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- Dr. Akou’s story

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To see more photos Chuck took on his trip, find us on Facebook at : https://www.facebook.com/signfracturecare/?fref=ts
Paying it forward

While in Uganda, Chuck visited the Kumi Orthopaedic Center; a private not for profit facility located in eastern Uganda, where Dr. John Ekure is the program manager.

It wasn’t until we received the video that Chuck had prepared for SIGN featuring Dr. John, that we learned more about his remarkable life story and the tragedy that led him to practice medicine in the region of Kumi.

Dr. John studied medicine at Makerere University in Kampala. Upon completing his training, he returned to Kumi to treat patients in his home community as well as those from areas of conflict, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. His return was compelled by the loss of his mother who had been a midwife in Kumi during the years of insurgency and to give back to the community that had rallied together in support of his education.

Surgeons like Dr. John give us the enthusiasm to continue to donate SIGN Equipment so young physicians like him can have access to the tools necessary to practice their skills and heal patients. Without these tools, they may be forced to leave their home countries for hospitals with better support.

Selflessness in South Sudan

The Juba Teaching Hospital, a 580-bed facility located in Juba, is the only referral hospital in the whole country. Dr. Akau runs this referral center with a passion and desire to improve orthopaedics in Juba for civilians and members of the military.

Dr. Akau was drawn to South Sudan because he was born there. He left during the war to receive his education in Norway, a country known for its beautiful fjords, breath taking views of the aurora borealis, and white capped mountain ranges. He remained there with his family for 18 years, returning only after South Sudan had become an independent country.

Upon his return, he found that many of his classmates and friends had perished in the war. This inspired him to begin an orthopaedic program in Juba and dedicate it to their memory.

Left to right: Dr. James and Dr. Akau

"Walking again without supports!"

Christmas Eve 2014, Emmanuel Cosmas and some friends were retiring to their homes after a night of celebrating when suddenly he was hit by a Jeep. He found himself on the ground and unable to stand back up, his left leg had been crushed under the weight of the SUV. Emmanuel was taken to the HEAL Africa Hospital located in the Democratic Republic of Congo and treated with a SIGN Implant. Below in his own words, he illustrates the impact that his SIGN Surgery has had on his life.

"Today I walk freely on my own two legs without support! I go to work in the fields without the slightest fear; I am autonomous; I am able to once again take care of my wife and our two children, no longer dependent on my health but only on the promises offered to me by the plants living in my fields. My wife is happy to see me work by her side again, she was inconsolable when I was injured, but her smile has once again returned to our home."

By Cherry Stoltenberg
Communications and Partnerships Manager at HEAL Africa Hospital

"Walking again without supports!"

In 2009, 44 year old Fundi Yohari was pregnant with her sixth child when her husband’s life was unexpectedly taken from him. Life was difficult, with a large family and no means of making money. By chance she found a job working for a small business where she made enough to feed her children, pay for their studies, and get her family’s lives back on track. Unfortunately Fundi’s life was de-railed once again, when a defective road caused the car she was riding in to lose control and roll over three times. She lost consciousness and sustained a broken left leg.

She was taken to a local healer where metal shavings were removed from her wounded leg, but was left with a chronic lesion due to the inadequate care she received. Nearly four months later, surgeons began paving her path to healing when she arrived at the HEAL Africa Hospital. Fundi was treated for her wounds and her fracture was stabilized with a SIGN Nail. **She is now able to walk again.**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Orthopaedic surgeons face serious challenges due to unsafe road conditions, war, and insufficient quality of healthcare. In some cases patients like Fundi are critically neglected after being treated by traditional healers.

By Dr. Simplex Vuhaka
Orthopaedic Surgeon at HEAL Africa Hospital

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**Have you already included SIGN in your estate plan?**

If so, please give us the opportunity to show our appreciation.

**QUESTIONS? Contact Sandy Brown at:** sandy.brown@signfracturecare.org or call (509) 371-1107

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**GiveBIG May 3, 2016**
This year your donations will be **BOOSTED AND MATCHED**

For more information about GiveBIG, refer to page 4 of this publication
I Love serving the poor, because I can change their lives through the work I do.

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SIGN Fracture Care International

April 2016

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SIGN Fracture Care International presents

WINE & DINE for SIGN

Saturday, April 30, 2016

PORTLAND ART MUSEUM
1219 SW PARK AVE

BECOME A SPONSOR

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

DOM PÉRIGNON... $5,000
CHRISTAL........ $2,500
SPARKLING........ $1,500

TICKETS: SINGLE: $75
TABLE OF 10: $750

To sponsor or make your reservation
Contact Chelsea Smith at chelsea.smith@signfracturecare.org or call (509) 371-1107

Happy Spring, friends!

#GIVEBIG

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Facebook.com/SignFractureCare

The Seattle Foundation is now giving donors the opportunity to make a donation reservation online between April 18th - May 2nd

- Go to seattlefoundation.org/GiveBIG and search “SIGN,” to boost your donation on May 3rd
- New this year - donations will be doubled as well as boosted.
- Can you help us beat our best year by raising $52,000 during this one day only giving event?

Thank you for all you do to support SIGN.

Make your gift today!