



# Transformations

News from Fistula Foundation, Fall 2014

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## Teaming Up For Good Small Grants Partnership with Johnson & Johnson

In 2012, Fistula Foundation and Johnson & Johnson developed a joint program to identify and fund facilities that have the capacity to treat more women suffering from obstetric fistula, but lack the funds to do so. This partnership was sparked by the 2012 launch of the Global Fistula Map, an initiative amongst Direct Relief, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Fistula Foundation to assess the current state of obstetric fistula treatment around the world and identify regions in need.

Johnson & Johnson has committed \$325,000 to Fistula Foundation for the program between 2013 and 2014. Through the partnership, grants of up to \$35,000 are provided to partners who have demonstrated they have the capacity to increase the number of women who will receive fistula treatment and improve the quality of service provided to these women. The grants are small, targeted and effective.

In total, around 375 women will benefit from this partnership and receive life-transforming fistula treatment. Other benefits include updated equipment and medical supplies, increased outreach campaigns and patient recruitment, and more training for nurses and other care staff. To date, we have distributed grants to 15 projects in eight countries.



*From left to right: Denis Robson of J&J with Fistula Foundation partner surgeons Dr. Mulu Muleta and Dr. Serigne Gueye*

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## AMA/AMAF Names Fistula Foundation CEO "Nonprofit Marketer Of The Year"

### Kate Grant Recognized for Nonprofit Vision, Results and Impact

This July, Fistula Foundation CEO Kate Grant was honored with the prestigious Nonprofit Marketer of the Year Award by the American Marketing

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# One Woman's Story N'Djamena, Chad

Photo credit: Center for Reproductive Health and Fistula Repair

Aïcha's life was disrupted suddenly 15 years ago, when she developed a fistula after delivering her second stillborn child. As is common in her community, she gave birth at home without any professional help. However, after four days of obstructed labor, she was finally brought to a hospital 25 miles away from her village.

Shortly thereafter and already incontinent, Aïcha became pregnant again and had a third complicated labor that resulted in the loss of yet another baby. A few years later her husband abandoned her and her community rejected her. She was helped by her family but felt ashamed and lonely.

Her first surgery after 14 years of incontinence failed. She was disappointed and resigned herself to living the rest of her life with this terrible condition. It was then that she learned about free surgeries being offered by specialist surgeons at the Center for Reproductive Health and Fistula Repair in N'Djamena, which Fistula Foundation funds through our partner Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA). She arrived at the Center last month and underwent a successful



Aïcha was treated at the Center for Reproductive Health and Fistula Repair.

repair surgery. Now in recovery, Aïcha feels liberated and confident, looking upon her future with serenity. "You cannot imagine how free I feel, I feel reassured and positive," she told doctors. She is impatient to go back into the world, take her life back, begin working again and enjoy spending time with her family.



## Supporter Spotlight: Bombshell

*Fashionista Denise Alden is the owner of Bombshell, a boutique in Minneapolis, Minnesota that caters to women of style and substance who wear sizes 14 to 24. For the past several years, Denise has organized a campaign around Mother's Day to educate customers about obstetric fistula and encourage shoppers to donate to Fistula Foundation to help women suffering from fistula get the surgery they need. To date, her campaigns have raised \$2,300!*

*Childbirth issues have always interested Denise, as she was a practicing midwife before starting a career in women's fashion. "So many women are mothers, and they have no idea how dangerous and challenging childbearing is in other parts of the world," she said. "I admire Fistula Foundation for bringing this preventable tragedy to light."*

*A big thank you to Denise and Bombshell for their generous support! If you are in the Twin Cities area, be sure to stop by and say hi. You can also find them on Facebook or at [www.bomb-shell-boutique.com](http://www.bomb-shell-boutique.com).*





# YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Kathmandu Model Hospital fistula program staff with Fistula Foundation's Dr. Steve Arrowsmith (center)



Photo credit: Kathmandu Model Hospital

**Nepal – Kathmandu Model Hospital** | Rates of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities are believed to be exceptionally high in Nepal, yet awareness is low and there are very few facilities providing fistula services in the country. Kathmandu Model Hospital is our third and newest partner in Nepal, and they are working to create the first comprehensive fistula care program in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city. This program will provide 50 free surgeries initially, as well as a community education and outreach campaign, training of nurses and community health workers, purchase of new equipment for the fistula ward, and counseling/social reintegration services for fistula patients.

**Nigeria – Laure Fistula Center** | Laure Fistula Center was established in 1987 and performs over 500 fistula repair surgeries a year, including many referrals from throughout Nigeria as well as neighboring countries. They were recently accredited by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) as an official fistula surgery training site; however, much of their equipment had been in use since its inception over 20 years ago and was therefore not in optimal condition. Funding from Fistula Foundation and our Small Grants Partnership with Johnson & Johnson allowed the Center to purchase much-needed new equipment and medical supplies in August in order to provide the highest quality of patient care and surgeon training possible.



New equipment delivered to Laure Fistula Center



Photo credit: Laure Fistula Center

*"On behalf of the People of Kano State and Nigeria, I would like to thank all of you who made this possible and promise you that the equipment and your goodwill would be put to the best use to assist all patients with obstetric trauma."*

~ Dr. Kabiru Abubakar, Laure Fistula Center



Dr. Hilary Mabeya (2nd from right), founder of and lead surgeon at Gynocare with a team of nurses. On the right is Dr. Khisa Weston Wakasiaka, expert fistula surgeon with the Freedom From Fistula Foundation.

# Action on Fistula Update:

## Gynocare Certified as first FIGO Training Center in Kenya

Action on Fistula is a three-year, \$2 million effort to treat women in Kenya who are suffering from obstetric fistula. Funded through a generous donation by Astellas Pharma EMEA, Action on Fistula will provide free surgeries to 1,200 women, provide training to expand the pool of surgeons in Kenya who are able to treat obstetric fistula, and establish a network of facilities that can share resources and more quickly refer patients to treatment with the shortest waiting period possible.



Gynocare, a fistula treatment center in Eldoret, Kenya, has been certified as the first FIGO accredited fistula training center in Kenya. Surgical trainees will be selected by FIGO and placed at Gynocare, where their training will be sponsored by the Action on Fistula program.

“The certification of Gynocare as a FIGO training center is an important opportunity to improve long-term capacity for fistula surgery in Kenya,” said Fistula Foundation Kenya Program Director Lindsey Pollaczek. “Action on Fistula is a team effort that will draw on the expertise and insight of very dedicated fistula surgeons already on the ground as we work together to build a new cadre of trained providers to help women who suffer from obstetric fistula.”

## Fistula Surgeons Meet in Kenya on Action on Fistula Program

Last month, Ms. Pollaczek convened a meeting of surgeons providing fistula treatment in Kenya to discuss the Action on Fistula program and how its design can best suit the ongoing fistula treatment efforts in country. Surgeons from Nairobi,

*continued on page 5*

Participants at Action on Fistula program meeting in Kenya





## Action on Fistula Update... *continued from page 4*

Kisumu, Kitale and Eldoret were in attendance at this meeting, as was Fistula Foundation Medical and Programs Director, Dr. Steve Arrowsmith, who has worked for 27 years providing obstetric fistula surgery in more than 15 countries.

Surgeons in attendance talked about the design and implementation of the surgeon training program. The Action on Fistula treatment network was also discussed, and surgeons provided input about how best to coordinate patient referrals between sites, how to understand treatment capacity at each center and how to coordinate visiting surgeons at network facilities in order to increase the overall capacity for women to get treatment.

An application process is involved for facilities that want to join the network. Upon acceptance into the program, Fistula Foundation provides the facility with funding through Action on Fistula that will help expand their treatment efforts. This funding includes, but is not limited to: funds that cover the cost of surgeries, new equipment, medical supplies or other materials related to fistula care.

To date, four facilities have been officially accepted into the treatment network: Gynocare, Jamaa Mission Hospital, Cherangany Nursing Home and Kisumu East District Hospital. Additional facilities have already expressed interest in applying to the program and it is hoped that at least one more site will be added by the end of this year.

**Action  
on Fistula**

## Leave Your Legacy

You have the power to make a lasting gift to women who are suffering.

Find out how you can help women with obstetric fistula through your estate plans. Contact Fistula Foundation at (866) 756-3700 or email [info@fistulafoundation.org](mailto:info@fistulafoundation.org) for information and specific steps you can take to leave a legacy of healing.



## Fistula Foundation Board Of Directors

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## We've Helped Women In:

Afghanistan

Angola

Bangladesh

Burundi

Cameroon

Chad

Congo

Ethiopia

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Kenya

Madagascar

Malawi

Mauritania

Nepal

Niger

Nigeria

Pakistan

Rwanda

Senegal

Somalia

Somaliland

South Sudan

Sudan

Tanzania

Uganda

Zambia

Zimbabwe

## Teaming Up For Good... Continued from page 1

One Small Grants partner is the National Boroma Fistula Hospital (NBFH) in Boroma, Somaliland. NBFH is the only hospital in Somaliland dedicated specifically to fistula treatment and provides a variety of services, such as rehabilitation and skills training for fistula patients, awareness campaigns on radio and TV, and training for community health workers to better identify and refer fistula patients for treatment. They have three full-time fistula surgeons who performed 225 surgeries in 2013, and they hope to increase that number to over 400 annually. However, lack of equipment – an anesthesia machine in particular – was hindering their ability to increase the number of surgeries performed. With funding from the Small Grants Partnership in 2013, NBFH was able to purchase a new anesthesia machine for the operating room and a portable anesthesia machine for mobile surgery clinics that will allow them to treat more women than ever before.

Johnson & Johnson



New anesthesia machine in action at National Boroma Fistula Hospital in Somaliland

Photo credit: National Boroma Fistula Hospital

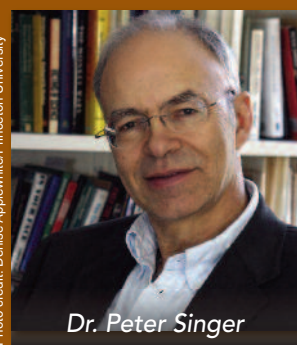


Photo credit: Denise Applewhite/Princeton University

Dr. Peter Singer

## The Life You Can Save Fistula Foundation is honored to be a featured charity

September 5th marks the 15th anniversary of the publication of *The Singer Solution to World Poverty*, a provocative and visionary op-ed piece by Princeton ethicist Professor Peter Singer, which ran in the *New York Times*. He went on to write a book called "The Life You Can Save" and started an organization of the same name dedicated to fighting extreme poverty. Singer frames the solution to global poverty in terms of ethics. He believes that it is

the moral obligation of those who have money in excess of their needs to improve the lives of the poor by giving much of their extra income away to alleviate suffering.

The organization The Life You Can Save (TLYCS) encourages people to publicly pledge a percentage of their income and recommends 12 charities they believe provide "cost effective and transparent programs that alleviate suffering and reduce premature death among the world's 1.2 billion poorest people." Fistula Foundation is both honored and proud to be one of these 12 charities. We are also grateful to TLYCS for featuring us on their blog and social media, and most recently for connecting us with Spin for Good, an online gaming site created by brilliant Freakonomics co-author Stephen Levitt, which enables people to win cash prizes for selected charities, including ours.

We are extremely grateful to Professor Singer, and to Charlie Bresler and the team at TLCYS, for their partnership. Visit [www.thelifeyoucansave.org](http://www.thelifeyoucansave.org) to learn more about the organization and to take their giving pledge!



### Fistula Foundation Receives Recommendation by Time Inc.'s Money Magazine

Thanks to The Life You Can Save CEO, Charlie Bresler, Fistula Foundation recently received a recommendation by Time Inc.'s Money Magazine as one of "35 Smart Things to Do With \$1,000 Now".

**Money**  
EVERYDAY MONEY INVESTING

### 35 Smart Things to Do With \$1,000 Now

Donna Rosato @RosatoDonna Taylor Tepper @TaylorTepper  
Cybele Weisser Neil Parmar @Neil\_S\_Parmar Josh Garskof  
6:00 AM ET



**#30-32. Put your donations to work where they'll do the most good** | Groups that focus on improving healthcare in the developing world have some of the best measurable outcomes of all charities, says Charlie Bresler, CEO of The Life You Can Save. Many of the supplies used to improve and save lives, like vaccines or mosquito nets, cost pennies to produce, he says, and surgeries that cost tens of thousands in the U.S. can be performed for a few hundred bucks overseas. Three great organizations working in those areas: SEVA Foundation, which works to prevent blindness; Deworm the World, which seeks to eradicate worms and other parasitic bacterial disease; **Fistula Foundation**, which provides surgical services to women with childbirth injuries.



# CCBRT Accredited by FIGO as Official Training Site

*Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) is the largest indigenous provider of disability and rehabilitation services in the country and the Foundation's biggest partner in Tanzania. Thanks in part to CCBRT's partnership with Fistula Foundation, they are now able to perform over 700 fistula surgeries a year! CCBRT recently received accreditation as an official FIGO training site. This article from their blog is reposted with permission from CCBRT & Kupona Foundation, CCBRT's representative organization in the U.S.*

26 June 2014: CCBRT received official accreditation from FIGO to become an international training centre for fistula surgeons. CCBRT has three surgeons who have honed their skills in fistula repair at CCBRT Disability Hospital and are now able to train and inspire the future generation of fistula surgeons.

CCBRT is excited to embark upon this new partnership with FIGO as we contribute to the international landscape of fistula surgery and work to make this debilitating condition a thing of the past. By providing training for surgeons we will be able to improve the quality of care being provided to women with fistula, and increase the number of women whose lives are changed each year.

This is another fantastic milestone in our journey to eradicate fistula in Tanzania. We have grown over the last seven years to become one of the largest providers of quality fistula repair in the world, and now we are taking the next step to pass on our experiences and share our knowledge.

We were delighted to share this special occasion with our friends from the Fistula Foundation, a long standing supporter of our program, and great advocate for the rights and dignity of women living with fistula.



Photo credit: CCBRT

*Representatives from FIGO, CCBRT and Fistula Foundation celebrate CCBRT's accreditation as an official FIGO training site*

## FIGO Hosts Fistula Stakeholder Meeting in Tanzania



*Fistula experts review progress of the FIGO surgery training program.*

On June 25, 2014, FIGO convened a meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to review the progress of its fistula surgery training program. The program is based on the 'Global Competency-Based Fistula Surgery Training Manual' which was developed by FIGO and launched in 2011. The manual was established as a standardized training curriculum and set of fistula treatment and care guidelines that are being used to train surgeons around the world.



The June meeting was attended by fistula experts from around the world, including Fistula Foundation Board Chair Dr. Sohier Elneil who authored the training manual, CEO Kate Grant and Kenya Program Officer Lindsey Pollaczek. Because a global pool of properly trained surgeons is so important in the fight against fistula, enthusiasm among the group was high. It was an opportunity to review progress of the training program to date, discuss best practices and lessons learned, and develop strategies for improving the program moving forward. Fistula Foundation continues to be proud to collaborate with FIGO to train new surgeons and ensure the availability of high quality care for women suffering from fistula.



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## U.S. Federal Employees:

Pledges through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) may be made by Federal civilian, postal and military personnel between **September 1 – December 15**. During this allocation season, we hope you'll consider sending your 2015 CFC contributions to Fistula Foundation via CFC #11521. Thank you!

## AMA/AMAF Names Fistula Foundation Ceo "Nonprofit Marketer Of The Year" *Continued from page 1*

Association (AMA) and American Marketing Association Foundation (AMAF) for her visionary leadership over the past nine years.

The AMA/AMAF Nonprofit Marketer of the Year Award honors extraordinary leadership and achievement in the field of nonprofit marketing. The criteria for the award include leadership, vision, strategy, results and impact. Kate was selected from a pool of 25 finalists and was recognized at a luncheon held during the Nonprofit Marketing Conference in Arlington, VA. She is the eighth nonprofit leader to receive this honor since the establishment of the award in 2008.

Kate has transformed the size and scope of Fistula Foundation since she joined the organization as its first chief executive in 2005. Under her leadership we have grown from funding one facility in one country to global leadership in fistula treatment, having funded more than 100 sites in 28 countries throughout Africa and Asia and quadrupling the number of surgeries we support each year.



Kate Grant accepts award from Peter Barber, Member of AMA Nonprofit Marketing Conference Committee and Senior Vice President, Business and Account Development at Lipman Hearne with Morgan Estabrook of Northwestern University.

*"I am honored to be recognized by people whose work I deeply respect – leaders in the nonprofit world. At the end of the day, our work is made possible because of the empathy and generosity of our donors helping women they'll never meet get their lives back."*

~ Kate Grant, CEO, Fistula Foundation