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--Save the Mothers October 2016 e-Newsletter--

Meet the team *for 2016/17*



Dr. Jean rounds up the troops

It took some doing, but Save the Mothers (STM) executive director Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese says she "finally" got everyone together for an STM Uganda staff photo.

These are the good people who work hard to keep the Save the Mothers Master of Public Health Leadership program and Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative running smoothly (from offices located on the campus of Uganda Christian University).

They are: (Back row, left to right) program intern Beka Bushby, program intern Jessica Huston, deputy academic director Zac Mulawa, Global Health Corps fellow Jane Nakanwagi, finance intern Irene Odong, Global Health Corps fellow Annie Cameron, Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese.

(Front row, left to right) academic director Justus Barageine, administrative coordinator Julie Kawuba, director Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Dr. Eve Nakabembe, networking coordinator Topi Agutu. (Note: the search committee responsible for hiring STM's new East African Director is making progress. We hope to be able to introduce you to that person soon.)

The only one missing from this team photo? You! We couldn't do what we do without your faithful support. If it's been a while since you've sent a gift to Save the Mothers, you can do so today by clicking on the button below.

[DONATE NOW](#)

A video invitation *just for you*



"Doing something momentous can be daunting"

So begins this great little animated video invitation to Save the Mothers' Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction, created especially for you by STM summer student Carita Marsilli. It *can* be daunting. But it does not have to be.

That's because doing something as momentous as helping to save the lives of women and babies in East Africa can be as simple as buying a ticket to a great evening out. For all the details on who, what, where, when, why, how to help - and to purchase your tickets - click on the button below.

[TICKETS](#)

Here *and there*



Your help needed

Save the Mothers' volunteers in Southern Ontario, Canada are looking forward to the fall running season. That's because Save the Mothers is once again a charity partner in the **Hamilton Marathon Road2Hope**, Canada's number one qualifying event for the world-renowned Boston Marathon.

That means runners can collect sponsors, and donate to a charity of their choice. This year, Shanika Thomas (a midwifery student at McMaster University, and daughter of STM Board member Dena Thomas) will be running for STM. **Pledge to support Shanika's run.**



Border crossing

She had only just returned to her Ugandan home from Canada last month, when Dr. Jean boarded yet another plane and crossed Lake Victoria to enter Tanzania. There she met with Drs. Albert Kihurwa and Dismas Matovelo (both pictured above) at the Bugando Hospital in



From one game changer to another

Since returning to Uganda in September, Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese has been busy distributing copies of her new book, ***The Game Changers*** to the people whose stories are told on its pages. You can tell from the photo above, that Catherine Kizza, journalist, editor and graduate of the Save the Mothers program was delighted to finally receive hers. If you've yet to purchase a copy - please do so today. Proceeds from the sale of the books go to support the work of Save the Mothers. **And once you've read it, would you consider posting a review at Amazon.ca? Good reviews help sell more books, and thus save more lives.**



A note of thanks

We know Save the Mothers changes lives. It changes the lives of the mothers and babies who are helped as a result of our work, and it changes the lives of the leaders who enter our program as students.

Mwanza, the country's second largest city.

Along with these leaders, Save the Mothers is partnering with the **University of Calgary** (led by Dr. Jenn Brenner and Dr. Nalini Singhal) to help bring the **Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative** to areas of rural Tanzania outside of Mwanza.

It is all part of the University of Calgary's Mama na Mtoto ("Mother and Child") program.

While in Tanzania, the team visited remote clinics and health centres, and engaged in planning for how to make pregnancy safer for the mothers and babies in that area.

Recently, Dr Jean received a note of thanks from Grace (a second year student) that hints at the enormity of such change. Grace wrote: *"As we come to the end of two years under your instruction ... I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the work you have done towards building us to become better in all aspects of our lives. Today as we discussed Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), you helped me understand very painful issues in my past that needed closure."* Grace goes on to describe how her mother's refusal to participate in the practice resulted in the break down of her parents' marriage. *"I have known and experienced firsthand the greater impact of FGM. ... Thank you for being a voice of hope and inspiration for us to work towards safe motherhood."*

Donors *raise awareness* for maternal and child health



The look of life-saving love

Save the Mothers would not exist without the support of people like you. Since inception, this organization has attracted the gifts of **generous and creative folks** who care.

Pictured above are two of them. **Amy Wright and Jeffrey Warren were married August 13, 2016. And they chose to use the occasion to help spread awareness of STM's work.**

How? Amy explains: **"Rather than spending money on favours that people forget and leave behind, we thought it would be more meaningful, and useful, to make a donation to STM instead.** We worked with [STM] to create a card that we placed at each table setting, that



Sock dolls save mothers

Canadian Janis Cox (pictured above) is an author and illustrator of award-winning, faith-based children's books.

Her most recent book, ***The Kingdom of Thrim*** tells the delightful story of Yoj, a happy doll-maker, who makes a life-altering decision without pausing to seek God's guidance, and subsequently finds himself too far from home.

The book includes instructions for how to make a sock doll, like the ones Yoj makes. And earlier this year, Jan felt inspired to make some sock dolls of her own.

She began selling the dolls as part of a set when people purchased her book, but is

explained why we chose STM, and what the organization represents. We had pamphlets and information ... by our guest book, in the hopes that others might also decide to give."

"Thanks very much for being a part of our wedding," wrote Amy. No, Amy and Jeffrey - thank YOU.

More wedding photos.

On *the blog*

Small things

The World Health Organization estimates that 300,000 women continue to die each year of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Ninety-nine percent of these deaths occur in the developing world. In this short video, Dr. Eve Nakabembe, director of Save the Mothers' Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative says that making even small changes in hospitals can have a big impact.

WATCH VIDEO

donating all proceeds from the sale of the dolls to Save the Mothers.

Jan recently completed a tour of schools in western Canada, where she used the opportunity to talk about Save the Mothers. "Every time I read my book I would show the sock doll and explain where the money went, and how important Save the Mothers is," she says.



Introducing Dr. Justus Barageine

In this blog post, communications intern Fortunate Kagumaho interviews Save the Mothers' recently appointed academic director, gynaecologist Dr. Justus Barageine, who says he has witnessed many maternal deaths.



Making Mukono Health Centre Mother Baby Friendly

In this first blog post from our Global Health Corps Fellows, Annie Cameron and Jane Nakanwagi, we learn their impressions of the difference Save the Mothers' Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative is making.

Something to *think about*

No programming, no matter how strategic and well organized, is enough to speak to the hearts of people, especially when entrenched attitudes and habits need to be altered. I have witnessed the extent of change in our students and graduates, and I recognize that this change goes beyond the influence of any curriculum and



courses we offer.



Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese
 Founder & Executive Director
 Save the Mothers

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