

GPHL QUARTERLY

Volume 3. No. 1/ January 1 - March 31, 2020

HIV Clinic Data Jan. - March 2020

Patient Re-attendances: **650**
 New Patients Enrolled on Anti
 Retroviral Therapy (ART): **12**
 Mother/Baby Pair Re-
 attendance: **144**
 New Mother/Baby Pairs
 Enrolled: **02**
 Viral Load Samples Done: **109**
 Baseline CD4 Done: **02**
 Patients who received Social
 Support: **53**

Major Challenges: Drug Stock
 outs, missed appointment
 dates, patients late coming to
 clinic, weather challenges.

Club Updates

Angel Club Attendance: 55
 (Pediatric HIV Clients)

Wakanda Club Attendance: 67
 (Adolescent HIV Clients)

Activities: Three club sessions
 were held this quarter which
 focused on bible teaching,
 counseling, adherence, and
 play therapy. Each member
 went home with a food basket.

In The Shadow of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Nobody could have predicted how March would end in Uganda. On March 31st, President Yoweri K. Museveni issued an Executive Order that would hurl the country into a lockdown for an initial two weeks as the Corona Virus global pandemic spiraled out of control in almost every nation in the world. At the time of printing, the lockdown had extended an additional 21 days to May 5th. Just 10 days earlier, on March 21st, a National Day of prayer broadcast brought Ugandans together as they huddled around their TVs and radios, uniting in prayer to keep the virus out of Uganda. The first case of COVID-19 in Uganda was identified that day. Manafwa District mobilized a COVID-19 Task Force which quickly moved to set up a district isolation unit at Bugobero Health Center IV with an agile team of contact tracers who reached homes of suspected cases and their contacts. Three infrared thermometers donated in 2019 through GPHL were put to immediate use by the community surveillance team, as most other districts in Uganda began without scarcely any equipment at all. Donations began to trickle into the district, including from GPHL, for items such as soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectants, boots, gloves, masks and hand washing stations, providing protection for Dr. Emma and his heroic front-line health workers making their way through the villages. Despite all of the new and unexpected challenges, much needed emergency, maternal and surgical services continued as some HIV clinic patients made the arduous trek to the health center without motorized transport for their





Staff Spotlight

Faith Kakayi serves as the Social Services Coordinator for MFSI with a beautiful simile and spirit. She grew up in Mbale and attended Fairway School, Tororo Girls School, and Katikamu School for her Primary and Secondary studies. She received a Diploma in Stores Management from Makerere Business School and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from Islamic University in Uganda. She has also received numerous certificates in the areas of HIV and child counseling, management, and ARV Therapy. She is a mother of two boys and says "helping children and their families is the most rewarding job I can think of". She enjoys working with children because they represent hope and the future. She admires the energy, creativity, honesty and resilience of children and admits "there's a lot I learn from them". Faith leads the Wakanda and Angel Club meetings, providing counseling and helping the children to achieve their full potential and feel happier and better about themselves.

treatment, as the scaled back staff members continued to serve them. Little did GPHL know that their commitment back in 2018 to reopen Bugobero's Surgical Theater would save the lives of numerous women, children and babies. Even in the shadow of a global pandemic, the light continues to shine on Bugobero, giving hope to the most vulnerable citizens of Manafwa District.

Joy As Darkness Loomed

The March Wakanda and Angel Club meeting began with devotional time focused on Genesis Chapter 41. There were 67 children, young adults and their guardians in attendance including 17 adults and 29 Angel and 21 Wakanda members. Faith Kakayi and Rebecca Nabifo led the session and discussed personal and hand hygiene for these vulnerable youth. They emphasized that proper hand hygiene is the number one prevention against the spread of infections, especially at this difficult time of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The team demonstrated proper hand washing steps using soap and water. Some of the children were asked to repeat the demonstration to make sure they had properly grasped the steps and had agreed that they would maintain this important 20 second routine at home. Personal hygiene that included bathing morning and evening with the soap and basin provided by MFSI was emphasized. The children and their guardians were given the opportunity to provide feedback to the MFSI team. Guardians reported that the children were being more communicative and that their hygiene had improved. Some of the children mentioned that as a result of the club meetings, their parents were now allowing them time to play therapy at home and that their guardians had become more involved in helping them adhere to their medical treatment. As the children departed joyfully with their food baskets, their guardians were so thankful that they were able to meet prior to the lockdown since the food they were given would be able to sustain them for a while. Thank you Jesus! Thank you MFSI for supporting these vulnerable orphans and children!

