

## How we make a difference



A story about a brave young girl called KE

## Success Story

KE is 13 years and she comes from a large rural family. In 2018, she had just completed Senior 1 (5th grade) when she started becoming ill. She was taken to the nearest hospital and was given malaria treatment and blood transfusions. However, her illness became worse with nose bleeds and her stomach became swollen. She was sent to Mulago referral hospital for further investigations.

When she was brought to Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) she was extremely ill. KE was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Her father was frightened by the diagnosis and wanted to take her back home, as he thought she was going to die. He abandoned her in the hospital and the mother then came to take care of her. They were taken to New Hope Children's hostel (NHCH).

KE is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment at UCI. She enjoys staying at NHCH as it provides her with a safe and secure environment and company of other children in her situation.

"I am looking forward to going back to school after my treatment and I am very grateful for the help I have been given." she says.

**Join us in making a difference to the lives of those facing a life-threatening illness.**

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# Kawempe Home Care Patient Support and Palliative Care Program.



**Our goal is to improve the quality of life for both the patient and their family. It focuses on the relief of pain and distressing symptoms and the psychological, social and spiritual problems faced by a patient with a life-threatening illness.**

The palliative care services are provided to the patients with HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis especially for those with advanced illnesses. We support children and adults with cancer to access care at the Uganda Cancer Institute and we provide palliative care for cancer patients in the community.

Childhood cancer is a big problem in Uganda with over 7,000 new cases each year especially in children from disadvantaged rural areas. However, only 7% can access specialist treatment only 50% of these children survive after 12 months. 80% of childhood cancers in Uganda are curable and so if we can overcome the barriers to access early diagnosis and treatment more children with cancer could be cured.

Kawempe Home Care (KHC) is a community based non-governmental organisation that believes that the most disadvantaged people in our communities deserve access to medical treatment and care. Our focus is on increasing access to palliative care and oncology care while giving them dignity and respect as they deal with their life threatening illness.



This calls for a combined effort to reduce the impact of cancer in our children.

## How We Help

KHC's Patient Support and Palliative Care program aims to improve a patient's quality of life through prevention of suffering by means of early identification, relief and treatment of pain, as well as addressing any social and psycho-social problems.

The approach is multidisciplinary and includes the patient; the clinical team; the family; the community volunteers; and the community.

The models of care include:

- Home Based Care for bed ridden patients
- Psychosocial support services for children with cancer through our New Hope Children's hostel services.
- Outpatient care
- Outreach clinic.



## Our Key Strategies for Palliative Care

- Home Based Care for bedridden patients.
- Collaboration with the Uganda Cancer Institute for joint patient care.
- Advocacy for Pediatric palliative care.
- Pain control using oral morphine for moderate and severe pain.
- Community follow up through home visits.
- Good collaboration with other hospice organizations.
- New Hope Children's Hostel increases access to care through psychosocial support.

## Some of Our Achievements

- Home based care has provided care for 123 cancer clients of which 45 males and 78 females with 28 patients still active.
- Since the New Hope Children's Hostel opened in 2016, 575 children and their caregivers have been accommodated at the hostel during treatment.
- There are 232 active patients in 2020 and 141 children are in remission and follow up medical reviews are done every two to three months on the children who have completed their treatment. Since inception 170 children have passed away. (Figures as at 2020)

## What Support is Needed?

KHC relies on the good will of our friends and partners to fund this very important program and some of the areas we need support to ensure the continued success of this program, particularly the children staying at the hostel, are:

