



News from Fistula Foundation, Fall 2015

## IN THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 2

Kathmandu Model Hospital  
Reconstruction a Success!  
Surgeon Spotlight: Dr. Joseph Liko

### PAGE 3

Fistula Foundation Supporters Raise  
\$500,000 to Build a New Fistula  
Hospital in Kenya

### PAGE 4

One Woman's Story  
Your Donations at Work: Zimbabwe

### PAGE 5

Linda Edwards Joins Team Fistula  
Full-Time

### PAGE 6

FIGO's Pathbreaking Program  
Holds Surgeon Meeting in Ethiopia  
Peter Singer and Paul Simon  
Team Up to Fight Fistula

### PAGE 7

Supporter Spotlight: Adele Ohs  
Your Donations at Work: Angola

### PAGE 8

CEO Kate Grant Speaks at  
Oxford University  
It's a Girl for Sarah Omega!



Fistula Foundation  
1922 The Alameda, Suite 302  
San Jose, CA 95126-1430  
408-249-9596  
info@fistulafoundation.org  
www.fistulafoundation.org  
Facebook.com/FistulaFoundation  
@Fistula\_Fdn  
U.S. Tax ID 77-0547201  
Combined Federal Campaign #11521

## Campaign 2016

### You Can Make a World of Difference

At Fistula Foundation, we are truly humbled by what you have helped us accomplish over the past seven years through your support. The lives of more than 15,000 women have been transformed through surgery, thanks to you, helping fund more surgeries than any other nonprofit not receiving government funding. But we need your help to keep this momentum going into 2016. We're setting our hopes high: we want to provide free, high-quality fistula surgery to 5,000 women next year. You can help us make this a reality.

We work with local partners in more than 20 countries across Africa and Asia. We meet women who come from a variety of diverse backgrounds and cultures, yet who all share a common story: a story of loss, of shame, of isolation. This December, you can help us rewrite that story. Help us make a difference for women in need, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, from Angola to Zambia. With your help, we can transform lives and start a new chapter in the fight against fistula.

**2015 isn't over yet.**  
Help us heal a record  
number of women  
by making your  
charitable donation to  
Fistula Foundation  
before December 31.

Nearly half of our annual revenue will be earned in the final two months of this calendar year, meaning our ability to meet our 2016 goal of 5,000 surgeries is directly tied to the amount of funds we're able to raise by December 31. As 2015 comes to a close, we hope you will join us and give the gift of healing to women in need.





## Kathmandu Model Hospital Reconstruction a Success!

In the days following the devastating April earthquake in Nepal, you helped us raise an incredible \$150,000 in 24 hours to repair extensive damage to an operating room at our partner site, Kathmandu Model Hospital. We are happy to report that thanks to so many of you, and to the support of Frank Richardson – who provided a generous 2:1 matching gift for this effort, reconstruction is nearly complete and the hospital is now fully functional! It was a long process that required substantial repairs to damaged infrastructure, gas pipelines, and elevators, just to name a few. Now that the operating room is back up and running, Dr. Ganesh Dangal

and his team at Kathmandu Model Hospital can once again provide life-transforming fistula surgeries for women in Nepal, not to mention countless other critical medical services. Thanks again to everyone who supported this effort!



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



## Surgeon Spotlight

### Action on Fistula Surgeon Trainee Dr. Joseph Liko

Dr. Joseph Liko is an OB/GYN at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya. Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital is the second largest referral hospital in the country and serves a population of nearly 16 million people, mainly from three provinces in western Kenya as well as some parts of eastern Uganda and northern Tanzania. Obstetric fistula is prevalent in this region, and Dr. Liko sees a number of women come to the hospital each month whose lives have been devastated by its physical and social effects – not only are they incontinent, but they are often also suffering from malnutrition, stunted growth and depression. Yet there are never enough trained surgeons to effectively address the problem.

Dr. Liko decided he wanted to do something to help, especially after learning that many of the patients were from the same village where he grew up. “Charity begins at home,” he thought, and he applied for a fellowship with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)’s fistula surgery training program. His skills and dedication landed him a spot as a surgeon trainee at a FIGO-certified center in Kenya. He began training under Dr. Hillary Mabeya at Gynocare Fistula Center in June of this year, as a trainee in our Action on Fistula surgeon training program, funded by Astellas Pharma EMEA.

Dr. Liko completed his training in July and is now certified by FIGO as a standard level fistula surgeon. He will continue working with Dr. Mabeya at Gynocare, and hopes to one day become a trainer himself so that he can help other young surgeons address this important medical issue facing the women of Kenya.

Dr. Joseph Liko (right) with fellow FIGO trainee Dr. Judith Stenkamp





# You Did It!

## Fistula Foundation Supporters Raise \$500,000 to Build a New Fistula Hospital in Kenya

September was a big month for us at Fistula Foundation – we launched our first-ever campaign to fund the construction of a brand new fistula hospital in Kenya. It was an ambitious undertaking, but thanks to you, we were able to reach our goal of \$250,000 by September 30, enabling us to secure the full matching gift from our generous, anonymous donor!

The man behind this hospital is Dr. Hillary Mabeya, a visionary Kenyan surgeon whose life's mission has been to provide healing to women with fistula. Since 2009, he has worked from a makeshift health center that he rented and converted out of a formerly dilapidated house. Armed with a little elbow grease, a lot of determination and support from partners like One by One, Dr. Mabeya was able to turn that makeshift clinic into what is today Kenya's most impactful permanent fistula treatment center. But space grew too tight, and the landlord tripled Dr. Mabeya's rent, causing financial strain. Your help has enabled Dr. Mabeya to build the hospital he has dreamed of.

All of the funds raised through our campaign will go to construction costs of his new fistula hospital. When complete, the three-story building will immediately double the number of patient beds available, with room to grow. More operating space will be available, so more surgeons can get training in fistula repair through both FIGO and our Action on Fistula surgeon training program, and more women can be treated. And the new hospital will finally have indoor space for a dedicated counseling center that can help women heal emotionally and spiritually, as well as physically.



A big "asante sana!" ("thank you very much!" in Swahili) from Dr. Mabeya to everyone for making this campaign a success

We are proud to help Dr. Mabeya build a fistula hospital that women in Kenya deserve, so he can continue his work to transform as many lives as possible. To each and every one of you who helped make this campaign a success, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Thanks to you, construction costs of the Gynocare facility are close to being fully covered.



# ONE WOMAN'S STORY

## Binta from Guinea



Photo credit: EngenderHealth

*Binta was treated at  
Jean Paul II Hospital  
in Conakry in  
Guinea*



Binta is 35 years old and from Fidi, a landlocked village in northwestern Guinea. At 14 years old she was forced to marry a much older man, and soon became pregnant. After five days of painful labor, she lost her baby. A few days later, she realized that she was not able to control her urine. Binta spoke with her aunt who alerted her other family members, and together they decided to request the services of a traditional healer. The family sold their two goats to pay the traditional healer, whose services did nothing to heal Binta's fistula.

Little by little Binta became isolated from her friends. She felt ashamed, and eventually went to the neighboring country, Guinea-Bissau, to seek treatment. She spent nine months there working as a housekeeper, sometimes even begging to survive, but still did not have enough money for treatment, so finally returned home to Guinea.

One day, Binta's uncle heard a rural radio message inviting women like her to the local hospital for treatment. Binta went straight from her village to the hospital and, following an examination by a doctor, she and three other women were transported to Jean Paul II Hospital in the capital city, Conakry. Binta was required to stay for observation for 21 days before the surgery to ensure she was not affected by the Ebola virus, after which she finally received the surgery she had been waiting for 20 long years...and it was a success! Overjoyed, Binta exclaimed, "Unbelievably, I am dry! No more leakage, no more bad smell! It's just a miracle!"

## Your Donations at Work

**Zimbabwe** | Following a pilot project in 2013, we were able to establish routine fistula care services in Zimbabwe in conjunction with our long-term partner, Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA). Over the last year, 84 women received free, life-transforming repair surgeries at Parirenyatwa Hospital and Harare Central Hospital thanks to your support. These women also received psychological counseling, nutritional support and physical therapy, helping them to rebuild their health and confidence before they returned to their communities.



Photo credit: WAHA International



# Holiday Checklist

There are lots of ways to help women with fistula this holiday season:



## Give a Gift That Heals

Make the holiday season even more meaningful by sending a gift that gives back. Browse our online catalog for comfy tees, elegant scarves, colorful tribute cards and more!

[FistulaFoundation.org/giftsthatheal](http://FistulaFoundation.org/giftsthatheal)



## Double Your Impact

Many employers match employee charitable donations. Does yours? If so, your donation could go twice as far!



## Update Your Pledge

U.S. Federal Employees can pledge automatic payroll donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, through December 15. Pledge to Fistula Foundation through CFC #11521.



## Invest in Women

Help relieve your 2015 tax burden by making a gift of stock this holiday season. Call Niki in our office at (866) 756-3700 or e-mail [niki@fistulafoundation.org](mailto:niki@fistulafoundation.org) for more information about how to make this transfer.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

December 1, 2015

We make a living by what we get.  
**We make a life by what we give.**

- Winston Churchill



Begin the holiday giving season  
with a #GivingTuesday gift to Fistula Foundation  
[FistulaFoundation.org](http://FistulaFoundation.org)

## Congratulations Linda!

We would like to congratulate our Administrative Assistant, Linda Edwards, on becoming a full-time member of the Fistula Foundation team! Linda first got involved with Fistula Foundation as a volunteer in 2012. Thanks to her amazing administrative skills, she was invited to join our staff part-time in 2013. We are thrilled to finally have her on our team full-time – congratulations Linda!





L-R, Professor Peter Singer, Fistula Foundation CEO Kate Grant, Paul Simon, and Fistula Foundation Board Chair, Dr. Sohier Elneil

## Peter Singer and Paul Simon Team Up to Fight Fistula

The legendary Grammy-award winning singer-songwriter, Paul Simon, performed an intimate concert benefiting Fistula Foundation. The October 1st event, held in New York City, at the home of Katja Goldman and Michael Sonnenfeldt, raised over \$150,000 to fund fistula surgery for women in need.

The event came about because of a friendship formed nearly a decade ago between Paul Simon and visionary ethicist and Princeton professor, Peter Singer, founder of The Life You Can Save, when both men were selected as one of "100 People Who Shaped the World" by *Time* magazine. Mr. Simon offered to do a concert to benefit a favorite organization of The Life You Can Save and when Mr. Singer described our work, Mr. Simon chose Fistula Foundation. We could not be more honored, by their support or by the efforts of the organization's executive director, Charlie Bresler, in making the event possible.

Evening hostess, chef and cookbook author, Katja Goldman, prepared a meal to remember for the guests, filled with the love and generosity that was the hallmark of the evening. Fistula Foundation CEO, Kate Grant, a lifelong fan of Paul Simon's and devotee of Peter Singer's effective altruism movement, said that the event was a career highlight. "The living room was filled with exceptionally generous people there to hear Paul Simon and help women in need. I think I had bruises from pinching myself. To be recommended by Peter Singer, whose work deeply inspires me, and hear music from a man whose brilliance has brightened my life over decades, as he has millions around the world, was simply priceless."



Katja Goldman and Michael Sonnenfeldt



Photo credit: Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital

Fistula surgeons pose for a photo during the meeting

## FIGO's Pathbreaking Program Holds Surgeon Meeting in Ethiopia

We are proud to partner with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) on a training program for new fistula surgeons. This September, FIGO hosted a meeting largely for initial Fellows in the training program to discuss ongoing needs and challenges. Fistula Foundation Board Chair, Dr. Sohier Elneil, and Medical Director, Dr. Steven Arrowsmith, attended the meeting which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They were both greatly encouraged to find that all of the Fellows have remained active in fistula care and are helping women in a wide variety of geographic locations: Nepal, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Uganda, just to name a few.

Fellows expressed a desire to continue to continue their training in more advanced fistula repair, and also expressed the need for better equipped operating rooms at their respective facilities. Fistula Foundation is committed to supporting fistula surgeons and facilitating advanced training opportunities, and will continue working with FIGO to improve the program based on feedback from this meeting.



The meeting was coordinated by Gillian Slinger, Project Manager and by Lilli Trautvetter, Project Assistant, of the FIGO Fistula Surgery Training Initiative.



# Supporter Spotlight

## Adele Ohs



Adele's table at the Fremont Presbyterian Church "Alternative Christmas Market"

Several years ago, a friend encouraged Adele Ohs to watch a documentary film about obstetric fistula. She was profoundly moved by the film and immediately found Fistula Foundation online and made a small contribution. That same year, Adele's husband had the opportunity to visit the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital during a trip to Ethiopia, and he came back with a heightened desire to do something to help. Together, the Ohs hosted several teas at their home in order to raise awareness about fistula and the work of Fistula Foundation among their friends and family.



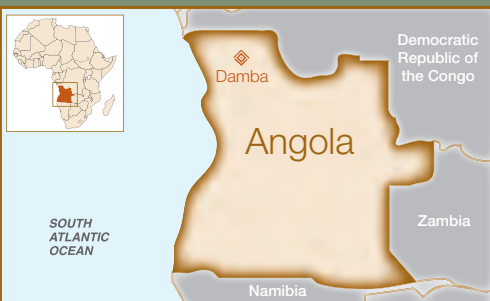
Adele Ohs

"Gifts of Hope," an annual event to raise awareness and funds for a specific cause. Adele set up a booth at her church's "Alternative Christmas Market" and invited visitors to make a contribution to the Foundation in lieu of buying a gift for someone on their holiday list. The results were impressive – Adele's booth ended up raising over \$1,000 in donations, and made hundreds of people aware of the issue of obstetric fistula.

Thanks to the Ohs, at the end of 2014 their local church chose Fistula Foundation as the recipient of

## Your Donations at Work

**Angola** | In 2013, Fistula Foundation began working with a new partner in Damba, Angola, known as Unidade Fístula Obstétrica (UFO). UFO is the only fistula treatment center in northern Angola, a country known for its poor health care infrastructure and the highest rate of child mortality in the world. In the first half of this project alone, 154 women received free fistula repair surgeries as



well as free transportation, nutritious meals and accommodation as they recovered. In addition, two local surgeons and several nurses received training in fistula repair and care.



Photo credit: Unidade Fístula Obstétrica



# CEO Kate Grant Speaks at Oxford University

## Addresses 2015 Effective Altruism Global Conference



Photo credit: Lauryn Vaughan

From August 28-30, effective altruists from around the world gathered at EA Global 2015, a series of Effective Altruism conferences that took place in three cities worldwide – Oxford, England, Melbourne, Australia, and at the Googleplex in Mountain View, California. The conferences featured a variety of notable speakers, including Tesla founder Elon Musk, as well as our very own CEO, Kate Grant, at the Oxford location. Ms. Grant spoke about Fistula Foundation, and how our efficiency and transparency allow us to be so effective in improving the lives of impoverished women throughout Africa and Asia. To learn more about the conference, visit [www.eaglobal.org](http://www.eaglobal.org).



Effective Altruism is a philosophy and social movement which applies evidence and reason to determine the most effective ways to improve the world. One of Effective Altruism's earliest proponents is Peter Singer, the renowned Australian bioethicist, author, and founder of the The Life You Can Save, an organization that maintains a list of 16 charities they believe can make the most positive change in the most effective ways. Fistula Foundation is honored to be one of these recommended charities, and a proud partner of the Effective Altruism movement.



Photo credit: Lauryn Vaughan

Kate Grant at Oxford EA Global



Sarah Omega Kidangasi with baby Jade.

## It's A Girl!

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Sarah Omega Kidangasi and her husband, Kennedy, on the recent arrival of their first child, a baby girl, Jade Jady! Sarah is our Action on Fistula Communications Officer in Kenya, and is also a fistula survivor and advocate. She has been instrumental in helping raise awareness about fistula and the availability of free fistula treatment in Kenya, and in identifying new patients and referring them for treatment. We couldn't be more thrilled for Sarah and Kennedy!

Thank you to the 258 of you from 20 countries who signed our e-card congratulating Sarah & Kennedy! If you haven't already, visit [fistulafoundation.org/its-a-girl](http://fistulafoundation.org/its-a-girl) to sign the e-card today.