



Transformations

News from Fistula Foundation, Summer 2015

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Photo credit: Dr. Ganesh Dangal

“On behalf of pfect-NEPAL/Kathmandu Model Hospital we are touched and overwhelmed by the concern from our friends and wellwishers like you. God bless you!!!”

– Dr. Ganesh Dangal

Fistula Foundation Donors Help Rebuild Nepal

Campaign raises \$150K in 24 hours

In the days following the devastating April earthquake in Nepal, we were relieved to hear from our partner surgeon in Kathmandu, Dr. Ganesh Dangal, that he and the rest of the team at Kathmandu Model

Hospital were safe. Dr. Dangal and his dedicated colleagues got to work immediately providing medical assistance to the injured, squeezing in beds wherever space could be found. Unfortunately this only included space on the ground floor, as the upper floors, including the operating room where fistula surgeries had previously taken place, were damaged extensively.

As we anxiously considered ways to help Kathmandu Model Hospital get its operating room back up and running, a generous

donor named Frank Richardson stepped forward to offer a 2:1 matching grant to anyone who donated to our Nepal campaign, up to \$100,000. We were inspired by the generosity and rapid response of Mr. Richardson and of supporters like you, who helped us exceed our fundraising goal in less than 24 hours! Thanks to you, Dr. Dangal and the team at Kathmandu Model Hospital now have the resources they need to rebuild their operating room once the situation in Kathmandu has stabilized.



Frank Richardson generously donated \$100,000 for a matching grant challenge during our Nepal campaign.



A scene from Kathmandu Model Hospital in the days following the earthquake

Photo credit: Annie Ferris-Rotman

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all you have done! Stay tuned for more updates from Nepal.



400 Lives Transformed in First Year of Action On Fistula

May marked the one year anniversary of the launch of Action on Fistula, a three year, \$2 million initiative designed to make a lasting impact on fistula treatment in Kenya, led by Fistula Foundation and funded by Astellas Pharma EMEA. The key objectives of Action on Fistula are focused on three critical areas – treatment, training, and community outreach – and we are excited to share our progress with you. Over the last year:



Action on Fistula



400 women have received free fistula surgery



Four facilities have been added to the Fistula Treatment Network



Two new Kenyan surgeons have been trained through the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) training program



Five local organizations have conducted over **850 outreach activities** in 18 different counties that reached **60,000 community members**

There is a lot to celebrate as we look back on the first year of Action on Fistula, and we are eagerly looking ahead to year two as we help more women in more areas of Kenya get the treatment they need.

Your Donations At Work

Essential medical equipment delivered to fistula hospital in Nigeria

The National Obstetric Fistula Center in Babbar Ruga, Nigeria, is part of the country's National Fistula Program network. While it is able to perform hundreds of repair surgeries each year, one of its head fistula surgeons, Dr. Sadiya Nasir, reported to us that much of their equipment had become worn and outdated. Funding from Fistula Foundation and our small grants partnership through Johnson & Johnson enabled the Center to purchase much-needed new equipment and medical supplies this year in order to provide the highest quality of patient care and surgeon training possible.



Photo credit: Babbar Ruga Fistula Hospital

Dr. Denis Mukwege Honored by ACOG

Congratulations to our partner surgeon Dr. Denis Mukwege, who was recently recognized as a College Honorary Fellow by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) at their 2015 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Dr. Mukwege is the founder and lead surgeon at Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of our longest-term partners. He was honored by ACOG for his pioneering work in specialized responses to sexual and gender-based violence and in advocating for the rights and empowerment of Congolese women.



Dr. Mukwege with Fistula Foundation CEO
Kate Grant at ACOG's Annual Meeting



Photo credit: The Life You Can Save

Reader's Corner: *The Most Good You Can Do*

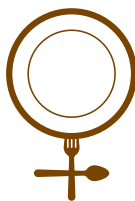
Looking for a good read? How about Peter Singer's new book, *The Most Good You Can Do*? The book is all about Effective Altruism—the simple but profound idea of doing the "most good you can do" with the resources you have. Fistula Foundation is honored to be mentioned in the book AND to be one of 16 organizations recommended by Singer's organization, The Life You Can Save. Learn more at www.thelifeyoucansave.org.

Global Charity Announces 3-Year Commitment to Fistula

We are proud to have been selected as a 'sustained program' by Dining for Women (DFW)! Established in 2015, sustained programs receive three-year grants totaling \$60,000 (\$20,000 each year) and are an opportunity for DFW to make a longer-term commitment to previously featured programs. Fistula Foundation will be a sustained program until 2017, and funding will support fistula treatment for at least 135 women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and South Sudan.

Dining for Women is a global giving circle that funds grassroots programs working in developing countries to fight gender inequality. They have

412 chapters across the U.S. whose members meet on a regular basis to share a meal and learn about featured programs. DFW previously funded grants for our work in Ethiopia in 2008 and 2011.



Dining for Women

Peter
Singer
Author of *The Life You Can Save*
**The
Most
Good
You
Can Do**

How Effective Altruism Is Changing
How We Live and How We Think

ONE WOMAN'S STORY

Bilkis from Bangladesh



Photo credit: HOPE Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh

*Bilkis was treated at
HOPE Hospital
in Cox's Bazar*



Bilkis is just 20 years old. She developed an obstetric fistula during the delivery of her first baby. Under the guidance of a traditional birth attendant, Bilkis labored at home for two days before being taken to a hospital. By the time she arrived, her baby was stillborn. Bilkis was heartbroken by the loss of her child, which was made worse by the fact that she was now incontinent. Her husband left her and married another woman, so Bilkis went to live with her parents. She remained in the home and did not engage in any social events, as other people in the community were not sympathetic to her condition.

Thankfully, Bilkis came into contact with the team at HOPE Hospital in Cox's Bazar only six months after her complicated delivery. She underwent two surgeries and was finally able to leave the hospital completely dry. Still young and with her whole life ahead of her, Bilkis is looking forward to being a part of her community once again.

Meet the Newest Members of our Team!

Welcome DeAndra and Steven, the newest additions to Team Fistula!



DeAndra Hicks

DeAndra joined Fistula Foundation in May 2015 as Vice President of Marketing and Development. A seasoned and versatile fundraiser, DeAndra joined the Foundation from Ocean Conservancy, where she spent the last seven years directing the organization's membership program and leading efforts to promote planned giving and major donor cultivation. Prior to that role, DeAndra served as Director of Development Operations for American Farmland Trust and as Manager of Development Operations at World Wildlife Fund, where she focused on cause-related marketing and individual and institutional giving. DeAndra holds a degree in international relations from American University.



Steven Armstrong

Steven joined Fistula Foundation as a seasonal staff member and was recently brought onto the team full-time as Communications Assistant. He brings with him creativity and a passion for the arts. Previously, Steven applied his administrative and writing skills while working at a nonprofit Bar association. He holds a BA in Creative Arts from San Jose State University and an MFA in Writing and Consciousness from the California Institute of Integral Studies.



Making Quality Surgical Care a Right

Fistula Foundation an Inaugural Member of G4 Global Alliance

On May 19, the G4 Alliance was officially launched at a meeting and kick-off ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland, to coincide with the 2015 World Health Assembly. G4, of which Fistula Foundation is a member, is a global alliance for surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anesthesia care that advocates for neglected surgical patients in low-resource countries. Fistula Foundation was represented at the event by our Board Chair Dr. Suzy Elneil, who also represents Fistula Foundation by serving on the Board of G4 Alliance.

The numbers are staggering: Over two billion people lack access to basic surgical services worldwide with less than 4% of all operations being delivered to the world's poorest countries. In fact, Africa has roughly 1% of the total number of surgeons found in the U.S. This is of particular interest to us at Fistula Foundation, as 289,000 women die every year of childbirth because they do not have access to safe surgical intervention; most of these deaths are completely preventable. Women who do survive a difficult childbirth too often suffer from injuries like obstetric fistula, which also requires surgery to repair. That is why we are a proud member of the G4 Alliance and its vision to make sure all patients have access to the surgical care they need.



Photo credit: G4 Alliance

Caridad Partners Award \$15,000 Grant to Fistula Foundation

Fistula Foundation was honored to receive a \$15,000 grant from Caridad Partners, a giving circle of San Francisco Bay Area women who seek to enhance the lives of women and children internationally. The sixteen members of Caridad Partners pool their individual contributions to fund charitable organizations that demonstrate a positive track record and are committed to measuring and reporting impact and results.

Caridad's generous gift will be used to support the work of CURE International Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, funding a workshop for up to 40 healthcare workers based in provinces outside of Kabul who will be trained with skills needed to identify and educate patients about free fistula services available at the hospital. We are grateful to Caridad for entrusting their funds to us to help women in Afghanistan learn about the treatment that can transform their lives.

Fistula Nurse Honored by U.S. Embassy

Congratulations to Winnie Nakalema, a fistula nurse at our partner site Kitovu Hospital in Uganda who was recently honored with the Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Acts award by the American Embassy in Kampala. The award is given each year to women in Uganda who have shown courage in the fields of medicine, military, law, and/or in their community.





Regional Strategy Meeting of Surgeons Convened in Malawi

Building on the success we've seen in assembling partners in Kenya and Nepal, we recently convened a meeting of surgeons in Malawi as a first step towards establishing a treatment network in southern Africa. The meeting was attended by our CEO Kate Grant, Medical Director Dr. Steve Arrowsmith, and Program Director Lindsey Pollaczek, as well as eight partner surgeons from Malawi, Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Not only did the meeting give participants an assessment of the current fistula treatment landscape in each country represented, but it was also an opportunity for surgeons to come together, build relationships, and find ways to work together throughout the region to get women treated faster.

Joining Forces with Freedom From Fistula in Malawi

FFF founded by Ann Gloag, one of the U.K.'s top business leaders

Meet one of our newest partners, the Freedom from Fistula Foundation (FFF), founded by one of the UK's most successful business leaders, Ann Gloag. FFF seeks to end the suffering caused by obstetric fistula by providing free surgeries at its three project sites in Kenya, Sierra Leone and Malawi, and has an impressive list of supporters that includes Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and former Malawian President Dr. Joyce Banda. Through our new partnership in Malawi, at least 300 women will receive fistula repair surgery at FFF's Fistula Care Centre at Blaiwa Hospital in Lilongwe and two new fistula surgeons will be trained.



Ann Gloag (top right) celebrating with healed fistula patients.

Supporter Spotlight: Benefit Concert Funds Fistula Treatment



Natalie Gelman performs a benefit concert for Fistula Foundation.

Sue Hoese first heard about fistula on an episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show in 2005. She was moved by the program, and soon found herself watching the documentary “A Walk to Beautiful” and brainstorming ways to get involved. As a jewelry maker in her spare time, Sue decided to gather a group of friends to learn more about fistula and make bracelets to send to fistula patients in Ethiopia. By the end of that first summer, she and her friends had made an incredible 1,500 bracelets! Much to her surprise and delight, Sue was able to deliver the bracelets in person as part of an Oprah follow-up show – a truly life-changing experience!

Sue continued to be a passionate advocate for fistula, and her passion soon began inspiring others. Earlier this year, Sue’s husband Kevin shared her story and some information on obstetric fistula with one of his favorite musicians, Natalie Gelman. As an activist and champion of women’s issues, Natalie was inspired and wanted to use her creativity and talent to raise awareness about this too-often hidden condition. Together, the three organized a benefit concert at Sue and Kevin’s home in Minnesota, which raised over \$2,000 in support of fistula treatment!

Many thanks to Sue, Kevin and Natalie for their support! Be sure to visit www.nataliegelman.com to listen to Natalie’s new album and find out when she is coming to a city near you.

DID YOU KNOW?

With the help of a professional jewelry maker, Sue designed the Dignity Bracelet, one of our original Gifts That Heal! While we no longer carry the Dignity Bracelet, you can view our other gift items at www.fistulafoundation.org/giftsthatheal.

Sue Hoese (third from right) and friends model the original Dignity Bracelet.



The New York Times



Photo credit:
Half the Sky Movement

Nicholas Kristof Gives Foundation Partner “A Little Respect”

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, *New York Times* columnist and fistula advocate Nicholas Kristof visited Angola in March to pay a visit to one of Fistula Foundation’s longest-term partners, Dr. Stephen Foster. For the last decade, Dr. Foster has run the Centro Evangélico de Medicina do Lubango (CEML), a missionary hospital that offers the local population a stable, centrally-located hospital and provides patients with transportation, surgery, housing and nutritional therapy. Like his father before him, Dr. Foster has served as a lifelong missionary surgeon in Africa.

In his article “A Little Respect for Dr. Foster,” Mr. Kristof highlights some of the challenges Dr. Foster has faced:

“Foster...has survived tangles with a 6-foot cobra and angry soldiers. He has had to make do with rudimentary supplies: Once, he said, he turned the tube for a vehicle’s windshield-washing fluid into a catheter to drain a patient’s engorged bladder.”

Armed soldiers once tried to kidnap 25 of his male nurses, and when Foster ordered the gunmen off the property, he

said, they fired Ak-47 rounds near his feet. He held firm, and they eventually retreated without the nurses.

Oh, by the way, this is where Dr. Foster raised his family.”

Dr. Foster and his dedicated hospital team have treated hundreds of women suffering from fistula since we partnered with them in 2009, and we are proud to see his work celebrated by Mr. Kristof.



To read this article, please visit www.fistulafoundation.org/dr-foster.

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News



Alumna Kate Grant Gives a Voice to World’s Poorest Women

Kate Grant MPA '94 is CEO of the Fistula Foundation, which funds more obstetric fistula surgeries than any other non-governmental organization in the world.



Photo credit: Dr. Tareq Salahuddin

On April 8, Fistula Foundation CEO (and Princeton alum!) Kate Grant presented a lecture, graduate seminar, and student information session at Princeton University around the theme “Underreported and Overperforming: How One Nonprofit is Escalating a Little-Known Issue to Help the World’s Poorest Women.” This event was an opportunity to raise awareness on campus and in the community, and was preceded by a luncheon hosted by Fistula Foundation Board member Susie Wilson.