

May 2011 – Friends of Kagando Newsletter

Dear Kagando Friends

Following the generous response of Kagando supporters to buy an ultra sound machine, we were able to take it to the hospital in March. Jonathan Berry, a radiologist in the team that went out, installed it and trained up the staff who were sceptical at first because it was small and portable. However they soon became enthusiastic over the excellent results it produced.

**Award** - Last year Kagando was given an award as the 4<sup>th</sup> best performing hospital in Uganda – it was based on criteria such as patient care, staff morale, cleanliness, etc and has given them great encouragement in the midst of other overwhelming challenges and problems.

**Operating theatre** - The new operating theatre now has a roof on and is on course to be finished this summer. Thanks to a Kagando supporter who is on the board of a trust in UK, the project has enough money to complete and equip this much needed facility. Part of the current theatre suite will then be used for the maternity department

**Scholarship Scheme** – Staff at the hospital who would like to do further education fill in an application form and they are then vetted by a team of senior hospital personnel. If approved, the candidate will be supported during the training and their salary will continue to be paid if necessary. After completing the course they will have to commit to further service in the hospital according to the individual course undertaken. Other personnel will be delegated to cover the work during their absence to lessen the impact on the ongoing work in each department. All education is extremely expensive and so the trustees plan to set up a scholarship fund to enable staff members to apply for financial help. We see this as an ideal way to provide high quality personnel for the future and it is our hope that this scheme will result in a fairer, more effective use of money given for further study. If anyone would like to pay into this scheme, either as a one off donation or regular payments please do contact us. Occasionally expatriates have made personal links with staff members and agreed to sponsor them to do further study. The management would be very grateful if they could be informed of the agreement to help with forward planning.

**Medical Superintendent** A new medical superintendent has recently been appointed at Kagando. Mr Kapuru is a gynaecologist, has good medical experience, is a local man and is already an asset to the team of doctors working at the hospital. Kagando is expecting a busy few months this summer, with medical students doing their electives, some students doing a project looking into a possible hydro scheme, and still other medical and non medical visitors who come to work short term or have a holiday.

As in many parts of the world, prices are rising steeply and everyone is struggling to cope with the higher cost of food, fuel and other commodities. The hospital has had to raise fees as well and make cuts where they can. The finances at Kagando are under great strain, so please do remember Canon Benson Baghuma, the project director, and his team, that they will be given the necessary wisdom, grace and stamina as they carry the heavy load of responsibility for KARUDEC.

With greetings and appreciation of you all for standing with us as we try to support the work and personnel at Kagando

Rob & Jen Morris, on behalf of the trustees of Friends of Kagando.

Web site – [www.friendsofkagando.org.uk](http://www.friendsofkagando.org.uk) email – [admin@friendsofkagando.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsofkagando.org.uk)

UK charity number – 1100302

PS Just heard that a suspected case of ebola at Kagando has turned out to be a different infection – praise God