. It was founded under the direction of Tenwek Community Health and Development in February 2018. Suzie Vaughan, who travels to Tenwek for service each year with her husband, Read Vaughan, M.D., was instrumental in creating and developing the program.

During an eight-month tailoring apprenticeship, women gain vocational training and life skills, develop business acumen, and receive spiritual mentorship. Their work produces school uniforms for orphans, sanitary pads for use in prisons and schools, purses, aprons and other items for sale to visitors. "As our women find a sense of community, acceptance, and encouragement, we pray that their sense of dignity, self-worth and hope is restored," says Suzie.

At graduation, women have achieved competency and their sewing has "earned" the value of one-third the price of a treadle sewing machine (\$50 of the \$150 USD total cost). FOT provided the funds to purchase and award each graduate of the first class a new machine, enabling her to return to her village and begin a new business.

The first five graduates have been on their own for seven months. All are using their sewing skills and machines to support themselves and their families. One woman has opened a small shop, another works at a tea factory making bags to carry tea leaves, and three others sew uniforms and do mending for their villages. Every member of that first class recently returned to Tenwek to celebrate the graduation of the second class of six apprentices. Training for a third group of women is underway.

The impact of this effort reaches far beyond the women themselves – the 11 students and two teachers involved so far are mothers of 32 children! Upon seeing Suzie this year, one of the first graduates gave her a warm embrace and said, "Thank you for changing my life. Not a day goes by that I cannot find a way to make some money using my machine."



Suzie Vaughan and the second class of sewing apprentices.

## Radiology Continues to Advance at Tenwek

### *New 64-Slice CT Scanner is latest enhancement*

When FOT helped Tenwek purchase and install a 4-slice Toshiba CT scanner in 2011, it was the only such diagnostic machine within a three-hour drive of the hospital – and it was the beginning of a new era of diagnostic radiology at Tenwek Hospital.

FOT’s Radiology Champion, Read Vaughan, M.D., was one of only two visiting radiologists at that time. The advent of CT scanning brought a critical need for more radiologist support. In response, Read launched a recruitment campaign that has had impressive results.

Today, Tenwek’s Radiology Department performs over 3,500 CT scans annually. Readings are done by visiting radiologists who work on-site for 30-34 weeks each year. For the remaining weeks, scans are read by 36 volunteer radiologists across the U.S. and Canada, using a cloud-based teleradiology system called Nucleus.

In addition, Read spearheaded the ART (Advancing Radiology at Tenwek) fundraising effort that raised over \$400,000 to expand and remodel Tenwek’s Radiology Department and equip it with three new x-ray and four new ultrasound machines. (Learn more at: [friendsoftenwek.org/advancing-radiology-at-tenwek-the-work-continues](http://friendsoftenwek.org/advancing-radiology-at-tenwek-the-work-continues).)

Most recently, the need to replace the antiquated Toshiba CT scanner and its exorbitant maintenance contract became a priority. FOT provided \$50,000 towards the \$350,000 purchase price and offered an interest-free loan of \$150,000 to the hospital to facilitate acquisition of a new 64-slice Siemens Go Up CT scanner. It brings CT angiography and other essential capabilities to Tenwek and supports the hospital’s new services in Neuroradiology and Pediatric Surgery.



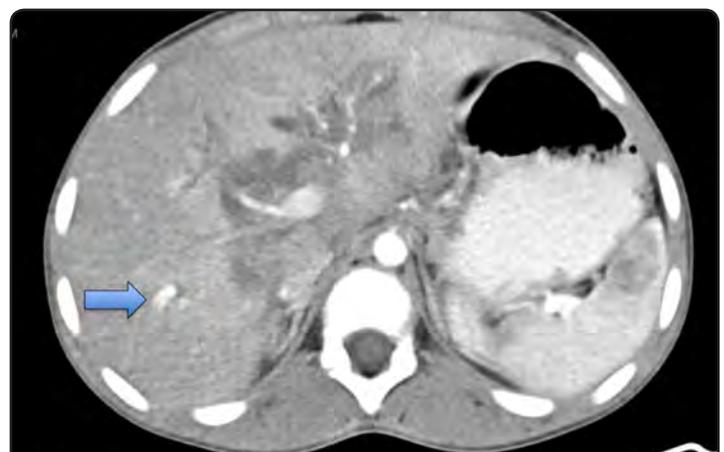
### An Immediate Life-Saver

Peris Chebet is a 14-year-old Kenyan girl who presented at Tenwek with life threatening bleeding from her gastrointestinal track. An ultrasound showed her gallbladder full of clotted blood; an endoscopy confirmed that she was bleeding from inside her liver.

To perform the life-saving surgery Peris required, surgeons needed to know where the bleed inside her liver was originating. Prior to the installation of Tenwek’s new CT scanner, there was no way to provide this crucial information. But thanks to the new high-resolution machine, physicians were able to order a CT Angiogram of Peris’ abdomen which allowed radiologists to precisely identify a pseudoaneurysm in the right lobe of her liver.

Pediatric surgeon Michael Gainey and Tenwek surgeon Justus Lando were able to successfully block the artery and stop the bleeding. Six days later, Peris used the hand that had been extended for help from beneath her surgical drapes to wave a grateful goodbye as she went home from Tenwek. Her message to the doctors and donors who saved her:

**“This hand thanks you for its life!”**



**Chebet Axial CTA liver 8 mm Pseudoaneurysm**

# More Impact

## The Faith Fund for Special Needs

This fund was named for Faith, one of the first children to be treated at Tenwek's Special Needs Clinic (SNC), which opened in 2015. Born with spina bifida, Faith spent the first seven years of her life at home crawling on her hands and knees. After evaluation at the SNC, she was fitted with special shoes and a pediatric walker and her life was transformed. Today, Faith is thriving and attending school where she has reached Grade 3 and is a stellar student. She walks with the assistance of forearm crutches and leg braces which, because of her growing body, need replacement twice a year.



Faith is thriving!

Donations to the Faith fund are used to cover SNC costs, including therapy visits and adaptive equipment – expenses that the children's families cannot afford. Last year, FOT's more than \$20,000 of support included the purchase of 34 wheelchairs suitable for rural terrain – each one representing God's love and providing a child with the opportunity to engage life in an exciting new way.



Wheelchairs provide children with mobility that promotes friendship, learning, and independence.

We value and appreciate your continuing support. To make a gift to any of the areas highlighted in this newsletter – or other areas of need at Tenwek Hospital – please use the secure online form at [www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate](http://www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate). The form's drop-down menu lists the many areas where your gift can save lives, transform hearts, and create futures filled with hope and purpose.

## Stay Connected

### FOT's Mission

Friends of Tenwek is committed to fostering communication among U.S. physicians who have served at Tenwek and know first-hand how vital the hospital's medical and spiritual mission is to the people of Kenya and beyond.

### How You Can Help

- **Pray** for the hospital's staff, operations, and specific needs we will bring to your attention.
- **Be an ambassador** for Tenwek to your church's mission and/or service board and leaders.
- **Encourage colleagues** to consider a volunteer service assignment at Tenwek.
- **Return to Tenwek** for a volunteer assignment in your area of medical expertise.
- **Make a financial gift** to meet critical needs at Tenwek Hospital or become a Sustaining Friend – [www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate](http://www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate)

### Serve at Tenwek

If you want to use your medical skills and specialty training to serve the people of Kenya, it's never too soon (or too late) to visit. Physicians from all specialty areas are needed and welcomed. Short-term service trips to Tenwek Hospital for Christian physicians, dentists, and other medical professionals are arranged through World Medical Mission, a division of Samaritan's Purse. For information about short-term assignments, please visit the World Medical Mission web page at [www.samaritanpurse.org/medical/mission-hospitals-tenwek-hospital-bomet-kenya](http://www.samaritanpurse.org/medical/mission-hospitals-tenwek-hospital-bomet-kenya)

### Visit the Friends of Tenwek Website & Facebook Page!

The Friends of Tenwek website ([friendsoftenwek.org](http://friendsoftenwek.org)) brings you news from Tenwek Hospital and includes links to the blog postings of missionary doctors and their families. FOT's on-site Ambassador and Field Director maintain our Facebook page ([facebook.com/FriendsofTenwek](https://facebook.com/FriendsofTenwek)) and post news, photos, and videos highlighting Tenwek's mission and work.

### Amazon Smile – Make Every Purchase Count!

Every time you place an order with Amazon, a portion of your purchase can be donated to FOT through the Amazon Smile program – and it's all done at no cost to you! Sign up once through your Amazon account and donations will be sent directly to FOT. Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4817136> for details - and kindly spread the word to family, colleagues, and friends.

**Tenwek Hospital Mission:** *Tenwek Hospital is a Christian community that seeks to exemplify Christ in all aspects of what we do. Our motto, We Treat – Jesus Heals, is Tenwek's guiding belief and the hope that we offer to each patient.*

[www.tenwekhospital.org](http://www.tenwekhospital.org)

Friends of Tenwek, Inc.  
6277-600 Carolina Common  
Box 191  
Indian Land, SC 29707

