

December, 2014

*-Edward O'Neil Jr., M.D.,
Founder & CEO, Board
-Edward Mwebe: CEO-
Uganda
-Elizabeth Nalweyiso, CFO-
Uganda
-John Lubanga, PWS-
Director, Uganda
Prossy Nambi, Staff-Uganda
Kathryn Johnson, Board
Lessa Phillips, MD, Board
Roger Sublett, PhD, Board*



Omni Med Update 2014

Special points of interest:

Omni Med Wins ICATCH Grant

New Home in Kisoga, Mukono District, Uganda

Omni Med trains its 1200th VHT in Uganda

Omni Med is finalist for Data for Life Prize Award

Elizabeth Nalweyiso named Omni Med CFO in Uganda

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Greetings,

I hope this finds each of you well. 2014 has been a tremendous year for us. As you will see in the stories that follow, we won a prestigious grant and are finalists for a second; we found a larger, more suitable house in Mukono and will move in there in January. We hosted more great volunteers and now have capacity to host many more during the course of the year. We hired Elizabeth Nalweyiso as our first CFO and are proud to host GWU medical student Daniel Mays (center upper right photo) over a 9 month period during his Lasker Fellowship year. He is starting a new clinical trial with our staff and we are planning on a third study that will start in January. We

Omni Med Wins ICATCH Grant, Finalist for DFL Prize

Omni Med won the American Academy of Pediatrics ICATCH Prize. This prize is worth \$6,000 and will be paid out over three years. Many organizations competed for this prize and Omni Med came out on top. For this grant, we will improve coverage rates of ITNs (Insecticide Treated Nets), and save many lives in the process. We will then measure the impact through standardized testing known as a Lives Saved Tool (LST).

have trained 1200 VHTs thus far and will publish our first trial results in 2015. Our approach to service, including strong, locally directed efforts combined with rigorous evaluation of our impact continues to pay dividends for us, and, more importantly, for the people of Mukono District, Uganda. Please read the following brief stories to understand what we do. And then, please consider making a contribution. Thank you so much for your support.



VHTs during a recent ICCM training



Map of Uganda showing Kampala to the west, Lake Victoria to the south, and Mukono District in the center

Omni Med is currently a finalist for the Data for Life Prize (DFL), a prestigious honor that brings broad acclaim if successful. Over 200 organizations competed for this prize. 35 organizations made it to round two. Omni Med is now one of 8 remaining organizations. Two organizations will be chosen to receive one of two \$50,000 prizes. We will certainly keep you posted on the outcome. If successful, we will start work in January 2015.

Remembering Ambassador Harry Barnes by Saving Lives



Ambassador Harry Barnes, friend, mentor, and someone long concerned with the global poor.

As we noted in last year's newsletter, Harry Barnes was a good friend, a mentor, and a long time Omni Med board member who passed away in 2012. Many knew him as the US ambassador to Romania, India, and Chile. Those who knew him best knew his passion to correct injustice, risking his life in the process. To honor Harry's legacy, and in cooperation with Harry's widow Betsey, we have been raising funds and building protected water sources throughout Mukono South. We are dedicating each with Harry's name on a plaque affixed to the concrete where local villagers collect their water. Harry cared about the global poor and loved our work

here at Omni Med. It is only fitting that our tribute to him is one that will be both life giving and long lasting. We will raise funds for this effort in an upcoming fund-raising campaign. To date, we have raised \$3,575, enough

to construct 7 sources, giving life to over 4,200 households or 25,000 people. Please consider supporting this effort. We think Harry would approve.



Omni Med Uganda's Edward Mwebe and John Lubanga at a protected water source dedicated to Ambassador Harry Barnes

Danny Mays Wins Lasker Prize, Spends 9 Months with Omni Med-Uganda



Edward Mwebe, Elizabeth Nalweyiso, and Danny Mays

I am taking this academic year off from medical school to work with Omni Med, research policy issues affecting VHTs, and study global health policy through the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. During my first experience with Omni Med 2 years ago, I began to appreciate the depth of health disparities and how structural violence manifests itself amongst the poor. This year offers a tremendous opportunity to learn how health disparities can be rectified and the poor protected through empowering and sustaining grassroots health

workers. Ad hoc humanitarian aid alone is not enough to fix the problem of health disparities. People have to be empowered. It is difficult work, to be sure. But I'm telling you, I see magic happen when VHTs are given practical tools to save lives. Many VHTs are subsistence farmers and live on \$2 or \$3 a day. Despite working without pay and regularly facing significant challenges, they still volunteer. My research is focused on the policy question, is this model in which VHTs are unpaid volunteers efficient and sustainable? Omni Med is empowering VHTs to save lives



and, with the mentorship of Dr. O'Neil and Dr. Edison Mworozzi at Makerere University, we are investigating the optimal method of supporting and sustaining these life-saving health workers for decades to come.

More Outstanding Volunteers

Omni Med has had yet another year of outstanding volunteers, on whom we rely greatly to provide energy, innovation, and many hours of work. We would not have the program we have without them. They were:

Joel Fahling, U Mississippi
McCleary, U Mississippi
Wright, U Mississippi
Penman, U Mississippi
Christine Hluchan, Georgetown Univ.

Sean
John
Dr Alan
Chris-

Stephanie Osborne, Georgetown Univ.
Anne Waldrop, George Washington Univ.
Adam Spring, George Washington Univ.
Thanks again to each of you for your time, energy and passion.

Over 1,000 Cookstoves Constructed



We told you last year about our exciting new partnership with Global Peace Women (GPW) constructing cookstoves around Mukono. They work closely with the Omni Med staff and local VHTs, turning local banana trees, termite mound dirt, and a lot of sweat into functional, nearly smoke-free cookstoves, which dramatically reduce respiratory illness. Indoor cook-

ing over open fires and the resultant indoor air pollution (IAP) is the equivalent of smoking 2 packs of cigarettes per day, causing at least 13,200 deaths per year in kids under age 5. Instead

of scenes like that pictured on the left, GPW (its founder, Mike Sommer is above right) and Omni Med's partnership gets whole communities together to construct stoves, (center) reducing firewood use by 75%, and creating nearly smoke-free households. One 1 inch wide log powers the cookstove on the right, bring-



ing two pots to boil, vented out through the "chimney" seen as a bulge in the wall to the left of the pots. I took those photos in a small room in which no smoke was visible. To date, over 1,000 cookstoves have been constructed in Mukono District. GPW plans to expand with us in the coming year.



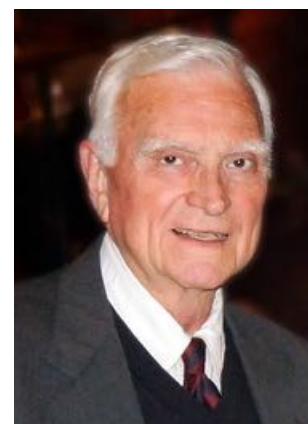
Robert Sparks M.D., 1932-2014

Robert Sparks served on Omni Med's board from its founding year in 1998 until his passing on July 1, 2014. In losing Dr Sparks, we lost not only a passionate board member who helped to guide us for many years, we lost a very good friend.

By any viewpoint, Dr Sparks had an extraordinary life and career. Born in

Newton, Iowa, he completed medical school at the University of Iowa before residency and GI training at Tulane. He served as Dean at Tulane from 1969-1972 and became Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He joined the Kellogg Foundation in 1976, becoming President and a trustee. He went on to earn many honors, including membership in the Institute

of Medicine. As impressive as his career was, he was a humble, grounded man, who offered wise counsel to all aspects of our work here at Omni Med. He offered time, energy, and support to me and to Omni Med for many years. I miss him very much. We will plan an appropriate means to honor his memory in the coming year.



Our New Home in Kisoga, Mukono District

For a number of years now, we have had a dream of moving from our cramped quarters to a larger setting, more suited to the work we do. As of January 2015, that dream will become a reality. We found a much larger house in Kisoga Town, which is closer to the main center of Mukono itself. We are hoping to be able to purchase this house and ask-

ing you, our supporters to consider anything you can do to help. The cost will be US \$40,000. We are renting now, but hope to be able to buy within one year. Here are the advantages to this home. First, it is larger and far cleaner. We will be able to accommodate more volunteers, and host them in a setting more on par with expatriate settings. We still

have pit latrines and bucket showers, but more living space, additional bedrooms, and storage space. We are also closer to the middle of the district, better for rolling out new studies. It also allows medical students to get to Mukono Health Center IV (cont. on page 5) where they can do clinical electives. I have long had this dream of send-



The old Omni Med office in Ntenjeru, Mukono District, Uganda

Meet Omni Med-Uganda's Staff: CEO Edward Mwebi



My role is the Director of Omni Med Uganda. For this year, our greatest accomplishments have been protected water source construction and VHT trainings and home visiting. The homes visited by the organization benefit by receiving encouragement to keep proper hygiene in their homes because they expect our visits and visits from VHTs.

We visit about 1400 homes in a year. The organization also constructs protected water sources in communities which help to decrease the germ content that is taken by children who drink water directly from the source without boiling it. This serves about 600 children in each area served by a protected water source. Homes that have been selected by

the VHTs to construct the improved smoke free cook stoves benefit by having the stove constructed free of charge and the materials freely available in the community. Omni Med helped construct about 200 cook stoves this year; GPW constructed 800 more.

Our New CFO: Elizabeth Nalweyiso



As Chief Budget Officer (CBO), I keep track of how we are using our funds. I work closely with Edward, Mukadde John, and Dr. O'Neil to create the budget and make sure we stay within our budget every month. This helps all of our activities run efficiently. I love working with Omni

Med and translating for volunteers, teaching VHTs and being involved with our work in the community. That is rewarding to me personally. Omni Med is doing a good job in Uganda in many aspects. The organization has been able to train over 1200 VHTs in Mukono district so

far. VHTs can do a lot of important work for the communities, Health Centers and the national large at a low cost. This can only be achieved if the VHTs are well trained, and maintained well, which we do.

Director of Protected Water Sources: (Mukadde) John Lubanga



I am working as a coordinator for Omni Med operations. I am working on water source projects, looking at places where the water is not good and seeing if we can construct a protected water source. Before construction, we meet with the village to plan on how to share the work. If we do all the work for them, they will think "This is Omni Med's water

source." But if they participate, they know that the water source belongs to them. This year we have done several water sources and we are planning another one soon. This project helps the community very much. People who were having no good water are now enjoying clean water. There are many other water sources that need to be constructed in the

future. This year we have seen people in communities becoming much more aware about the work of VHTs. They understand that Omni Med is working with the Ministry of Health to train the VHTs who belong to the villages under the authority of the Ministry of Health.

Our Caretaker: Prossy Nambi

For me I do all the cooking and cleaning for Omni Med and I go to the trainings and cook for the new VHTs there. I enjoy being here with the volunteers. I think the new house is good be-

cause it is very big and everything is going well.

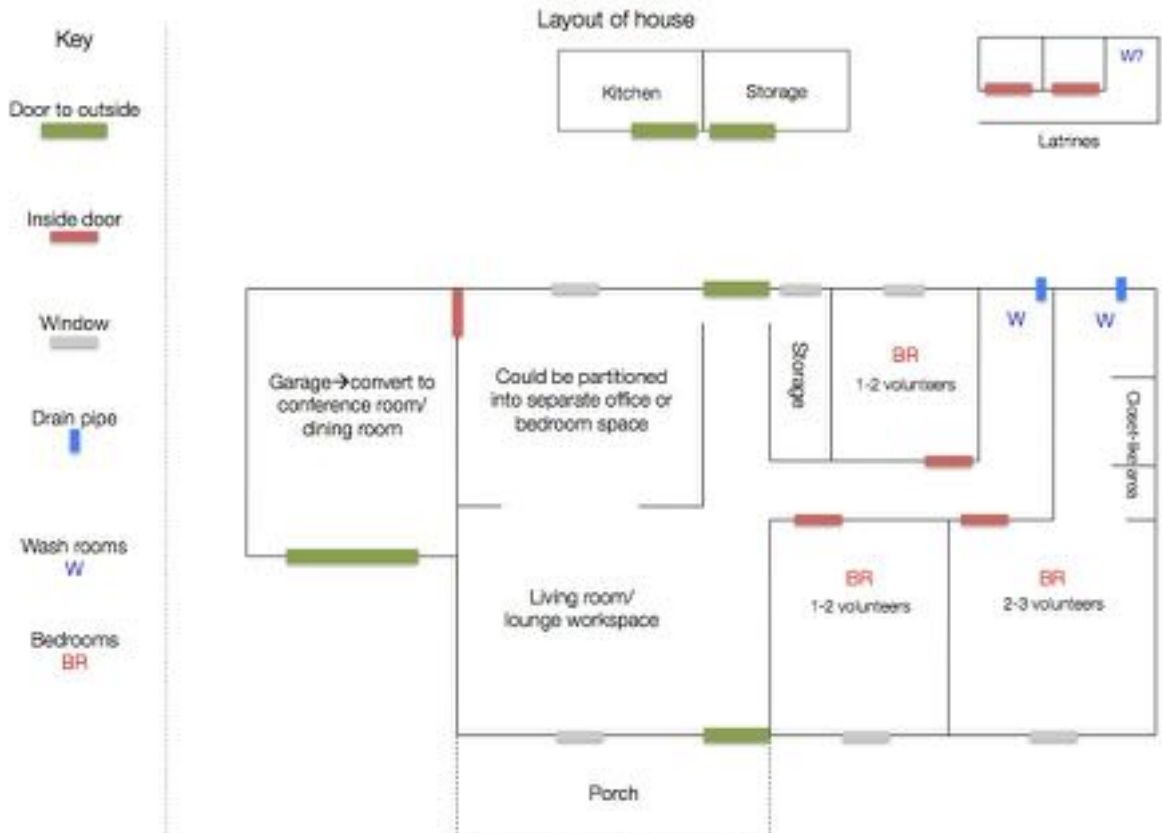
Editor's Note: Like all of our staff, Prossy extends warm Ugandan hospitality to all of our volunteers. When we have had

volunteers uncomfortable staying alone in our current setting, Prossy has stayed there in an extra bedroom to comfort and reassure them. She is an integral part of our work in Mukono.



New Omni Med House in Kisoga, Mukono (continued from page 3)

ing US clinicians to a setting where they would understand the importance of public health interventions like ours while simultaneously spending time on clinical wards learning first-hand about illness and health care delivery in settings of intense poverty. We finally have that setting, as seen in the pictures below. I hope you will consider helping us purchase this property so we can build further and expand our mission.



Left: view of front yard; Right front view of new Omni Med House. Above Right: house layout.



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Please Provide Support

Omni Med is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. We rely on donations from individuals, companies, foundations and governments to fund all of our efforts. Most of our services are donated, but we still incur significant costs training and maintaining the VHTs, building the protected water sources, and maintaining our ever expanding staff in Uganda. Virtually all of your funds go directly to Uganda to save lives, with only a small amount used here to maintain an office with an all volunteer staff. Your contributions help us make a difference in the lives of those who need better health care. In rural Uganda, a little goes a long way! Please consider supporting this work. If you would like to make a specific donation to help purchase our new home, or to honor Harry Barnes through a protected water source, please do so. Thank you!

Omni Med

Bequest Society

*Leave a Lasting Legacy:
Remember Omni Med in
Your Will or Estate Plan.*

*For more information,
please call:
Susan DameGreene,
Planned Giving Volunteer
(978) 744-3180*

***If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to Omni Med,
please make check payable to:***

Omni Med

81 Wyman St #1

Waban, MA 02468

***There is a return envelope enclosed with a slip so we know you are.
All of your support helps!***

Omni Med comes from the Latin, loosely translated as "health care for all." Our mission is to reduce global disparities in health care, primarily through health volunteerism and education. Recognizing the interconnected nature of this shared human experience, we heed Dr. Albert Schweitzer's "ethical imperative," calling all health providers to bring quality health care to all the world's people—including those not in our traditional realm of concern. During our sixteen years of operation, Omni Med has run teaching/ service programs cooperatively with indigenous health providers in Belize, Kenya, Guyana and Uganda, helps physician volunteers develop ongoing relationships with host providers, and works collaboratively on other projects deemed important by host providers or governments. We have also published books on global health, poverty and health service that prepare prospective volunteers for service opportunities throughout the world. Over 7,000 copies have been sold, helping thousands of health providers serve where they are most needed. Our current work focuses on using US health volunteers to train and maintain community health workers in rural Uganda, while improving quality of drinking water and reducing indoor air pollution. We have demonstrated that these efforts are life saving. As our work expands, we will save still more lives. None of this work happens without you. Thanks for your ongoing support.