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Tenwek Today

A publication by Friends of Tenwek

FOT Funds TCHD's COVID-19 Response Program for Church Leaders

Jonathan Bii is the Program Director for Tenwek's Community Health & Development program (TCHD); its mission is "to serve Christ by facilitating change through Primary Health Care and appropriate development within needy communities."

With the onset quarantine restrictions – which include a national curfew and church, school, and business closures – Mr. Bii has noted a rise "a lot of fears, anxiety, hopelessness and worries among the population."

As other institutions are overwhelmed by the crisis, Mr. Bii says, "The church has been seen by all as the only hope provider. The church knows who to run to – God."

In the last three months, with support from Friends of Tenwek, TCHD has helped 189 church leaders from 147 congregations in Bomet, Kericho, and Narok counties to build knowledge and capacity to lead their communities' response to COVID-19. The special training covered trauma debriefing; prevention of COVID-19 in the family and community; care of church members during the pandemic; mobilizing church members to demonstrate love and care for their neighbors; and mobilizing church members for consistent prayer during this crisis.

The leaders were commissioned to be facilitators in their communities, leading by example to model safe social distancing, facemask wearing, and regular hand washing. Each participant also received COVID 19 literature to distribute to their churches. As a result of the training, pastors have actively engaged with their communities through home visits, helped their congregations observe health protocols when they meet in home churches, and conducted soap-making workshops (see following story).

Mr. Bii is grateful for the generous FOT donor support that made this creative and timely "integrated ministry outreach" possible, noting it is yet another example of how TCHD continues to pursue its mission by equipping the Church to be a source of hope to the people of the Greater Bomet region.



TCHD's Hygiene Mission is More Important than Ever

Tenwek's Community Health & Development program (TCHD) has a long history of promoting clean water and safe sanitation programs. Since 1992, TCHD has helped 119 schools in Bomet and Kericho Counties of Kenya improve their water facilities and hygiene practices.

With the onset of COVID-19 adding new urgency to promoting handwashing, a generous FOT donor has stepped forward to provide up to \$25,000 to sponsor liquid soap-making workshops in the community. Under the program, TCHD provides the supplies and training to equip community members to make the soap, which is then provided to area schools, clinics, and residents as an alternative to purchasing expensive bar soap. Church leaders who participated in TCHD's recent COVID-19 training were encouraged to introduce the soap-making program in their own communities.

Jonathan Bii, TCHD's Program Director, notes that three teams are conducting daily outreach in various parts of Bomet, Kericho, Narok, and Nakura counties. Activities include using a mobile public address system to broadcast COVID-19 prevention messages, distribution of the liquid soap, and hand-washing demonstrations.

To date, more than 1200 liters of soap have been distributed and training has been extended to multiple groups, including a Bomet prison. As hoped for, demand and use of the liquid soap is very high. Mr. Bii expects to expand the soap making workshops in schools and prisons as more communities in the area learn of this economical use of local resources.



Thoughtful Collaboration Helps Tenwek's Special Needs Children

Occupational Therapist Penny Hage, MS, OTR/L, was instrumental in establishing FOT's Faith Fund, which supports the operations of Tenwek's Special Needs Clinic (SNC). As the FOT Champion for the SNC, Penny and her husband, orthopedic surgeon Bill Hage, M.D., have raised critical funds that pay for general therapy assessment and treatment, developmental devices, wheelchairs, braces, prosthesis, crutches, and special seating for Tenwek patients with special needs.

During her last trip to Tenwek, Penny visited Heshima Children's Center in Nairobi, a model facility that offers compassionate therapy, education, and care for children with disabilities and their families. Heshima means "dignity" in Swahili and, like Penny, the staff there believe "that Jesus Christ has a special purpose filled with dignity for children with special needs in Kenya."

Heshima's Dignity Designs store sells a variety of products hand-made by the mothers of the children they serve. This provides the women with the dignity of work with a monthly income and assistance with health care. Penny has purchased multiple shipments of colorful beaded bracelets – as favors for her birthday fundraising party and to re-sell – with all proceeds going to the Faith Fund. To date, Penny has raised nearly \$8,000 of support for the SNC through this thoughtful collaboration.

"The sweet thing about this partnership is that it not only supports SNC but it also supports the moms of Heshima and Dignity Designs," explains Penny.

Your gift will make a life-changing difference for special needs children at Tenwek. Use the secure online form at: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Faith_Fund



Penny Hage and Solomon Rop, founder of Tenwek's Special Needs Clinic, on a home visit to a SNC patient.

New Staff Coats Promote Pride, Professionalism, Team Spirit

Tenwek recently distributed new white staff coats – provided by FOT – to Tenwek's physicians, medical officers, and clinical officers. Each person received two coats that are embroidered with the individual's name and department. The Tenwek Hospital logo appears above the breast pocket and the FOT logo appears on the left shoulder.

"I want to say a huge 'thank you' to FOT for providing funds for the beautiful branded white coats. I know they will enhance our team spirit and patient/family recognition of Tenwek Hospital care providers," noted Dr. Steve Burgert, Tenwek's Medical Superintendent.

Festus Korir, Tenwek's Human Resource Director, noted that the staff are "looking sharp" in the new coats. "This will go a long way in promoting our brand policy and at the same time a sense of accountability in our work."

Hospital CEO Shem Tangus agreed. "I join my colleagues to express our deepest gratitude for this support. Our staff are really grateful that FOT agreed to give support towards these white coats."



New Digital Radiology System Advances Patient Care at Tenwek

Patient care at Tenwek took another giant leap forward with the advent of a new Digital Radiology System. FOT donors provided \$170,000 for the innovative technology that provides X-rays with better image quality, requires less radiation, and reduces processing time from three minutes to six seconds.

This results in shorter waiting times for patients and increased efficiency that will triple the capacity of existing machines. A sincere Thank You to everyone who contributed to the ART Fund (Advancing Radiology at Tenwek) to make this technology possible!



Donors make a difference!

As you can see from the stories above, there are always special needs and projects at Tenwek where your gifts have a direct and positive impact at on the lives of Kenyans. Gifts of any size are most welcome and much appreciated. Every gift makes a difference!

To make a gift in support of specific or general needs please use the secure, online donation form at:

[Friendsoftenwek.org/donate](https://friendsoftenwek.org/donate)

Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope to send your gift by mail and indicate the purpose of your gift in the memo line (i.e. Where Most Needed, COVID-19 Fund, SNC, etc.)

THANK YOU
for your generous and faithful support!

Janie Leland Named FOT Associate Director of Development

Janie Leland, FOT's current Ambassador, has been named Associate Director of Development. This role is responsible for coordinating FOT's fundraising, marketing and communication activities. Janie returned to the U.S. earlier this year due to the global pandemic and has been working closely with Don Hoover, Director of Development. As the FOT Ambassador, Janie lived in Kenya for almost a year and made essential connections with U.S. physicians, welcoming visitors into the FOT family. While at Tenwek, she hosted visiting staff and families at the guesthouse and provided information and insights about ministry opportunities within the Tenwek community.

In her new role, Janie will continue to advance the mission of FOT through building donor relationships, managing strategic communications and coordinating fundraising efforts. She will also support the work of FOT Champions and be responsible for gift processing and database management.

Originally from Tarboro, North Carolina, Janie graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2018. She is not new to the Tenwek community; in 1990, Janie's parents lived and worked at Tenwek Hospital as newlyweds, then returned with their children in 2002 for a short-term trip.

"In all my contacts with supporters of Tenwek, one thing I always find to be true - each person loves Tenwek Hospital and is thrilled to support its ministries," Janie notes. "Thank you for your generous hearts and eagerness to connect to the work of the hospital and the Tenwek community. I couldn't be more grateful to be part of this team and part of FOT's important mission."



FOT News & Notes

FOT Board Welcomes New Member

Each year, the FOT Board is pleased to welcome a full-time missionary doctor from Tenwek to serve on its Board of Directors during the time that individual is on leave in the United States. The person filling this seat annually brings important perspective, insight, and experience to Board deliberations.



This year, the Board has been pleased to welcome Dino Crognale, M.D. to this position. Dino's specialty is Family Medicine and he serves in multiple roles at Tenwek. He is the chair of medical education and leads Tenwek's Family Medicine Residency Program. He is also the director of Emergency Medicine (Casualty) at Tenwek and heads the Cardiac Ultrasound unit.

Dino's wife, Janice, is also a Family Medicine physician and works part-time at Tenwek. They have three children, ages 8, 12, and 18. The family answered the call to full-time mission work at Tenwek 12 years ago.

Coming Soon – Tenwek Tomorrow

Since 2012, FOT has supported Tenwek Hospital's mission: to treat patients, promote holistic community health, and train and send health care professionals and chaplains – all to the glory of God. "We are committed to this work because of its profound spiritual dimension," says Dr. David Hoover, president of FOT. "It's not just humanitarian work – the love of God and the redeeming hope of life in Christ is being extended to patients and families throughout Kenya and all of Africa."

This fall, FOT will introduce a new catalog that details the many ways you can support the medical and spiritual education programs at Tenwek that are the heart of FOT's own mission. Tenwek Tomorrow will showcase how advances in Tenwek's infrastructure and educational programs are preparing the next generation of medical personnel and chaplains for service – and how you can support this amazing move of God.

"Tenwek Hospital's success cannot be explained without its Christian foundation and commitment. I assure Friends of Tenwek from the bottom of my heart that you are involved in one of the most amazing moves of God."

Rev. Dr. Robert Lang'at, Africa Gospel Church
Bishop & Chair, Tenwek Hospital Board



Stay Connected

FOT's Mission

Friends of Tenwek is committed to advancing Tenwek Hospital's mission of providing excellence in compassionate healthcare, spiritual ministry, and training for service to the glory of God. It does this by developing relationships and resources among U.S. physicians and supporters who understand how vital the hospital's medical and spiritual mission is to the people of Kenya and beyond.



Visit the Friends of Tenwek Website & Facebook Page!

The Friends of Tenwek website (www.friendsoftenwek.org) brings you the latest news from Tenwek Hospital and includes links to the blog postings of missionary doctors and their families.

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.
- Make a financial gift to Friends of Tenwek that will be used to support Tenwek Hospital www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate

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