

New staff in Mwanza



Louise Ringrose



Tara Vicars



Kibibi Kengia

Our dedicated team in Mwanza has recently expanded, and we are now able to offer even more support to the Mwanza community. We employed Kibibi Kengia as Community Development Worker at Bukumbi, Dr Abed as dentist in Clinic 2 at Hope Dental Centre, and welcomed two volunteers – Louise Ringrose from the UK and Tara Vicars from Canada – for long-term project management placements.

News

News from Mwanza

Spreading DVP News Across the Commonwealth!

Bridge2Aid teamed up with the Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA) and the Tanzanian Dental Association in February for a high-profile workshop. Entitled 'Training of Rural Clinical Officers in Urgent Oral Treatment, a Challenge to the Oral Health Professionals. The three day event was held in Mwanza and hosted by the B2A team.

The workshop programme began with the a presentation by Professor Emil Kikwili, Dean of the Dental Faculty at Muhumbili University, Dar es Salaam on the incidence of oral pain in adult Tanzanians. There was a great deal of discussion during the event of the burden on rural populations of oral pain, and the impact on daily life caused by a lack of access to emergency dental services. Other sessions focused on the structure of the Bridge2Aid Dental Volunteer Programme. Participants then visited a local health centre for a demonstration of the training model, perfect timing as the 13th B2A Dental Volunteer Programme (DVP) was in full swing. To date the programme has trained 72 clinical officers in Oral Urgent Treatment, providing access to over three quarters of a million people in North West Tanzania.

The CDA supported dentists from developing countries around the world to attend the workshop. This enabled them to take back to their respective regions ideas on dental outreach programmes.

Dental Director of Bridge2Aid, Dr Ian Wilson, said "It was a wonderful three days, a fantastic opportunity to welcome delegates from developing countries both far and near and a wonderful chance to profile what we are doing with our Dental Volunteer Programme here in Mwanza. It was a very pro-active workshop and the resulting discussions were extremely encouraging," he added.



A matter of loaf and death

We were very honoured that Nick Park, creator of Wallace and Grommit, held one of only three pre-screenings of his new film in aid of Bridge2Aid!

At the special pre-screening of 'A matter of loaf and death' last Sunday, over £1500 was raised! This will be used for our Education programme in Mwanza, run by Fay McNamara, our Education Co-ordinator.

One of the cheques from the night was from Aardman - and is signed by Wallace and Grommit!

"The evening started by showing a Bridge2Aid DVD, then came the wonderful Wallace and Grommit movie after which the senior animator on the film gave a talk about the making of it. The audience then got to come and look at the real models, props and a set from the film. They left after meeting the 'real' Wallace and Grommit and Phil gave everyone a toothbrush and paste. It was a great event!" said Shaenna Loughnane, who had organised the evening.

Aardman only showed this film three times before its television debut on BBC1 on Christmas day - once for the Princes Trust in London, once as the press pre-screen and once for Bridge2Aid!

Nick Park was shown the Bridge2Aid DVD before he agreed to the event, and we are very grateful for his support (and of course, that of Wallace and Grommit!)



A 45 mile commute – on foot!

Ten members of Team Schein - Patrick Allen, Arwel Thomas, Diane Cann, Kate Ballam, John Dinsdale, Siobhan Cleary, Marie Brown, Shirley Peet, James Salter and Hima Joshi - will be travelling to Tanzania for 2 weeks in April, to refurbish Mpapua dormitory block at Bukumbi Care Centre.

They have committed to raising £15,000 to cover the costs of the refurbishment, and are covering all their own expenses themselves.

This has led to an amazing assortment of fundraising events at Henry Schein, the most recent being Patrick Allen and James Salter's 45 mile overnight trek to arrive at work for 9am!!

Their route led them from the start at East Grinstead through Maidstone, then Boxley (where the police asked them what on earth they were doing) and eventually arriving to a standing ovation from colleagues at Medcare House in Gillingham at 9am!

The guys were spurred on by colleagues on the way, who provided hot drinks and snacks, and were treated to a well-deserved full english breakfast on arrival.

Well done Patrick and James, and thanks to Puds, Ernie, Charlie, Marie and Kate for keeping them going!



Get Involved

'There are lots of ways you can support our work! We rely on fundraisers to go the extra mile for us – sometimes literally! Feeling adventurous? We have spaces available on our Climb Kilimanjaro Challenge, 20-30 August 2009 (well, if Chris Moyles and Cheryl Cole can do it...)!'



CLIMB KILIMANJARO

20-30th August 2009

WE CAN PROMISE YOU THE CHALLENGE OF A LIFETIME ... CLIMBING AFRICA'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN

To find out more about climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, email kerry@bridge2aid.org, call 07881 912060 or visit www.bridge2aid.org



5K - 10K Run

Or why not take on a running challenge? This summer there are plenty of 5K and 10K runs all over the country, and we can send you sponsor forms and a full fundraising pack if you would like to run for us! Or why not join the Bridge2Aid supporters running the Bupa London 10K on the late May bank holiday?

Contact Kerry to claim your place – kerry@bridge2aid.org

Skydive

If you're an adrenaline junkie, why not take on a tandem skydive? Nicola Cook, Terry Reilly and Laura Burgess did just that in March! You can jump at a date to suit you – or why not join us on Saturday 13th June 2009 for our big, group skydive? Held at Brackley, near Oxford, join Ian Wilson and a whole bunch of supporters as they leap out of a perfectly good plane!

Contact kerry@bridge2aid.org or see the website for more details!



Hope Ball

Need something stylish to look forward to? Why not join us at the annual Hope Ball! It's a black tie event, being held this year on **Saturday 13th June** at the beautiful Tortworth Court Hotel in the Cotswolds. Tickets cost £60 each or £55 each for a table of 10.

The evening commences with a champagne reception on the lawn followed by a 3 course meal, dancing to a local band and an opportunity to relax in the piano lounge. Carriages at 1.00am! Last year, the Hope Ball raised £11,000 which went directly to the work of Bridge2Aid.

Interested? Please call the Ball organiser, Shaenna Loughnane on 01453 844646 or email hopeball@chippingmanor.co.uk



Local Group Fundraisers – Underway!

Kerry Dutton, our Fundraising Co-ordinator, has set up a network of local supporters to facilitate small-scale fundraising events for Bridge2Aid – our Local Group Fundraisers. Small, localised events – jumble sales, coffee mornings – really help to raise our profile on a local level, and provide an important way of raising funds for our work. No amount raised is too small!

If you would like to become a Local Group Fundraiser, or wish to be put in touch with the LGF co-ordinator in your area, please contact Kerry on 07811 912060 or email kerry@bridge2aid.org

Yumi is a young lady who has albinism. She was diagnosed with skin cancer nearly three years ago, and now urgently needs a further course of cancer treatment to give her the best chance of survival. We have been assisting her since June 2007, and would like to continue doing so. It is so hard for the albino community here in Mwanza - only 2 degrees away from the equator, the sun shows no mercy, and Yumi lost both her parents to cancer so is only too aware of the dangers.

Although Yumi is scared, she knows undergoing this treatment is her only hope. Without us, it is impossible for her to get treated, since the cost of this visit will be in the region of £200.

If you can contribute any amount towards the cost for Yumi's treatment, please visit our donations page at www.justgiving.com/bridge2aid/donate, and write FOR YUMI in the message line. Thank you so much.



Yumi needs further treatment

Our latest DVP, running from 21st February - 6th March 2009, was overseen by Site Clinical Leads Kieran Weil and Gus Stead, both very experienced DVPer's!

Huge thanks to dentists Martin Anderson, Liz Stringer, Denise Tulip, Bob Jones, Judy Beckerson, Judy Whible, Tony Bethwaite, Dipika Jarwala, Ken Graywahl, Sarah Kime, Menal Panchoi, Chris Walth and dental nurses Jan Lo, Pam Parslow, Cath Cowling, Jo Paget, Nicole Rostrom, Su Mills, Tracey Evans and Lynsday Currie.

During the DVP, over 800 patients were treated and in excess of 1100 teeth were extracted!! A remote team travelled to Lukungu Dispensary in Magu district (pictured), the other team being based in Mwanza at Misasi Health Centre, Misingwi and Koromije.

12 Clinical Officers (COs) received one-to-one training, and all but one passed, which is a great result.



DVP 13 - not unlucky at all

The 2009 BDA Conference and Exhibition is being held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow from 4-6th June 2009. Ian and Mark will be attending, and also hosting a seminar entitled Volunteering - Making A Difference. Please come along and show your support! We would love to hear from anyone that would be able to help out on our stand, greeting visitors and speaking to them about our work.

If you can help, please contact Rob on 0114 232 6030 or email rob@bridge2aid.org



Come and see us in Glasgow!



60th wedding anniversary congratulations...

Since the last newsletter, the community have been very excited to see Jumble dormitory renovated by the team from Practice Plan. And they didn't arrive by car - oh no... At 6:15am on Sunday 23rd November, five brave (crazy?) members of the Practice Plan work team RAN the final leg of their unique National Relay - from Hope Dental Centre in Mwanza town, to Bukumbi Care Centre, 32km away!

In searing heat, along busy roads and dirt tracks, the team (consisting of Leonard Choyo, Steve Turnock, Jamie Dallow, Pamela Rowland and Lynne Womersley) took just 4 hours and 30 minutes to reach their goal! The whole community at Bukumbi was there to greet them at the end - it was an unforgettable day for all concerned!

The Practice Plan team then spent two weeks scrubbing, cleaning, painting and generally refurbishing Jumble dorm, having raised all the money to fund the project through hard work in the UK. The residents looked on in anticipation - and were thrilled when they finally got to move back in and found that they had a home they could be proud of.



News from Bukumbi

Practice Plan baton relay completes journey:

Meet Aloyce

During our Dental Volunteer Programmes (DVPs), we train rural Clinical Officers (COs) in safe, emergency oral health care and we recently held our 13th DVP. But who are these COs? What is their role in Tanzania? In the first of a two-part article, we would like to introduce you to Aloyce Hugo, a Clinical Officer who benefitted from training on a DVP.

Aloyce is 51, married with five children. He has been working at the Magu District Hospital for 22 years.



After finishing his secondary education, Aloyce spent two years at medical school training to be a rural Clinical Assistant (CA). On completing the course, he worked as a CA for five years, and was then able to take an 'upgrading' course to become a rural Clinical Officer. This took him a further two years.



"In both courses, a curriculum orientation to dental health is given but not in as much detail as the Ministry of Health would give. The Tanzanian Ministry of Health is dedicated to proper dental care training in the dental therapist schools, but these are few in the country. Learning dentistry is possible only if staff in a dental unit of a practical hospital are interested in teaching," Aloyce said.

Does Aloyce enjoy his work? "It is great working as a CO and the community health care delivery still requires such people to serve the majority," he enthused.

As a CO, Aloyce is an all-round 'general practitioner', delivering various medical care to his community. In part two of this article (in our next newsletter), read how Aloyce and his community have benefitted from the training he received on a DVP.

"It is great working as a CO and the community health care delivery still requires such people to serve the majority"

Spring 2009



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Bridge2Aid news

Inside this issue

- Practice Plan run to Bukumbi
- Local Group Fundraisers
- CDA workshop
- DVP 13

