

GPHL QUARTERLY

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HIV Clinic Data Jan. - March 2019

Patient Re-attendances: **626**
 New Patients Enrolled on Anti
 Retroviral Therapy (ART): **07**
 Mother/Baby Pair Re-
 attendance: **84**
 New Mother/Baby Pairs
 Enrolled: **07**
 Viral Load Samples Done: **110**
 Baseline CD4 Done: **00**
 Patients who received Social
 Support: **47**

Major Challenges: CD4
 machine cartridges out of
 stock, drug stock outs, client
 absenteeism, increase in non
 suppressed clients.



Pictured Above: Precious
 Souls Ministry Volunteer
 Wandawa Isaiah with some of
 the young members of the
 Angel Club, which meets
 monthly at Bugobero Health
 Center IV in Manafwa, Uganda.



Angels of Manafwa

The absence of the seasonal rains drained the green from the grass but left quite a nice solid surface for running, dribbling and scoring as a group of youth exerted their best effort in the soccer match at Bugobero Health Center in February. Nothing like this game had ever happened before on hospital grounds. Aside from their excitement, there was one major thing that all the kids had in common - their diagnosis of Pediatric HIV. Most of the children, born to HIV positive parents, had absolutely no control over the way they contracted the disease and will nonetheless live with it for the rest of their lives. With the growing number of such children being identified in the community along with the acute need for a place for the children to gather, play, and learn, Precious Souls Ministry created and organized **Angel Club**, a monthly program where the children play sports, blow bubbles, learn scripture, and just enjoy being kids. In addition to Angel Club, **Wakanda Club** was also formed for adolescents aged 12 and above to come for age-appropriate activities and psychosocial support for the issues they face in dealing with their lifelong diagnosis. Clubs like these are a vital aspect of HIV treatment, care and management in Uganda and world wide.

Client Spotlight



John Wamatuba aged 57 is a tall, quiet, slender man. He was diagnosed in 2002 and joined the Precious Souls Ministry in 2012 when he was quite debilitated. At that time he had lost his wife of 43 years in 2013 and had 4 children. He credits the Precious Souls Ministry for saving his life because he received Christian based psychosocial and material support that helped reduce the stigma associated with HIV. He now serves as an Education Assistant for the District Government. He remarried Kakai Egulas and they care for their 7 year old granddaughter Ruth. In 2017, his 19 year old daughter Sarah recited a touching poem about the devastating effects of HIV on the family. At that time, she had reached a standstill in her education and could not go on due to lack of tuition. Her story and the strength of the father's love touched Donna Leadmon, a Bay Area Community Church Member, who offered to sponsor Sarah through two years of nursing school!

Wakanda Forever

Playing on the popular movie of 2018, Black Panther, the Precious Souls Ministry dubbed the pre-teen, teen, young adult pediatric HIV group, Wakanda Club. It is to signal to these young girls and boys that they can conquer their worst fears and live a long, healthy and productive life; that they are indeed superheroes, fighting and beating this virus that has inhabited their bodies through no fault of their own; that they can indeed be healthy if they understand the virus, know its weaknesses, take their medicines every day to suppress the virus; and together as a club, along with their family, clinicians, counselors and Precious Souls Ministry, they can indeed be "Wakanda Forever".

GPHL's vision is that there will be no new pediatric HIV infections in Manafwa and all children born with HIV will live long, healthy, and productive lives, free from stigma and discrimination.

Below: Wakanda Club member, Isaac with his family in front of their home.

