



Spring 2015

Tenwek Today

A publication by Friends of Tenwek

FOT Celebrates How U.S. Churches Impact Tenwek Hospital

Since its founding in 2009, Friends of Tenwek (FOT) has raised funds to directly support numerous projects and initiatives that have strengthened Tenwek's medical and outreach services. (See page 2 for an anniversary report.)

Now, FOT is expanding its role to become a facilitator – encouraging its community of U.S. doctors and friends to consider how their churches might support Tenwek in ways that are as creative, diverse, and distinctive as the churches themselves.

The FOT Board of Directors is encouraged and inspired by the many ways they have seen U.S. churches impact Tenwek – both at the hospital and in the surrounding region.

Carmel Baptist Church in Matthews, NC, has been involved with Tenwek Hospital and its community for the last five years. Guided by the aid model described in *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself* (Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert), the church has:

- Partnered with Tenwek Community Health and Development (TCHD) to train over 420 Kenyan leaders from 300 local churches in children's ministry and conduct five children's rallies attended by over 16,000 children.
- Partnered with TCHD to train over 80 pastors in Holistic ministry through the 13-week course, "Multiplying the Harvest."
- Purchased and installed two water tanks at a remote medical dispensary – providing pure water for over 2,400 Kenyan families.
- Built a new kitchen and dining hall for a local orphanage serving children who lost parents to HIV/AIDS.



Pre-school students living at the Kenduiwo Orphanage. U.S. churches have found many creative ways to support Tenwek Hospital, as well as needs in the wider community.

- Provided seed money to a local church to establish a fund to meet various children's needs – with the fund tripling in size through contributions from Kenyan church members.

Carmel Baptist Church's ministry teams have included medical professionals, families with children, students, and pastors. They work closely with local pastors around Tenwek to identify the needs and ensure sustainable results. The U.S. church invests funds into the projects, while supplies and labor are sourced locally in Kenya whenever possible. This approach gives the community a stake in the project's success and supports the local economy.

Allegheny Center Alliance Church in Pittsburgh, PA, has developed a five-year strategic plan to support the Orphans Fund that serves a network of five orphanages around Tenwek. They provide school fees in support of numerous children and have assisted with the construction of several buildings. Leaders there are willing to share their plan and ideas with other churches seeking to make an impact at Tenwek.

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FOT News & Notes

The Dream of FOT Becomes Reality

The dream to establish and grow a community of U.S. physicians who have served at Tenwek Hospital and provide them with opportunities to reconnect with the people and mission there, began in 2009. That's when Dr. David Hoover – who first visited Tenwek in 1994 – began dreaming of an organization dedicated to developing the key relationships and resources that could support Tenwek Hospital and its missionaries. In 2012, Friends of Tenwek (FOT), was incorporated as a non-profit organization for that purpose and began building its community and raising funds.



In the last five years, over 250 FOT donors have contributed more than \$1,003,000 to the ministries of Tenwek Hospital.

Today, FOT is thrilled to announce that, since its inception, over 250 donors have contributed more than \$1,003,000 to the ministries of Tenwek Hospital!

Major projects include:

- Purchase and installation of CT Scanner - \$290,000
- Advancing Radiology at Tenwek (ART) - \$135,055
- Purchase and installation of Hospital Management Information System - \$110,000
- Surgical Residency Scholarships - \$80,000 (raised to date)
- Children's Rallies - \$60,000
- Renovations to Bomet Outpatient Clinic - \$55,000 (raised to date)
- Construction of a new Nursing School Dining Hall - \$35,000 (raised to date)
- Ngito Water Bore Project - \$22,500
- Construction of Residents Building - \$20,000
- Purchase of Infant Incubator - \$21,000
- Mercy Fund for Orphans - \$11,775

This is an amazing accomplishment over five years for a grassroots organization that is both building a network and raising funds at the same time. It is a testimony to the grace and power of God and the bond that is created between Tenwek and those who answer the call to serve there.

FOT is deeply grateful to each individual who has made a donation to support Tenwek. Every gift matters – and its impact is multiplied – to the glory of God.

Tenwek Impact

FOT Mercy Fund Is a Blessing for All



This child from the Kenduio orphanage was admitted with a severe case of tuberculosis. His care was paid for by the Mercy Fund.

Last fall, FOT established the Mercy Fund to help pay for the medical care of children who live in one of the five orphanages surrounding Tenwek and receive medical treatment at the hospital. As of the end of December 2014, the Mercy Fund has paid over \$1000 in medical fees for children; \$300 was for outpatient care and the balance for inpatient care.

The donated funds make a tremendous impact: the base cost for a one day/night inpatient stay at Tenwek Hospital is 1,950 Kenyan Shillings (about one-half of an average weekly wage in the region). The equivalent is \$21 U.S. dollars.

FOT's on-site communications intern, Amy Stoddard, has seen first-hand the impact the fund is making. She reports, "After having visited several of the homes and meeting the children, I have seen how impossible obtaining health care would be for them. Without the Mercy Fund, they would have to delay care until it was 'critical' or maybe not have it all. It also would have put a burden on the directors of the home to find money to provide for their healthcare, as they are already struggling to provide the basic needs."

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Tenwek Opens Special Needs Outpatient Clinic

Last September, Tenwek Hospital began providing outpatient services for children with special needs at the hospital and through a mobile clinic at Bomet Primary School. The clinic was first imagined by Solomon, a dedicated physiotherapist at Tenwek with a “can do” attitude who desires to see disabled children attend school. When Amy and Woody Rule (pediatrician and speech therapist) arrived at Tenwek last summer, they accelerated the process of establishing the clinic.

This partnership between the Maternal Child Health Clinic and Physiotherapy is now providing children with disabilities a dedicated place for medical evaluation, rehabilitation assessment and planning, wheelchair/ adaptive device measurements and fittings, and assistance with the transition to integrated and special unit educational programs. Approximately 60 children from Bomet County and beyond have been served by the clinic in recent months; diagnoses have included autism, pervasive developmental disorder, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and other developmental disabilities.

Tenwek is working in partnership with Bomet County’s Ministries of Education and Social Services, the African Gospel Church, and local schools to ensure that children with disabilities are accessing school programs to address their educational needs. Currently, there are seven schools in Bomet that are able to accept students with physical and mental disabilities, but many families don’t know these

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The availability of these funds dedicated to medical care relieves the children’s relatives (often grandparents) from the burden of having to pay hospital bills from their own limited resources. If there are no relatives, the orphanage would pay for the care from its general funds; so, as Amy noted, the Mercy Fund also helps the orphanage directors by enabling them to use the general funds for other purposes. The fund also means that Tenwek doesn’t need to tap into its own emergency fund for the poor, leaving more money available for the care of other patients who cannot pay.

As the fund draws from its founding gift of \$10,000, FOT will replenish it with new gifts from donors. To make a secure, online gift to the Mercy Fund, please visit the FOT website at: www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate

Checks also can be mailed to:
Friends of Tenwek, Inc.
6277-600 Carolina Commons Drive
Box 191
Indian Land, SC 29707
All gifts are tax-deductible.

Tenwek Impact

schools exist and aren’t aware of the resources available from the government. The clinic has been able to remove some of these barriers. However, in addition to school fees, families also may need to provide wheelchairs or other adaptive devices in order for children to attend classes.



Faith is filled with joy after taking her first steps at age 8.

The clinic also is seeking to establish strong collaborative partnerships among the hospital departments and community-based organizations, such as local churches, to advocate for children with disabilities and their families and help these children reach their full potential.

The Shining Example of Faith

The lives of special needs children in Kenya are all too often limited and sometimes tragic. Faith is a young girl whose life was transformed in one short week through Tenwek’s new clinic. Born with spina bifida, Faith lives with her grandmother, aunt, and four other children. She spent the first seven years of her life crawling on her hands and knees and was never able to receive the care she needed.

The doctors and physical therapist at Tenwek’s clinic determined she had enough strength and sensation to potentially walk with the aid of crutches. Solomon graciously loaned Faith the only pediatric walker that Tenwek owns and fitted her with a sturdy shoe to assist in walking. Just six days after her first visit to the special needs clinic, Faith took her first steps into a new and brighter future!

This family would not be able to afford any care without assistance. All of clinic care, plus an emergency room admission and one-night stay in the hospital totaled about \$50 – an impossible amount for Faith’s family, but an insightful example of the impact U.S. dollars can make.

FOT is exploring ways to support Tenwek’s initiative to aid the disabled and their families and will share with you opportunities to help in the future. In the meantime, please pray for the children being served and the clinic staff and community partners. *Verily, I say to you, inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it to me.* (Matt 25:40)

Members of **Canvas Church** in Kalispel, MT, have raised funds to buy cows and build a home for women served by the Tabitha ministry. They have also donated funds to purchase tea fields that provide a source of income for the orphanages.

Hill Country Evangelical Free Church in Fredericksburg, TX, sent seed money to Tenwek to prepare for a possible Ebola emergency; while **Barrington Baptist Church** in Barrington, RI, directed their Thanksgiving offering to FOT for the Tenwek Nursing School Dining Hall project in honor of Dr. Russ White, a missionary surgeon at Tenwek.

These are just a few examples of the many ways that U.S. churches have helped Tenwek fulfill its mission and work. Sometimes a church becomes involved because it is the home church of a medical missionary serving at Tenwek. Other times, a church member learns of a need and brings it before the church's missions board or the congregation. Sometimes a Sunday school teacher or youth leader inspires students to get involved in meeting a need.

In its emerging role as a facilitator, FOT wants to help U.S. churches maximize the impact of their interest and support. Don Hoover, FOT's secretary/treasurer, has made numerous trips to Tenwek with ministry teams from Carmel Baptist Church. He is willing to provide information, counsel, and contacts to FOT supporters who want to explore how their churches might support Tenwek.

Throughout this issue of *Tenwek Today* are stories that highlight the impact FOT supporters are making – and may suggest new areas where U.S. churches could invest time, talent, and treasure to transform even more lives. For more information about how FOT can help your church become involved, please contact Don Hoover at (704) 491-4297 or donaldg.hoover@gmail.com.



FOT has raised \$55,000 towards a \$90,000 pledge for the establishment of a Tenwek Hospital Outpatient Clinic in Bomet. Left to right: Dr. Mike Chupp; Nelson Kipngeno, a senior nurse in Tenwek's outpatient department; and Dr. Stephen Manchester.

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

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.samaritanspurse.org/medical/mission-hospitals-tenwek-hospital-bomet-kenya

Share Your Story!

In our experience, every U.S. physician who serves a short-term medical mission at Tenwek has a deeply personal experience. Your Tenwek experience is important to us – and to your colleagues. Please visit the FOT website to learn how to share your story. We want to hear from you!

Visit the Friends of Tenwek Website & Facebook Page!

The Friends of Tenwek website (friendsoftenwek.org) brings you the latest news from Tenwek Hospital, and keeps you up-to-date on what the missionary doctors and their families, visiting physicians, and hospital staff are doing in support of Tenwek's unique medical and spiritual mission in Kenya. The site includes links to the blogs maintained by Tenwek staff and offers you the opportunity to share your own Tenwek story.

Visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/FriendsOfTenwek), to join a vibrant online community of Tenwek "alumni" who want to remain in touch with the hospital and with their Tenwek colleagues.

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.*

Friends of Tenwek, Inc.
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