

# GPHL QUARTERLY

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## HIV Clinic Data April - June 2019

Patient Re-attendances: **647**  
 New Patients Enrolled on Anti  
 Retroviral Therapy (ART): **12**  
 Mother/Baby Pair Re-  
 attendance: **116**  
 New Mother/Baby Pairs  
 Enrolled: **07**  
 Viral Load Samples Done: **148**  
 Baseline CD4 Done: **05**  
 Patients who received Social  
 Support: **68**

Major Challenges: drug stock  
 outs, viral load printer out of  
 order for a time, lack of privacy  
 during counseling of  
 stigmatized clients.

## Club Updates

**Angel Club Membership: 58**  
 (Pediatric HIV Clients)

**Wakanda Club: 25**  
 (Adolescent HIV Clients)

Activities: Meeting held in May  
 with Bay Area Community  
 Church visitors. Played games  
 and sports. Received food  
 baskets.

## Making History - The Eagle Has Landed!

For the first time in the history of Bay Area Community Church's Short Term Mission trips to Uganda and the Global Public Health Linkages Medical Missions Program, the first team of four clinicians arrived in April 2019. The eagle has landed, much like Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon 50 years ago. After settling into their guest quarters at Century Descendant's Guest House, the team of six were eager to learn and ready to participate in the activities of the upcoming week. The team carried out over 10 home visits trekking over hills and valleys, reviewed the clinical intake and filing procedures at the twice a week HIV Clinic, and had the opportunity to witness a number of clinical operations under the tutelage of Dr. Gahima, Medical Officer In Charge, Bugobero Health Center IV. They also conducted a leadership and patient care training and enjoyed an exciting day with the child and adolescent HIV patients who make up the Angel Club (<10 years) and Wakanda Club (11-18 years). They played sports with them and provided gifts to the gleeful youngsters. This unprecedented medical mission team will pave the way for many more such teams to come as Global Public Health Linkages continues to serve the most vulnerable in Manafwa District who are living in extreme poverty or living with and affected by HIV.





## Volunteer Highlight

Precious Souls Volunteer **Ronald Makai** is a resident of Bufumbula Village. He is 32 years old and completed his Primary Education at Busumbu Primary School and Secondary Education (O and A Levels) at Mbale Riverside School. Ronald is a graduate of Uganda Christian University with a Bachelor's Degree in Science and Information Technology. He has been serving as the Precious Souls Ministry's Data Manager since December 2017. His daily duties include data entry and system updates to the HIV Clinic's Electronic Medical Record, weekly/monthly HIV data reporting to GPHL, and making home visits to PSM members in his zone. Ronald lives with his partner of 5 years, Pauline Adisan. They await anxiously but full of hope the birth of their new baby, after sadly losing their first born at birth last year. Ronald enjoys working with Precious Souls Ministry because he has "a passion for serving people living with HIV/AIDS who need our support and guidance to restore their hope in living positively."

## Surgical Success - Open for Business!

The long-awaited day arrived at Manafwa District's Bugobero Health Center IV's Operating Theatre as staff scrubbed in and began their first operation in the newly renovated space through the generous donation of Alan and Marsha Boehm in December 2017. Previously, the health staff had no other option when mothers presented in obstructed labor but to send them to Mbale Regional Hospital, one hour away on a motorcycle, at great risk to mother and unborn child. But now, under Dr. Gahima's gifted hands, they could provide a safe Caesarian section to mothers with obstetric emergencies. Now they could also offer surgery to elderly men who trek all the way from Kenya with scrotal hydroceles (fluid buildup in the scrotum) and others with inguinal hernias (openings in the groin that allow intestines to protrude under the skin). What was once a wasted space with nonfunctioning equipment and dirty floors and windows gathering cobwebs, now has the potential of becoming a Center of Excellence for Primary Medical and Surgical Care, HIV Prevention and Treatment Adherence, and Population Health in rural Uganda. News has traveled fast as patients are now lining up with a new hope that they can finally have that operation that they had been waiting for. Since reopening in January 2019, the Theatre Staff at Bugobero Health Center have performed 12 C-Sections, and 83 additional major surgeries along with 189 minor operations. The theatre has provided the opportunity for teaching and mentoring young surgeons and medical students and hosted medical mission teams under close supervision. BACC's first medical mission team was loaded with equipment and theatre supplies: patient monitors, thermometers, scrubs, resuscitation equipment, hand sanitizer, blood pressure machines and stethoscopes. In a simple and humble ceremony, the team presented the bundle to Dr. Emma Gahima in the presence of Dr. Gideon Wamasebu, Manafwa District Health Officer who later wrote a letter of sincere gratitude and blessings to those who donated the items.



Left: Members of the first BACC Short Term Medical Missions Team (Becky Holland, Carol Bevivino, Shannon Biagi, Lorraine Antel)