Advancing patient-centered care
MISSION

FAME is an organization entirely focused on advancing quality medical care in rural Tanzania. From the beginning, we set out to provide communities in the Northern Highlands of Tanzania with a unique healthcare experience – one marked by patient-centered care and high-quality service. In that spirit, FAME endeavors to meet the medical needs of ordinary Tanzanian people, including underserved populations in the most rural parts of the region.
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. Frank Artress
Co-Founder & Medical Director

Susan Gustafson
Co-Founder & Executive Director

Roanne Edwards
Director of Global Partnerships

William Mhapa
Director of Operations

Dr. Gabriel Paul
Head Doctor

Kizito Koinet
Head Nurse

Prosper Mbelwa
Volunteer Coordinator

Robert Kovacs
Communications/Marketing
INPATIENT HOSPITAL

Our expansion from outpatient clinic to hospital in 2012 represents a huge milestone in our evolving vision and reflects our commitment to “growing” a medical facility that becomes an integral and vital part of the community and region — a medical service that provides comprehensive primary care and is dynamic and responsive to patient needs.

The FAME hospital has a 14-bed inpatient ward, a 24-bed maternity ward, four delivery rooms, an emergency room, night clinic, two operating rooms, and a recovery room. Here, our doctors and nurses are treating the familiar and the rare — everything from severe pneumonia and gastrointestinal infections to complications stemming from diabetes, cardiovascular disease, rare skin infections, and neurological anomalies. In 2020, we had 1,007 patients admitted to our general ward.

OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Since the opening of the outpatient clinic in 2008, significant progress has been made towards meeting FAME’s goal of serving the local Karatu population and reaching out to the larger, underserved population of Northern Tanzania by providing comprehensive primary care. In 2020 alone there were well over 26,000 patient visits representing numerous different tribes.

The most common diseases our doctors treat in children and adults include acute respiratory infections, pneumonia, hypertension, gastrointestinal disease, skin infections, urinary tract infections, diabetes, ear infections, and sexually transmitted diseases. Our team also cares for patients suffering from burns, wounds, and injuries - providing diagnostic work-ups using our laboratory, EKG, and radiology if needed.
**SURGERY**

On January 16, 2014, our FAME team partnered with American volunteer surgeon, Dr. Duane Koenig, to conduct our very first surgery. This surgery, like many to follow, would be an opportunity for our OR team to learn and work under the guidance of volunteer surgeons.

With the introduction of labor and delivery services in late 2014, FAME launched a rigorous in-house education program focused on building the surgical skills necessary to respond to obstetrical emergencies. To date, FAME has trained seven members of our clinical team in Structured Operatives in Obstetrics.

With a team ready to build and broaden their skills, FAME is now poised to expand its already growing surgery program. In 2020, our team performed a total of 449 surgical procedures.

**MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**

FAME launched a Maternal and Newborn Health program in late 2014. FAME also started a prenatal program, family planning services and an under-five vaccination program – all offered through our Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) Clinic.

In 2015, FAME began building a network of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and dispensaries throughout the Karatu and Ngorongoro districts to help raise awareness in our community of our services and pregnancy warning signs. These variables, combined with the resources needed to handle obstetrical emergencies, have contributed to the rapid growth of our maternal, prenatal and reproductive health services. In 2019, FAME opened a new 24-bed Maternity Center, equipped with a Special Care Nursery, Operating Room, and 4 delivery rooms. In 2020, the FAME team delivered 693 babies and admitted 134 prenatal infants to our nursery.
OUTREACH

In 2015, our community outreach team spent 10 days in the field, reaching out to local dispensaries and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in 28 communities throughout the Karatu and Ngorongoro districts and since then has continued partnering with the TBAs. The goal of this program is to inform local healthcare providers about the new maternal health services available at FAME.

Long-time volunteer Dr. Michael travels to FAME with UPenn Neurology residents, bringing expertise in adult and pediatric neurology, movement disorders, and epileptology. In addition to clinic drop-in days, the neurology team, along with FAME community outreach staff, conducts a drop-in and follow-up clinic at previously identified low-resource dispensaries located in some of the most remote parts of the district.

DIAGNOSTICS

Opening in 2011, our laboratory has become a critical part of patient care. In 2020, the lab served over 17,000 patients. Today, our laboratory has 15 staff members. FAME has also recruited a long-term US volunteer, who partners with the lab manager to supplement the staff’s formal education with ongoing education and training.

In 2016, we received an extraordinary gift from GE Healthcare: an X-ray machine, CT scanner, ultrasound machine and a 220KVA generator. In 2017, FAME had a system installed to store, organize, and transmit X-rays and CTs digitally, making them accessible throughout the hospital and abroad. Today, we are performing about 5-10 X-rays per day and 2-5 CT scans weekly.
Volunteers are central to FAME’s Mission. The Volunteer Program at FAME is a rich learning experience for both our Tanzanian Medical Team and our Volunteers. Western trained Doctors, Nurses, and Laboratory Specialists from overseas medical communities work side by side with our Tanzanian medical professionals, sharing knowledge and expertise on behalf of patients. We have a wonderful group of people working at FAME Medical. They have a great deal of knowledge and experience to share with anyone who has not yet faced the unique challenges of working in a developing country. We have had 461 on campus volunteers since 2009.

EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

Providing our healthcare workers with continuing medical education opportunities, and professional support is central to FAME’s mission.

From the beginning, we have endeavored to equip our Tanzanian doctors and nurses with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to serve their patients well. Today, FAME takes a four-pronged approach to continuing education, including a rigorous on-campus training program, an overseas medical volunteer program, an online specialty consulting program, and a selective scholarship program for FAME employees.
IMPACT
FAME Medical 2008-2020

223,216 Outpatient Clinic visits since 2008

156,305 Lab visits since opening in 2011

6,891 Hospital Admissions since 2012

3,387 Deliveries since opening Labor & Delivery in 2014
MEDI A EXPOSURE

FAME has been featured on numerous blogs from volunteers, visitors, and friends. Aside from staff being featured on news segments. FAME has been included in notable appearances on a 60 Minutes segments with our friends at Rift Valley Children’s Village/Tanzanian Children’s Fund and on ABC’s Nightline with Christy Turlington Burns.

HOW TO HELP THE RIFT VALLEY CHILDREN’S VILLAGE

60 Minutes profiles an organization that nearly 100 Tanzanian children called home. Here’s how viewers can contribute

"Please, just come to Karatu." That's what India Howell, co-founder of the Rift Valley Children's Village in rural Tanzania, a home for abandoned and needy children, told Dr. Frank Artress and his wife, Susan Gustafson.

Artress and Gustafson, who were already providing mobile healthcare in Tanzania, wanted to open a hospital in the city of Arusha, but Howell convinced them otherwise. "I don't think she threatened violence per se," Artress laughs, "but she did just say, you know, I have all these kids. And they really need good medical care."

To support the Rift Valley Children's Village or Foundation for African Medicine and Education, visit their websites by clicking on the organizations' name.

People Making A Difference: Long Beach Man Moves To Tanzania To Support Nonprofit Hospital

February 27, 2020 at 7:36 pm  •  Filed Under: Long Beach, people making a difference

WATCH THE ABC NIGHTLINE SEGMENT ABOUT FAME FEATURING CHRISTY TURLINGTON BURNS:
CONTACT US

General Inquiries: info@fameafrica.org
Media Inquiries: communications@fameafrica.org
Fundraising Inquiries: RoanneEdwards@fameafrica.org
4553 Crimsonwood Drive, Redding, CA 96001 USA
P.O. Box 351, Karatu, Tanzania
www.fameafrica.org