

DODOMA TANZANIA HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
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DODOMA TANZANIA HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

Bringing Health and Hope to Central Tanzania

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Message from the Executive Director

In late August, DTHD Board Chair Cheryl Grasmoen and I made a site visit to DCMC. In a whirlwind 5 days that included visits to several other health facilities in the country, I was struck by the quality of DCMC and its growing promise in Tanzania. Everywhere we went people wanted to know more about DCMC, and it was clear that many influential eyes are eagerly watching its development.

What's more, we could sense that same excitement and hope for the future among all the management and staff at DCMC. The new Director, Dr. Charles Majinge, is an experienced administrator and physician, and his leadership has inspired a contagious spirit of hope and teamwork that's motivating everyone.

And is DCMC ever growing! To accommodate all the patients now arriving every day, an expansion of the existing medical clinic is being proposed. DCMC Trust is also continuing to shepherd its new 100-bed hospital into being, with the hope of completing it in 2015. We are thrilled to report that we're nearly half way to our \$3.5 million capital campaign goal for this large project.



Executive Director Anne Hussian (left) with DCMC Trust Chairperson Maria Kamm (center) and DTHD Board Chair Cheryl Grasmoen during a site visit.

Down the road at Dodoma Innovation & Production Company (DIPC) — the independent company committed to helping support DCMC — major remodeling of its water bottling plant is underway, too.

There is much ahead for 2015 and we thank you for being part of our journey. You're an inspiration to us all. — Anne Hussian, Executive Director

“We Are Now Ready to Run”

Director Dr. Charles Majinge sets the pace for DCMC to become the top hospital in Central Tanzania

Set foot on DCMC's campus today and it won't be long before a staff member smiles at you and says, “We're running!” It's a phrase that was spontaneously coined when Dr. Charles Majinge, DCMC's new Director, declared to the staff his commitment to DCMC's long-term goal of becoming a Center of Excellence. “We must run, not walk,” he intoned, reflecting both



In 2014, DCMC added several services, including the first digital x-ray in Central Tanzania, operated by radiographer Peter Lubala.



DCMC is now the only site offering endoscopy services in Dodoma.

these basic needs to the people of Dodoma and Central Tanzania, particularly the poor who cannot afford to go to Dar es Salaam or India in search of this care.”

In 2014, “running” at DCMC has meant strengthening the medical center's imaging and diagnostic capabilities, expanding its community health outreach programs, exploring key partnerships, and planning for the completion of the 100-bed DCMC Trust Hospital. Dr. Majinge is also considering hiring a pediatrician and full-time surgeon to

complete the specialty services. “Once the hospital starts working fully, many lives that would otherwise be lost will be saved,” he said. “We thank God for our blessings and we are running!”

“Literally, there are no quality diagnostic or clinical services in Dodoma, even for the ‘rich.’”

Dr. Charles Majinge
Director, DCMC

Dr. Charles Majinge, Director, performs DCMC's first fistula repair.

DCMC's 2014 Milestones

Advanced imaging – DCMC is now home to the first digital x-ray in Central Tanzania, and a CT scanner could soon be in operation. With a panorex in the Dental Clinic, DCMC now has potential to be the leading imaging center in the region.

Ob/Gyn surgeries – The surgery theatre is becoming more active, particularly with ob/gyn procedures.

Endoscopy – DCMC's new endoscopy services mean patients no longer have to drive 7 hours to Dar es Salaam or Mwanza.

Growing medical staff – In addition to Dr. Majinge, DCMC added four nurses, two radiographers, and two medical attendants.



Our mission is to ensure high-quality, compassionate, Tanzanian-led health care for the people of Central Tanzania by developing the capacity and sustainability of Dodoma Christian Medical Center.





Mwimbe Boehl, Chief of Community Health Dept. (left) with team member Dickson Chinunge.

You don't want to miss this!

We are excited to announce that Mwimbe Boehl, Chief of DDCM's award-winning Community Health Department (CHD), will speak about the life-changing work done in the rural villages surrounding Dodoma as part of DTHD's third annual Mama Salama Women's Event on May 1, 2015.

Boehl oversees outreach programs ranging from hygiene and sanitation, Safe Motherhood, fistula identification, and cervical cancer.

Save the Date
MAY 1, 2015
 DTHD's 3rd Annual
Mama Salama
 Featuring Mwimbe Boehl

Community Health Introduces Youth Reproductive Health Education

DCMC's Community Health Dept. (CHD) will soon be offering adolescent reproductive health education. With early sexual encounters and high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), the CHD team wants to educate young people on the risks of pregnancy, disease, and more.

Another major milestone this year for CHD was the screening of nearly 4,000 women for cervical cancer, done in partnership with the Bahi District Council and Swiss Development Fund.



Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for women in Tanzania. To date, more than 30 of the nearly 4,000 women screened by DDCM were referred for further treatment.

Dental Clinic: Rare Patient Case

Underscores need for oral health outreach and education

Some patients truly illustrate the need for access to quality care and preventive education. The dental staff cared for one such patient recently, and he was the most severe case they'd seen in eight years.

The 32-year-old man came seeking care for a hole, or "fistula," in his cheek. He thought it was from some food he had eaten, but it was actually the result of pressure from a root infec-



tion of his molar, which was so severe it had destroyed his mandibular bone. Although the dental team was able to extract the remaining roots and repair the fistula with minor surgery and a high dose of antibiotics, they would prefer not to see such severe cases at all.

To work toward this goal, in 2015 the Dental Clinic will launch an educational outreach program to promote oral health in area villages.

We would prefer not to see such severe cases at all. All of these problems came because of lack of education and not knowing when to see a dentist. We have a big job to do!

Dr. Charles Rabemahefa, Chief, DDCM Dental Clinic



Joyce's Gratitude

by Nancy Cambronne, DTHD board member

One of my favorite things to do at DDCM is visit a village with the Community Health team.

This time it was to Ibugule to hear the story of Joyce, the first woman to undergo a fistula repair surgery at DDCM.

Joyce was reluctant to talk about her fistula, a condition caused by difficult labor that leads to incontinence, so her husband spoke for her. He said people thought she had done something wrong or was involved in witchcraft. Unfortunately, there is a real stigma for women who have fistulas.

When the village health workers suggested she be evaluated for corrective

surgery at DDCM, Joyce's husband worried about the cost — for the transportation one hour to Dodoma, for the surgery, for everything — but the village health workers assured him there would be no cost for any of it. All they would have to do was arrive at the dispensary on a specific date. "All of this was done at no cost to us," he said, amazed.

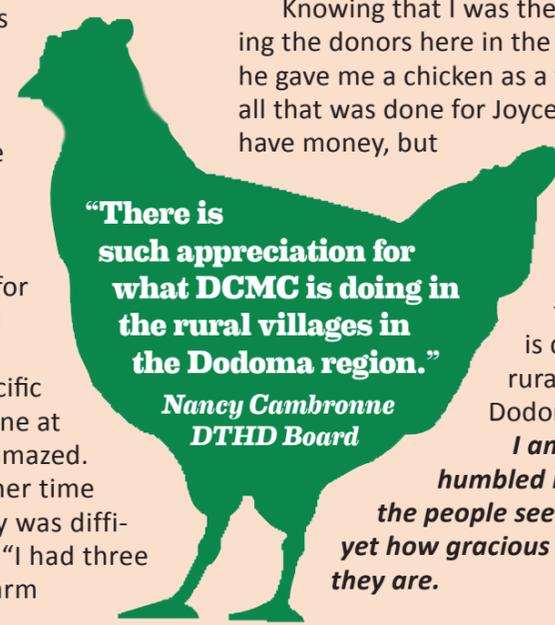
When asked about her time at DDCM and if recovery was difficult, Joyce quietly said, "I had three meals every day and warm

water and soap to wash myself every morning. No, recovery was not difficult." Her husband said other women can now see that fistulas are a health problem that can be cured.

Knowing that I was there representing the donors here in the United States, he gave me a chicken as a thank you for all that was done for Joyce. He did not have money, but

he shared what they did have. There is such appreciation for what DDCM is doing in the rural villages in the Dodoma region.

I am always humbled by how little the people seem to have, yet how gracious and generous they are.



"There is such appreciation for what DDCM is doing in the rural villages in the Dodoma region."

Nancy Cambronne
DTHD Board



(Above) Joyce's family presents DTHD board member Nancy Cambronne with a chicken to show their gratitude to DTHD donors.

(Far left) Mwimbe Boehl, Chief of DDCM's Community Health Dept., with Joyce following her surgery.

Did you know...

Because fistula is such a stigmatized and isolating condition, many sufferers are sheltered from their community and can be difficult to find and refer for treatment.

DCMC's Community Health team has located more than 60 women and helped them receive further treatment. The youngest of them was age 14.

