

KALONGO NEWS

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“As a midwife, what I love the most is giving birth the children and **see them again healthy to the following checks**”.

*Anying Franka Nancy,
Midwife of the Kalongo Hospital*

DEAR FRIENDS,

the past year was dramatic, but it offered us some new opportunities such as intensifying the relationship with you in a general moment of fear and loneliness. To be honest, due to the spread of the pandemic, we were afraid of not being able to keep the commitments made with the hospital and the midwifery school.

Your prompt and concrete response in such an uncertain moment surprised us once again.

It is thanks to you if we intervened promptly to support the hospital facing the pandemic and to ensure that no medical activities were suspended.

It is thanks to you if despite all the inevitable difficulties we managed to carry on the ongoing projects, concluding the new isolation wards of pediatrics, toilet facilities and the new kitchens specific for that ward: essential interventions to improve the well-being of children forced into periods of isolation. We almost reached the last year of restorations of the accommodations for hospital staff, whose continuous presence is even more important today.

Unfortunately, these concrete results go with the indirect but still dramatic effects of the pandemic.

An example above all: **the number of deliveries in hospital has been halved compared to the previous year.** A lot of women have renounced safe delivery for the fear and the difficulties to go to the hospital, choosing to give birth at home without the assistance of qualified midwives.

2,707 versus 4,778 deliveries: this halved number tells of deliveries occurred in extremely life-threatening conditions for mothers and their children. The hospital staff is working hard to strengthen instruments and strategies to promote health in the villages among those who do not have access to the basic health services. And of course they are continuing to take care of the nearly 50,000 people who go to the hospital every year.

Our strength in being by their side has always been the mutual trust in the relationship between the Foundation and you who support us. A red thread that connects us and you with Kalongo and allows us to carry out with coherence and seriousness the legacy of love that Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli left us, in order that the hospital remains a concrete and safe point of reference for all the thousands of people who have trusted in it for over 60 years.

Giovanna Ambrosoli

Giovanna Ambrosoli

SUMMARY

Pag.

Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli
A legacy of charity

3

News from Kalongo
Education will make
you free

4

News from Kalongo
Keep going with strenght

5

The world to...
Your voice is
important for us

6

On the bulletin
Special thanks to...

7

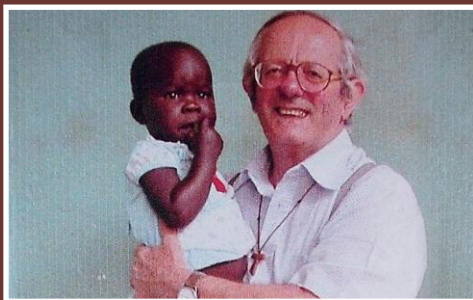


THE FIRST TIME THAT...

"The first time I got off that small airplane, I was overpowered by the love of many people who maybe considered us a living bond with Father Giuseppe, that was still their reference point. In that place, everything recalled him and his example of life,

and told about the generosity of those after of him who, with very few means and among a thousand complications and emergencies, struggled not to lose this priceless legacy, made of service, passion, dedication, competence. Our commitment is not only to give continuity to the work of father Giuseppe but to carry on his virtues as an example and a source of inspiration for future generations "

Giovanna Ambrosoli



The will is a personal, intimate and free act that everyone can do, except minors and interdicted persons. It is always possible to change, cancel or replace it.

If you want more information on bequests:

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A LEGACY OF CHARITY

*"As soon as I arrived in Kalongo, everything I saw and touched brought me back to my previous visit in those places and recalled Father Giuseppe, I had the impression that from one moment to the next I would have seen him come out of a building and meet me with his usual affability. **He still was alive in the gratitude of people, like in every square meter of that mission!** "*

Serafino Cavalleri

With these words Serafino Cavalleri, the carpenter of Kalongo, describes his return to Kalongo after the hospital reopening. He was one of the last to see Father Giuseppe alive in Kampala, after the evacuation. Father Giuseppe, exhausted by the events and by the disease, had hugged Serafino and had warned him: **"Anyway we must go on. There is still so much to do"**.

This is the legacy that Father Giuseppe gave us and that the Foundation has been continuing since 1998.

At Dr. Ambrosoli Memorial Hospital and its Midwifery School our work really makes the difference, if we can carry it forward it is thanks to all those who share our values, believe in our commitment and for this reason they choose to support us in very generous ways; like those who chose to do it with a donation to the Foundation in their will.

Why a donation in the will?

To do good and help improve the lives of the others. Because it remains after us and leaves to the future generations something special to believe in, a sort of legacy.

For us, a gift in the will means collecting the legacy of Father Giuseppe and ensure that our projects can continue. It is a commitment to transform your acts into concrete and long-lasting interventions, into something that will have in Kalongo a priceless and durable value.

Thanks to your choice, the life of a young woman or of a child will change forever and can change in turn the life of those who will come later.



EDUCATION WILL MAKE YOU FREE

I first met Betty on a Sunday morning in the clinic, during my routine round in the hospital. I saw that an ambulance had arrived and I was curious. Usually ambulances coming from the health centers carry severe cases.

Betty was unconscious with her head wrapped in blood-soaked bandages. In the emergency room, the staff were fast providing first aid. Then came the call to the surgery ward: "Prepare a bed for a critically ill patient, make sure that there is oxygen and aspirator".

Unfortunately in Kalongo there is still no intensive or sub-intensive care. From time to time we organize the necessary support. Once stabilized, Betty is taken to surgery. Her is one of those stories we wouldn't like to hear. Betty is 45 and has 10 children, she works as a farmer and she runs the family. A life of hard work and of recurring arguments with her husband. And it was precisely him that assaulted her wife by repeatedly hitting her in the head with a hammer. It is a miracle that she was found alive and that managed to get to the hospital.



The case is serious, she requires an intensive therapy, ideally a CAT and most likely an intervention of neurosurgery. All things we don't have. We explain the situation to her relatives, we inform them that the two centers equipped for these cases and closest to us are Mbale (6 hours in ambulance) or Kampala (8 hours). They consult each other and give up due to the price of transport and intervention. They don't have enough financial means. So we continue to assist Betty.

She stabilizes, an X-ray of the skull shows the multiple fractures, some fragments compress the brain. We need to intervene surgically. At this point Dr Smart and I deliberate and decide to act. We both know that without surgery the prognosis would almost certainly be fatal. We bring Betty in the operating room from which we leave a few hours later.

The patient remained stationary, the intervention went as planned. Now begins the postoperative period, perhaps the bigger challenge since we have few means.

Yesterday, five weeks after her arrival, Betty was discharged. She is able to eat, she still has a hemiparalysis but is able to walk alone, understands and makes herself understood, unfortunately she does not speak. All of her children were constantly by her side. The staff is happy. **A challenge that seemed impossible was won thanks to the constant dedication of nurses, doctors and students.** We know it won't always be like this but Betty taught us to have faith in our means, she taught us that, where technology is insufficient, "men" make the difference.

Betty was the most critical case of a series of patient victims of gender violence we assisted in recent months in Kalongo. **Unfortunately gender-based violence is among the most widespread and less contrasted social problems among the Acholi.** The hospital, through a support service, helps the cases that come to our observation, we know almost nothing about the hidden problem in the community. The family organization of the Acholi gives almost absolute power to the men. Even the women who contribute to the sustenance of the family, have very little say in domestic affairs. Somehow the payment of the dowry at the marriage sets off the sale of the woman, almost as a resource for the new family.

The current social disintegration, polygamy, abuse of alcohol represent an incendiary mixture. **The only means to eradicate this unhealthy germ is looking at the new generations with hope:** the hope that education can restore the sense of dignity that every individual, whether man or woman, deserves.

I often encourage the female students, especially when we have to deal with women in their eighth, tenth pregnancy or with girls with no father waiting for their unborn child: **"Cherish your education and consider yourself lucky. Education will give you a way to be free".**

*Dr. Carmen Orlotti
surgeon at Kalongo Hospital*

THE PANDEMIC IMPACT

The economic and social situation of the families in the district of Agago, who already live below the limit of poverty, has dramatically worsened. The economic instability triggered by the pandemic is impeding the access to basic services, is making it more difficult for families to cover basic needs and is increasing the risks of domestic and gender-based violence.

For this reason we must act quickly, before it is late for the For this reason we must act quickly, before it is late for the most fragile and vulnerable people.

Ensuring the proper functioning of all hospital wards and the continuous training of hospital staff to strengthen skills, strategies and methods of intervention, and accompanying the local community through continuous moments of awareness, so that it learns to take care of the most vulnerable and neglected people, like women and children, are our priorities.

For this reason, it is essential for us to raise funds: we need your help to allow the hospital to protect and promote the health of as many people as possible.

SUPPORT THE KALONGO HOSPITAL, THANK YOU!

THE BOCCONI UNIVERSITY FOR ST. MARY MIDWIFERY TRAINING SCHOOL

Recognizing the crucial role of the midwifery school in the training of Ugandan women, the Bocconi university has chosen to support the creation of the new Computer Lab by donating 54 computers, 2 projectors, computer desks, blackboards and chairs to the school.

Bocconi

The material finally arrived in Kalongo last January in a container that we have organized with the help of our volunteers.

The Ambrosoli Foundation is creating the new computer room to expand the school's training offer for the benefit of the students and their teachers.

MATERNITY IN UGANDA AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF MIDWIVES

To train a midwife means first of all contributing to fight maternal-infant mortality and improving women, mothers' and babies' health. Each midwife can assist up to 500 women every year and safely deliver hundreds of babies.

Uganda fertility index is high: **on average every woman has 5 children***

In rural areas, where 90% of the population lives, **58%** of women do all the check-up visits during pregnancy, and only **70%** can have an assisted delivery.

Maternal mortality rate of the Acholi region where the hospital operates is of **466 maternal deaths on 100.000 live births°.**



Among the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to **reduce the global maternal mortality rate less than 70 woman for every 100.000 live births.**

* World Bank 2018

** Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2017

° UNFPA 2017

TO MOVE ON WITH COURAGE

The sudden closure of the Midwifery School after the pandemic made exam preparation harder for the students returned to school in november. But the stubbornness and the passion of Sister Carmel and the teachers meant that the students arrived ready for the exam, which was held last february in Kalongo under the supervision of the delegates of the Ministry of Education.

All 106 girls passed the test brilliantly, **13 students obtained the certificate thanks to the scholarships of Ambrosoli Foundation.**

Once again 150 students will attend Midwifery School this year but **Sister Carmel will have a double challenge to face.** To fill the scholastic gaps of girls who have lost almost a year of studies and to welcome all new enrolled students, who have had to postpone the beginning of the studies due to the pandemic. But not only.



"The prolonged closure of the institute caused the school a financial stress because the only source of income comes from school fees. The school will need time to stabilize its financial situation and ensure the normal functioning of the institute" writes Sister Carmel from Kalongo.

But the director of the Midwifery School won't certainly be discouraged, she's determined to guarantee a complete preparation for her students, who with effort and courage are pursuing the dream of a better future for themselves, for the mothers and the children of whom they will take care and for those that will come after them.

Help us ensure the studies for these young women. The better future of Africa is in their hands. Let's make it possible together.



OUR FUNDRAISING 2020



708.000 €

Total financial contributions for the Hospital

5,8%

Structural Costs

Communication and fundraising

12,2%

How we spent the funds raised

83,0%

Projects and activities in Kalongo

AMBROSOLI FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTED TO SUPPLY THE HOSPITAL WITH:



5 volunteers, doctors and technicians
Last year were 25



500mt of antibacterial textile to sew protective masks



Healthcare Material,
medical and technical equipment



54 computers, 2 projectors, 3 white boards, 13 computer desks, 100 chairs for the new computer lab of the school



Protective equipment to fight covid-19 Surgical and KN95 masks, protective suits, IR thermometers, face shields, surgical gloves, sanitizers



Electrical items and spare parts for maintenance of the UPS, Internet network and the electrical panel; lightning protectors for the hospital's computers



10 oxygen concentrators and 20 pulseoximeters
To handle the covid emergency



Tiles for the renovation and expansion of the Pediatric Ward

Structural and maintenance works

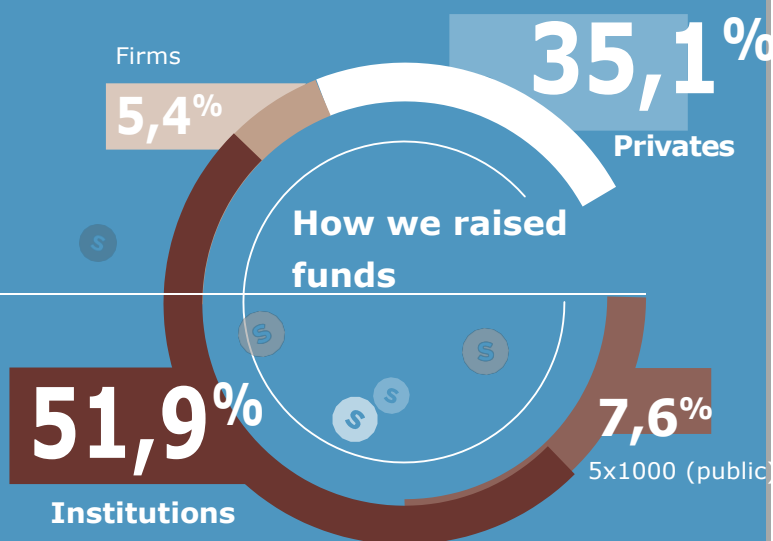


Children Ward Project:
We refurbished the isolation ward with its internal yard and the kitchens; we renovated toilets and showers



Staff Quarters Project:
We built a block of houses with 4 new apartments for the staff and their families and a building with small flats for single staff single or couples, for a total of 10 apartments.

*provisional numbers waiting for the balance sheet date.



How were the funds used in Kalongo

Fiscal year July 2019 – June 2020

HOSPITAL



16.779

ADMISSIONS

7.558
in Pediatric
Ward

4.226
in Maternity
Ward

1.925
in Surgical Ward

31.058

Outpatients
Visits

7.388

Antenatal
Visits

19.756

Pediatric
Vaccinations

2.707

Deliveries

MIDWIFERY SCHOOL



13

Students
graduated
thanks to a
Scholarship from
the Foundation

150

Students
enrolled per
year



**HAPPY ENDING STORIES
ARE WRITTEN ONLY BY
REMAINING UNITED**

Catherine is a 2-year-old girl, who was hospitalized in the Kalongo Hospital for three months due to a severe malnutrition. Abandoned by her mother at about 6 months, the girl is cared for by her father, a man of about 70. Catherine and her father live in extreme poverty and can hardly afford one meal a day. When she arrived in pediatrics she weighed just over 7 kg with a **MUAC*** of 11,2 cm. She was immediately subjected to the necessary therapies and she recovered thanks to the care received. At resignation Catherine weighed 9,3 kg with a MUAC index of 12,8 cm.

The healthcare personnel is constantly monitoring the girl because the risk of relapse is very high due to the conditions of poverty in which she lives. But this isn't enough, in order for her to continue to feel good, her community must be sensitized to take care of Catherine and the other children at risk of malnutrition.

Help us support the work of doctors and nurses to guarantee the most vulnerable children like Catherine the right to health, education and happiness.

*MUAC (Mid-Upper-Arm-Circumference) is a bracelet used to measure the circumference of the arm of children between 6 and 59 months to assess any state of malnutrition.

If the circumference of the left arm measured with the MUAC is less than 11,5 cm the malnutrition state is severe, between 11,5 and 12,5 the malnutrition is moderate, while if the measure is more than 12,5 cm there is no malnutrition.

Friendship isn't a fleeting and ephemeral relationship but a **stable, solid and loyal one.**

Pope Francesco

TOGETHER... UP TO KALONGO!

This is exactly what a group of friends from USA did, welcoming the plea of one of them to donate to the Ambrosoli Foundation. **Together they managed to support the annual salary of three young midwives** from the maternity ward of Kalongo hospital. **A heartfelt thanks to Filippo and his friends!**

And this is what who, on their birthdays, asked friends, relatives and colleagues to make a donation to the Ambrosoli Foundation. **A generous action capable of increasing the joy of one's birthday and reaching Kalongo together.**

Thanks to Elisa, Mirella, Nadia, Emilio...

"I turned 90, everyone asked me what I wanted for my birthday: the greatest gift you can give me, is to make a gift to the Ambrosoli Foundation" **Mirella**

"I choose to dedicate my birthday to the foundation because on a feast day, it's a privilege to dedicate your smile to your neighbor. A small gesture to celebrate in different areas of the world. Thanks for everything you are doing" **Elisa**

If you too want to share the joy of a special occasion with Kalongo's friends, write us: info@fondazioneambrosoli.it or call us : 02.36558852

A GREAT THANK YOU TO...

AICS, TOGETHER TO IMPROVE PEDIATRIC SERVICES QUALITY



The "RFB – a boost of change for pediatric services" project, created in partnership with Conti Foundation and sponsored by AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation) is now in its third year. The project has significantly help improve the quality of the hospital's pediatric services, thanks to quality checks carried out every quarter by an inspector form the Ugand Ministry of Health, called to check the buildings, the sanitary facilities, patients' cares, diagnosis and administered treatments. After each chack the department staff meets to assign tasks and deadlines to solve the problems encountered. **Thanks to this system, the quality of the hospital's services has improved by 30% within two years.**



CERESIO FOUNDATION, BY OUR SIDE FOR TEN YEARS



The precious ongoing contribution of Ceresio Foundation has allowed us to better plan long-term activities to support the hospital and the obstetric school.

In 2020 the Ceresio Foundation renewed its annual commitment and allocated extraordinary funds in order to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the school and the hospital of Kalongo.

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Fondazione
Dr. Ambrosoli
Memorial Hospital

“Ogni giorno, in uno dei luoghi più poveri e remoti dell’Africa, medici e ostetriche lavorano per difendere la vita dei più fragili. La tua fiducia e la loro tenacia possono fare la differenza”

Giovanna
Ambrosoli

Dacci fiducia

Dona il tuo 5x1000
alla Fondazione Ambrosoli

Con il tuo 5x1000 a favore
dell’ospedale di Kalongo
continueremo l’opera di padre
Giuseppe Ambrosoli.

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