



Transformations

News from Fistula Foundation, Winter 2014

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Campaign 2015

Did you know the last two months of this year will determine Fistula Foundation's ability to treat women in 2015? **Nearly half of our annual revenue will be earned in the final two months of this calendar year**, meaning our ability to provide treatment to women who are suffering from obstetric fistula next year is directly tied to the amount of funds we are able to raise by December 31st. We want to fund life-changing surgeries for 4,800 women in 2015. But we can't do that without you.

You have shown your commitment to transforming the lives of women with obstetric fistula in the past. In fact, Fistula Foundation has now funded over 10,000 surgeries thanks to the generous donations of people like you! As 2014 draws to a close, we are counting on you once again to help us deliver treatment and services to women in need.

With a team of only eight full-time staff, we work extremely efficiently to channel the funds you entrust to our care into the hands of our partners in the field, because that's where women's lives are changed. We do this so effectively that we are consistently recognized and rated highly by the top charity evaluators and influencers in the industry: Better Business Bureau, Charity Navigator, Charity Watch, GreatNonprofits and The Life You Can Save, an organization dedicated to effective philanthropy.

We know that for every single woman we treat, 50 more are still in need. When you make a financial contribution to Fistula Foundation before December 31, you have the power to help change lives. Women are waiting. Can they count on your support?

*2014 isn't over yet.
Before December 31, can
we count on you to make
your charitable donation
to Fistula Foundation?*



One Woman's Story

Debora from Angola

Photo Credit: Centro Evangelico de Medicina de Lubango

Debora lives in a tiny village quite far from any emergency medical services. In 2008, she was in labor with her fourth child for nearly a week before her uncle finally brought her to a hospital. By that time, her uterus had ruptured and her baby, delivered via C-section, had died. The difficult labor also left a fistula between her bladder and cervix, causing her to leak urine constantly. All of Debora's other children had also died shortly after childbirth, and her husband finally abandoned her too.

Luckily, Debora found our partner site Centro Evangelico de Medicina de Lubango (Evangelical Medical Center of Lubango, or CEML) in Angola. Once she arrived, her fistula repair surgery turned out to be much more difficult than doctors expected – in addition to a fistula, Debora had a large cyst and also had to be treated for schistosomiasis, a disease caused by parasitic worms that is common in many parts of Africa. Her fistula was so complex that three surgeries were required, but today Debora is healed and no longer leaks urine. Our partners at CEML report that following her surgery, Debora returned to her parents' home, and she is hopeful about her new life.

Debora was treated at our partner site Evangelical Medical Center of Lubango in Angola



Supporter Spotlight: Silky Kisses



We all sleep. Why not sleep on a deliciously luxurious silk pillowcase? Better yet, one whose proceeds support women suffering from fistula! Silky Kisses is a non-profit organization in Australia that "focuses on positive giving through shopping" – 100% of net profits from the sale of their pillowcases are donated to Fistula Foundation. Since 2013, Silky Kisses and its founder, Wendy Michell, have donated over \$25,000 to Fistula Foundation!

Silky Kisses are "made with Love" and come in every color of the rainbow. You can shop for these beautiful pillowcases and help women with fistula at www.silkpillowcases.com.au. A big thank you to Wendy Michell and the Silky Kisses team for their generous support!

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 for information and specific steps you can take to leave a legacy of healing.

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!

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Photo Credit: Dr. Lauri Romanzi



Dr. Lauri Romanzi (top center) with fistula surgeon trainees and Dr. Joy Robinson from the UK (top right)



Rwanda/Somaliland | This August, Fistula Foundation partner surgeon Dr. Lauri Romanzi led a collaborative fistula training exercise for surgeon trainees from Rwanda and Somaliland. Carried out at Edna Adan University Hospital and National Boroma Fistula Hospital in Somaliland, the training was a great success. 56 surgeries were completed and Dr. Romanzi reported that the six trainees in attendance collaborated extremely well, allowing for an accelerated and productive learning experience. The group will reconvene in early 2015 to complete a fistula repair clinic and receive more in-depth training.

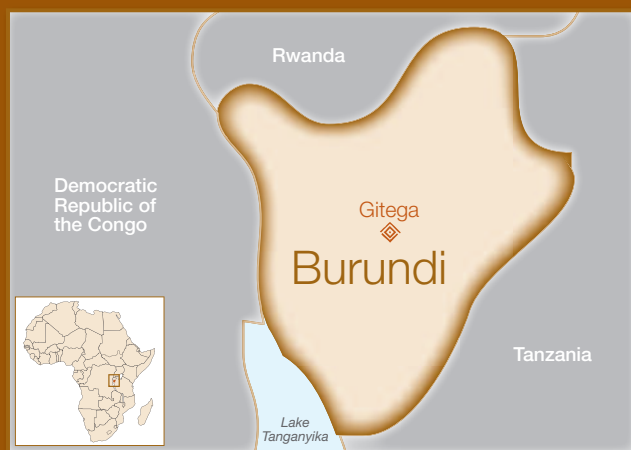


Photo Credit: Dr. Larry William

Burundi | We are thrilled to introduce one of our newest partners, Gihofi Hospital in Burundi. Providing competency-based surgeon training in fistula identification and treatment is a top priority of this project. Experts will train new surgeons in Burundi based on the standardized fistula manual recently developed by FIGO. This increase in the number of qualified fistula surgeons in Burundi, along with provision of necessary medical supplies and equipment, will result in women having greater access to fistula care services. Through this project, Gihofi Hospital hopes to perform 200 surgeries in the next year.

Pearl Necklace: \$125

This necklace incorporates a single cultured pearl, a universal symbol of health and purity, into a beautiful drop pendant.

Pearl Earrings: \$50

These elegant, cultured pearl earrings make a great accessory to any outfit and are custom-designed to match our pearl necklace.

Pearl Gift Set: \$150

Earrings and Necklace



The Ayesha Scarf: \$85

This soft and cozy rayon-blend scarf is the perfect accessory any time of year. Its versatile size (20x80") and color palette mean it goes with almost anything, and its signature Fistula Foundation diamond logo print helps to raise awareness about this too-often hidden condition every time you wear it.



The Jacinta Scarf: \$95

These chic scarves are custom-designed and 100% silk. They feature a floral design and measure a full 3 feet by 3 feet, allowing you to wear them in a variety of ways.



The Serafina Scarf: \$95



Africa Phone Case: \$35

We use cell phones every day – why not spread the word about obstetric fistula at the same time? This sleek bamboo phone case features a custom "Africa" design with our signature Fistula Foundation diamond logo. Made to fit iPhone 4/4s or iPhone 5/5s models.



Holiday Card: \$15

In thanks for your donation of \$15 or more, we will mail a customized holiday card to you or a loved one. It can even be personalized to include the handwritten name of you and your honoree!



Real women with fistula with one of our popular Gifts That Heal!
One in exchange for your generous donation. Each item includes a brief overview of
a woman a new life, so your loved one will know just how thoughtful your gift truly is!

To make your donation, complete and return the enclosed form by mail. Donate online
anytime at www.fistulafoundation.org. Or, simply give us a call toll free at 866-756-3700
(+1 408-249-9596 outside the U.S.) Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time.

To ensure the best possibility of your gift arriving by December 24 (continental U.S. only),
please place your order no later than December 16.

Our Signature Tees: \$25

These soft and comfy tees allow you to
spread the word about obstetric fistula in
style! Sizes S-XXL.



Fistula Logo Tee



One Woman at a
Time Tee



Love-A-Sister Card

Fistula is a devastating condition, but can be healed
with a surgery that costs, on average, just \$450.
When you choose to fully sponsor one woman's
surgery by making a one-time donation of \$450 or a
monthly donation of \$37.50 for 12 months, we will
send you or a loved one a
personalized certificate
celebrating
the life-
changing
surgery
you have
made
possible.



Assorted Note Cards: \$25

These note cards are perfect for
any occasion and feature
women who have been treated
by Fistula Foundation partners.
Every note card sent spreads the
joy that these



women feel after receiving a free,
safe and successful fistula repair
surgery. Each package of note
cards includes eight blank 5x7"
cards,
two each
of four
different
designs.



Dispatches from the Field

This September, Fistula Foundation Director of Development & Marketing Joop Rubens and Board member Dr. Larry William traveled to Central and East Africa to visit several of our partner sites. They began their journey at one of our longest-term partners, Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, before moving on to Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda. Read about highlights from their trip below.

Dr. William Visits Burundi & Rwanda



Photo Credit: Dr. Larry William

Larry with Dr. Yunga (forefront) and Gihofi Hospital staff

In Burundi, Dr. William visited Gihofi Hospital, a rural health center and the Foundation's first partner site in the country. Dr. William was impressed with the facility and even more impressed by its fistula surgeon, Dr. Jean de Dieu Yunga. Larry was able to observe Dr. Yunga in action in the operating room and visit with fistula patients before continuing to Central Hospital University of Kigali (CHUK) in Rwanda.

In Rwanda, Dr. William met with Fistula Foundation partner surgeon, Dr. Lauri Romanzi, and head of the OB/GYN Department at CHUK, Dr. Stephen Rulisa. They discussed the challenges and opportunities related to fistula care in Rwanda, met with trainee surgeons, and visited with fistula patients at the hospital.

Dr. William referred to CHUK as "a first class fistula surgery center" and is looking forward to continued growth as part of these new Fistula Foundation partnerships in Burundi and Rwanda.

Inspiration Found in Mumias, Kenya

by Joop Rubens

Why am I addicted to 105 degree, 12-hour days spent on pothole ridden dirt roads, praying for the car to hold it together and the late-afternoon downpours to stay away? Because these roads give me access to hope. A chance to go and listen to the stories of people who have overcome odds we will never have to face. The conversations along these roads are the most rewarding moments of my life.

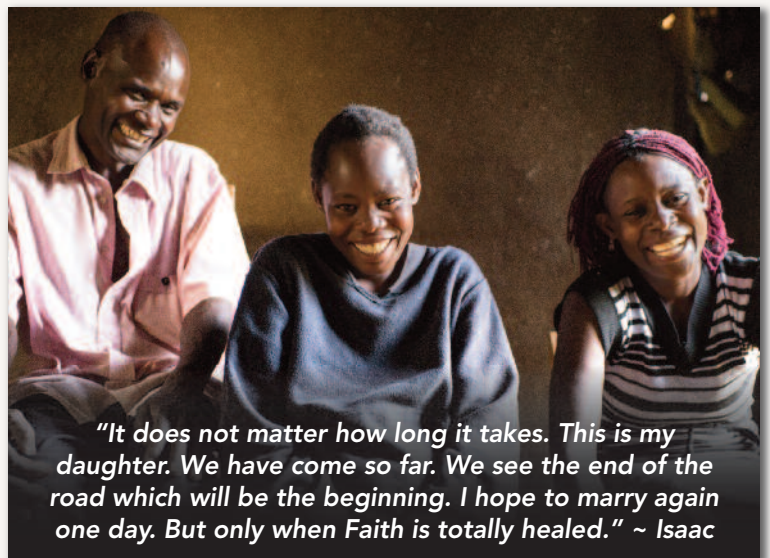
And sure, overwhelm tries to creep in. But the words of one caring father in a usually male dominated culture have the power to crush negativity and re-set my perspective.

For instance, in contrast to all the accounts of emotional isolation that is the result of obstetric fistula, stands the story of Faith. Faith developed a fistula in 2005 at the age of 12, and it took until this year for her fistula to be repaired. In August of 2014 she had surgery and is now on the road to recovery.

Although her mother left the household soon after Faith's injury occurred, her father Isaac stuck by her side. Isaac has not remarried and continues to care for all six of his children. He accompanies Faith to the hospital for every check-up.

Stephanie is the older sister of Faith and promises to teach Faith how to read and write, as Faith has never gone to school because of her fistula.

More 12-hour days and dirt roads please.



"It does not matter how long it takes. This is my daughter. We have come so far. We see the end of the road which will be the beginning. I hope to marry again one day. But only when Faith is totally healed." ~ Isaac

Photo Credit: Joop Rubens

**From left to right:
Isaac, Faith and Stephanie**

Surgeon Spotlight:

Fistula Foundation Board Of Directors

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Larry William, MD

Susan Wilson

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

Dr. Kees Waaldijk – Nigeria

Some of the unsung heroes in the fight against fistula are the surgeons who dedicate their lives to performing life-transforming fistula repair surgeries for women in need. At 73 years old, Dr. Kees Waaldijk is one surgeon who has truly gone above and beyond...and he's not showing any signs of stopping!

Considered to be one of the most experienced fistula surgeons in the world, Dr. Waaldijk has performed an incredible 23,782 repair surgeries throughout his career over the last 30 years. He is currently the chief surgeon of the Nigeria National Fistula Program, which operates at nine sites in Nigeria and an additional four sites in neighboring Niger. It is the largest obstetric fistula surgical and training program in the world and has provided over 43,000 surgeries to women with obstetric fistula since its creation in 1983.

Dr. Waaldijk is also a master trainer in the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) surgeon training program, and has trained 402 doctors and 375 nurses/midwives in obstetric fistula treatment. The information he has collected

over the years has been used to research different types of fistula, the effectiveness of various operating techniques, and even to predict results in future patients. Dr. Waaldijk is committed to evidence-based practices and documentation of results. He compiles detailed patient logs and gives each patient her medical history and operation report in a plastic-covered booklet.



Dr. Waaldijk presents new blankets to Laure Fistula Center in Nigeria.

Although the Nigeria National Fistula Program is largely government funded, current streams of funding are not sufficient to ensure the continued, uninterrupted availability of fistula surgery throughout each of the program's sites. Fistula Foundation is proud to have provided supplemental funding of over \$400,000 to the Nigeria National Fistula Program since 2012 to support free surgeries, surgeon training, and equipment upgrades.

The poor maternal health care indicators in Nigeria reflect the pressing need for fistula services throughout the country and continue to inspire Dr. Waaldijk's work every day. Despite the country's recent history of regional conflict and instability, he has remained dedicated to helping women in need access repair surgery. Needless to say, Dr. Waaldijk is one of Fistula Foundation's true heroes!



Allan Rosenfield Award

This October, Fistula Foundation proudly presented the Dr. Allan Rosenfield Award to Dr. Larry William, Linda Tripp and Rob Tessler at our annual board meeting in San Jose, California. The award recognizes the outstanding contributions of William, Tessler and Tripp to Fistula Foundation during their tenures on the Foundation's Board of Directors. They leave behind a deep and accomplished legacy, having helped lead Fistula Foundation through the organization's mission change in 2009.

Dr. Larry William is the longest serving board member in Fistula Foundation's history. He served on the Foundation's Grants committee for several years and recently completed his second visit to Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a center founded by his dear friend and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Dr. Denis Mukwege. Dr. William has also visited partner sites on behalf of the Foundation in

Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi. He is board certified in internal medicine and medical oncology and practiced privately for over 20 years.

Linda Tripp led the Foundation's Finance and Investments committee for several years. Prior to joining our board, Tripp worked at World Vision for 31 years on important issues like women's empowerment and refugee resettlement. She first became involved with the issue of obstetric fistula in 1981, when she met Drs. Catherine and Reginald Hamlin at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. She was deeply inspired by their work and we are extremely fortunate to have had her expertise and passion on our Board.

After reading an article about fistula by Nick Kristof in the *New York Times*, Rob Tessler knew he had to do something – but what? He contacted us at Fistula Foundation and the rest is history! Tessler has served on our Board ever since and made important contributions as part of the Governance and Nomination committees.

The award is named for the late Dr. Allan Rosenfield, who served on Fistula Foundation's board of directors for five years. As Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University he was known globally for his pioneering leadership and myriad contributions to the field of women's health. We miss Allan greatly and honor his memory by recognizing others who have made significant contributions to the mission of the Foundation.

Congratulations to all three award recipients!
You will be missed!



From left to right – Fistula Foundation CEO Kate Grant with Board members Rob Tessler, Linda Tripp and Dr. Larry William

\$10,000 Grant from The MAIA Foundation

This September, Fistula Foundation was honored to be the recipient of The MAIA Foundation's final grant in the amount of \$10,000. Established by sisters Laureen and Barbara DeBuono in 2008, the Foundation invests in solutions and programs that strengthen the capacity of women to navigate their health and that of their families in sub-Saharan Africa. After seven successful years, The MAIA Foundation is closing its doors, but their generous final gift will ensure the Foundation is making a difference for many years to come. We are truly touched by this gesture and grateful for the opportunity to steward these funds to help more women get the treatment they need. Thank you to Laureen, Barbara and The MAIA Foundation for their generous support!



Sisters Laureen and Barbara DeBuono, founders of The MAIA Foundation