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5th Edition

30th December 2017

TLM Newsletter and Christmas Round up!

Hi All,

This is TLM's fifth newsletter. It has been a busy few months since the last edition so we apologise in advance for the length of this update – but we were excited to tell you all our news!

For anyone who might not be aware of its origins, in November 2011 Tumaini la Maisha was launched in Dar es Salaam. In English it means 'Hope for Life'. The charity is dedicated to caring for children with cancer and their families and provides both clinical and non-clinical supportive services in partnership with the government of Tanzania. Sister charities called Their Lives Matter are registered in Ireland and the UK.

Tumaini la Maisha Update (Dar es Salaam):

New Staff members:

We have had a number of changes in our staff over the last quarter. We would like to welcome the following professionals to our TLM fold:

Ms Liser Dennis has taken up the important role of finance officer. Mr Alex Kaijage has joined TLM to take up the much needed role of donor manager. Ms Prisca Bello is an incredibly gifted skills teacher who joined the team in October 2017. We have also filled an urgent need by employing 4 brand new nurses to work on Upendo ward.

We are delighted to welcome two new TLM Tz Board members – Dr Julius Mwaiselage and Dr Mwele Malecela.

Saying Goodbye and thank you to Staff

Dr Livin and Dr Mwanaidi – Two of our wonderful Doctors were sadly assigned other responsibility by the Muhimbili National Hospital. We really appreciate their huge contribution and know they will continue to be important ambassadors for children's cancer in Tanzania wherever they work.

Beatrice – Our lovely donor relation officer and also a Mama of one of our survivors, who was significantly contributed to the success of our programs has moved on to other challenges.

We thank them all sincerely for the commitment, and love they brought to their time with us and we wish them very well in their next adventures.



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Play Therapy:



Check out our supremely cute (and surprisingly informative!!) children's storybook about one brave little bear and his successful battle with cancer on Upendo cancer ward and Muhimbili National hospital. We promise you will not be sorry you did. 😊:-)
https://docs.wixstatic.com/.../98547e_5383b5f762bb4958a5435b6...



We continually strive to improve the clinical care we deliver, but the importance of continued play therapy and other activities for the kids cannot be overemphasised either. It makes a big difference for kids, and is so important for keeping their spirits up and for keeping them entertained.

The clown doctors and play therapists were back with their daily dose of laughter and happiness. As you can see, the kids can't get enough of these sessions. The kids also got to put their

yoga skills into action thanks to Yoga Wellness Tanzania.



Fun Times and generous visitors!:

We also have so many kind visitors coming in to see the kids: IMA World Health Tanzania, Uhuru FM, Urafiki textiles and Lions Club of DSM Tanzanites, Jema Foundation, AAR, Southern Sun, FK International School, I-Learn East Africa Ltd, Volunteer for Society, International School of Tanganyika, Aga Khan Mzizima Students, Women with Vision to name a few. Thank you all for your time and support and wonderful gifts.



There were also some amazing day trips out from the hospital which the kids can never get enough of. The brave young kids celebrated September childhood cancer month by going wet & wild at Kunduchi Wet-n-Wild Water Park, went



on the monthly cinema outing thanks to the Oysterbay Cinema, and had a wonderful tour of the



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'Fulk Al Salamah' Oman's Royal ship which docked at the Dar port. Thank you to everyone who made these trips possible.



We also had a visit of the Caledonian Society of Tanganyika with their lively Scottish band that really entertained the kids. Thanks to them for the joyful performance.



December brought the amazing annual children's christmas party to Ujasiri house - fully supported once again by the staff and management of the Southern Sun.

Every year we look forward to this great fun event and this year lived up to our expectations.



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Invited to the Christmas party also were two of our donors of all the time since TLM inception DHL & Dr. Somgal. A special tree has been planted at Ujasiri house for recognition of Dr. Somgal's contribution



to the treatment of the childhood cancer in Tanzania.

Survivor Stories:



Meet Imelda, one of our beautiful Leukaemia survivors. She was diagnosed in June 2009 and completed her treatment in Oct 2011. She had been coming for regular check-ups with no evidence of recurrent disease. We celebrate her as she has aced her O Level exams this summer, well on her way to her dream to become a lawyer.

Another wonderful success story is that of Samwel who almost died last earlier this year when his kidneys completely shut down. Thanks to our amazing Renal colleagues and a little bit of magic dialysis and chemotherapy his kidneys are working just fine today and he is well on road to recovery. We weren't quite able to coax a smile but regardless - This is why it's all worth it!



November Tanzania:



If you sported a MO for our children this year – we salute you and we thank you! An especially difficult endeavour here in the 35degree heat of a typical Tanzanian day.





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Huge thanks to Georgie and Pete Nettleton and the Van Vuuren brothers who worked so hard to make this hair-raising month a huge success. And thanks to the wives and girlfriends who put up with some pretty scary efforts! 😊

The TLM UK Update:

We are delighted to welcome two new TLM UK Board members – Chris Turner and James Nunan.



The Board have continued with their fundraising efforts during the year and special mention must be given to Birgit Rameseder, who completed an epic 320km horse ride across the Namibia desert.

On 15th December, Pat Turner and Barny Parks gave a presentation on TLM to Berkhamsted School, the first of a series of school events that

will continue in 2018. TLM were very warmly received and greatly appreciated the generous support.



On 23 November Pat represented TLM at the University College London Medical Students Fair. Old friends of TLM, Drs Jane and Ciara, helped spread the word about the opportunity for electives with TLM in 2018.

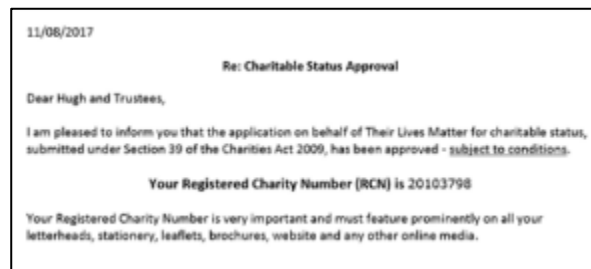
For those that are in London on 11 February please join us for what promises to be a fantastic evening of music with our talented and very generous friends in Palace Virtuosi – for details see over:



TLM Ireland Update:

Registration:

We are delighted to announce that We Are TLM Ireland has finally been approved as a **registered charity in Ireland**, joining our family of registered charities in Tanzania and England. It was a long





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process but we are thrilled!

We are delighted to welcome two new TLM Ireland Board members Ms Tracy O'Neill and Dr Eoin Fitzgerald. And we would also like to say a fond goodbye and thank Dr Amanda McCann and Dr David Monks for their wonderful work (and all the entertainment he provided!)

Fundraising and Donors:

The Galway Ball

As ever we continue to be blown away by all the support received from friends of TLM especially in Galway. We are ecstatic to report that this years' event raised over 90,000 euro!!

Next year will no doubt be just as much fun so please save the date right now!!! **16th of June 2018**. If you would be willing to help with this event (selling tables or sourcing spot prizes for the night) please get in touch at drtrish@wearetlm.org . Let's see if we can make it even bigger next year!

ClareMorris Charity Weekend



The second TLM fundraising event that took place in Ireland this year was a wonderful weekend of fun activities in Claremorris hosted by the entire town and parish and organised by the incredible powerhouse that



is Mrs Marian Navin. So many people got involved and TLM are thrilled to have made so many new friends and supporters. We even had some tunes from the fabulous Sawdoctors!



New donors:

THE KENNEALLY FOUNDATION
 NOVELTY SURGICAL COTTON CAPS
 CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER IN TANZANIA

01 10.00 EUROS EACH: MALE AND FEMALE STYLES AVAILABLE.
 02 ALL FUNDS RAISED DIRECTLY BENEFIT CHILDREN WITH CANCER IN TANZANIA.
 03 TAILORED BY A SYRIAN REFUGEE.
 04 FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO ORDER GO TO <https://www.kenneally.org/country-ireland>

We are so grateful to our new family members The Kenneally Foundation and The Human Dignity Foundation. Both of these wonderful organisations believe in us and have agreed to assist us with our vision to reach every child with cancer in Tanzania as soon as we can.

Novelty Scrub Caps

Dr Niamh Conlon has started a wonderful initiative to assist, not only Their Lives Matter, but also the Syrian refugee tailors



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who make the lovely scrub caps. Do get in touch if you'd like one.

Irish Visitors and volunteers to Upendo Ward

These last few months have been incredibly busy with lots of Irish visitors to the programme. We were honoured by a visit from the current Irish Ambassador Paul Sherlock, and Irish Health and nutrition specialist Adrian Fitzgerald. We were also visited by Mr Robbie Hull the Irish second secretary. These visits directly led to a wonderful donation from Irishaid to support our specialist pathology and Haematology services and training in general.



We were very fortunate to have Rachel McDonnell, a specialist in Paediatric life support and the PEWS monitoring system, stay and work with us for an entire month! The nursing team really enjoyed the educational sessions and all the new ideas to improve clinical care.

As with all recent previous years the **Dublin Paediatric Resus team** were out yet again. They worked with staff from all over the hospital. They also completely self-funded so we are extremely grateful to them for this annual support which we look forward to each year.



Operation Child-Life facilitated two important visits this quarter – the first was in October and involved our friends Mary O’Gorman and Linda Farren from Crumlin in the fields of Paediatric resuscitation and life support; Paula Kelly – paediatric orthopaedic surgeon; Fearghal Quinn – professor of paediatric urology and paediatric anaesthetists – Padraig Sheerin and Dave Mannion.

The second was a visit from the man himself – Professor Martin Corbally and his two colleagues – Dr Keith Johnston and Hind Zaitan. They operated on two children with a condition which has never been cured in Tanzania – we are all holding our breath but are quietly confident that both children will be the first in the Country to survive! We’ll keep you posted.....





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This photo speaks for itself – and this is what volunteers on our ward are generally in store for! Everyone on Upendo ward would like to thank our three recent volunteer paediatricians - Dr Rincy who was closely followed by Dr's Philip and Catherine (and even Catherine's lovely Mum made an appearance to help with some challenging dressings). All have worked tirelessly and contributed significantly to the daily lives of the children and staff on the ward. Their smiles and good humour and regular good ideas have brightened our days. The first of many such visits by wonderful NCHD's we hope!

Fundraising Around the World

TLM would also like to recognise the wonderful achievements of Anna Riley and Dennis Rutowicz who ran marathons in Helsinki and New York to raise money for TLM. We get tired even thinking about the effort this takes and are so grateful to our supporters for putting their bodies on the line for our little people.

And finally, everyone in the 'Their Lives Matter/Tumaini La Maisha' family would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a 2018 filled with lots more joy.

