

HABARI GANI (“What news” in Swahili)

A Newsletter by Priscilla and Henry Ziegler

December 2021

As we said in our November newsletter, life is particularly hard for many people in Tanzania and the need is great. We also told you about a matching grant from a donor for up to \$25,000. Anything you donate up to that amount will be matched by the donor. The impact of your donation will be **doubled. Please help.**

The Dar es Salaam Region has now approved Buguruni Anglican Health Centre (BAHC) to receive patients from ICHF (Improved Community Health Fund). ICHF is Tanzania’s new health insurance for people making less than 70 cents a day (the Tanzanian poverty standard). They receive a year’s basic healthcare for \$12/enrollee/year. The government estimates that 60,000–80,000 of the 420,000 in our Buguruni and Vingunguti area qualify. With health insurance, they will not have to do without healthcare or find very limited charity care. Recipients can get care before they become desperately sick.

BAHC and the government will enroll as many of these poor as possible. Unfortunately, at this poverty level, many will not have the needed \$12 per member for a year’s enrollment. **Please help** us enroll as many widows, orphans, and the especially needy as possible. We are seeking donations both from the local community and yourselves.

We are setting up a creative local savings fund to ensure that recipients continue receiving health insurance. The families deposit \$1 a month per family member into a savings fund. At renewal time, they will have the money to pay next year’s health insurance. Below are the Dar regional ICHF staff with Dr. Obondo when they came to inspect BAHC.



Patient Care



The mother above is part of the health center's AIDS program. She did her prenatal care and delivered the baby at BAHC. She came to thank Mr. Barua who is the BAHC director. While Mr. Barua did not deliver this baby, he is a skilled nurse-midwife who, when time permits, delivers babies himself.



The child above is the one who came with a bowel obstruction and was sent to the national hospital immediately for a colostomy. He was discharged with the open colostomy and no bags. Dr. Obondo, our lead doctor, and Mr. Charles Nkwabi, the head of TAVCO, a nonprofit partner, paid for the colostomy bags themselves since the family could not afford them. There are only adult colostomy bags in Dar es Salaam – no pediatric sizes.



Above is a diabetic older man with a foot ulcer. Two BAHC nurses are with him. Unable to pay for daily wound care, he was treated as charity care. On the right is a 6-month-old with a bacterial skin infection.

The staff continues to find creative ways to help the needy in Tanzania. The pictures below show a community eye screening and treatment program that BAHC is doing with Medewell, a Muslim health center that provided the eye surgeon. Below are pictures of those receiving cataract surgery and now being able to see from the treated eye. They were operated in the health center's surgical theatre and recuperated in the women's surgical ward. Pictures below show patients before the operation, recuperating, and by the ambulance waiting to return them home.





Trips to Tanzania

Because of the pandemic in Tanzania, none of the Health Tanzania Foundation team went to Tanzania these past two years. Therefore, the content of this newsletter is based on information obtained from the team in Tanzania, either by email or telephone calls. All the photos were taken by team members and sent to us. We thank Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Chilowaka, Dr. Obondo, Mr. Barua, Ms. Faidha Rashid, Mr. David Habibu, and Rev. Pearson Nhayo for their help.

Need for Volunteers

We are constantly looking for volunteers both short and long term to help in the United States and in Tanzania. There is always a role. If you or someone you know may be interested, have them call, text, or email Henry to talk about possibilities at hdziegler@yahoo.com or 703-887-1574.

Donations

As we announced in previous newsletters, the Health Tanzania Foundation, our nonprofit foundation, has a tax-free status as a public charity: a 501(c)(3). Please look us up at www.healthtanzania.org. In addition to finding out more about our programs, you can donate through PayPal at the website. You can designate what the donation is for and this will be honored. We are also on Amazon Smile which means that 0.5% of any purchase will go to Health Tanzania. Just register on Amazon Smile and designate that the money earned is given to our nonprofit.

In addition to making PayPal donations at our website, you can send donations to Health Tanzania Foundation, 1300 Crystal Drive, Apt. 605, Arlington, Virginia 22202 (our home address and the address for the foundation). Make any checks out to "Health Tanzania Foundation" and a receipt will be mailed to you. All donations are tax-deductible.

We know that we are always asking for funds but so little can do so much in Tanzania. With the Tanzanian shilling continuing to decrease in value when compared to the dollar, a little goes a long way; and **with the match, it will be doubled**. We have donated our own money to help the needy school children and to contribute toward the match. Please join us.

Please continue to pray for the health programs in Tanzania.

May God Bless All of Us,
Henry and Priscilla

