



PALMETTO MEDICAL INITIATIVE
EDUCATE • HEAL • EMPOWER

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Jennifer Cherock

jennifer@trio-solutions.com

(843) 216-0442 or (703) 201-1904

Local Nonprofit Opens Sustainable Medical Clinic in Uganda

Charleston, SC - Palmetto Medical Initiative, a Charleston-based nonprofit providing quality health care to developing countries while increasing accessibility to medical missions for health care professionals and others, has opened their first outpatient medical clinic in Masindi, Uganda. This is the first of seven medical buildings that will form a fully functioning medical complex called the Masindi Kitara Medical Center. Construction on the outpatient clinic began in June 2010 and the entire medical complex is expected to be complete in fall 2012. A grand opening was held on December 12 to celebrate the opening of the outpatient clinic. More than 600 people were in attendance including the minister of security, Honorable Amaama Mbabazi, who represented the president of Uganda, General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni; the Archbishop of the Church of the Province of Uganda, the Most Reverend Henry Luke Orombi; and the US Ambassador, Jerry Lanier. Patients began receiving care the following day and more than 300 people were served by Palmetto Medical Initiative health care volunteers and local medical professionals.

“It has been amazing to witness the first phase of the medical center progress from conception to completion,” explains Michael O’Neal, project director for Palmetto Medical Initiative. “Everyone is overjoyed with the opening of the outpatient facility and the locals are grateful for the level of care that is now available to them in their own community. We’re looking forward to continuing our partnership with the people of Masindi and are dedicated to providing quality health care for generations to come.”

In order to achieve long-term success, Palmetto Medical Initiative has trained and hired 10 Ugandan health care professionals including doctors, nurses, lab assistants and administrative personnel. This will allow the local community to take pride and ownership of their health care needs and ensure sustainability. Approximately 500-600 patients will be seen each month for common illnesses such as malaria and typhoid. Local medical professionals will also work to prevent complications of long term diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, and help children to walk again with prosthetics and rehabilitation medicine.

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“The ability to offer continuity of care and a working model for sustainability has finally arrived in Masindi, Uganda,” says Palmetto Medical Initiative co-founder, Ed O’Bryan, MD. “Anyone who has been there can readily see the incredible health impact our organization has made. Now we look forward to seeing and participating in exponential improvements in health, and to saving lives on a daily basis!”

About the Masindi Kitara Medical Center

The Masindi Kitara Medical Center is a project of Palmetto Medical Initiative. The new health care center will offer surgical services including labor and delivery, primary care services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy services and more. Upon completion of the medical campus in Masindi, Uganda, the center will have 75 inpatient beds. In addition to the seven medical buildings on site, there will be two designated housing facilities for local staff. Construction is projected to be completed by fall 2012. Donations are still needed to fulfill the project. Visit www.palmettomedical.org to contribute or learn more.

About Palmetto Medical Initiative

Palmetto Medical Initiative was established to provide sustainable, quality health care to developing nations while increasing accessibility to medical missions for people desiring to make a difference. The organization currently offers four medical mission trips a year to Uganda. The purpose for each trip is to provide health care professionals and students the opportunity to use their medical training to improve the health and wellness of the region. It is Palmetto Medical Initiative’s vision to see impoverished communities take ownership of a sustainable health care model, empowering them to bring about long-term change and tangible improvements in quality of life. For more information visit www.palmettomedical.org.

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