



Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital
Private Bag 360
Chichiri
Blantyre

Tuesday, 02 May 2017

To: Lesley Sutton, MedEarth

Re: Donation of Container of Medical Supplies to Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre, Malawi

We would like to offer our sincere thanks for your donation of a 40ft container filled with medical supplies to Queen Elizabeth Hospital Blantyre. The container arrived on 12th April and was cleared by Malawi Revenue Authority on the 27th of April. They were delivered to Queen's on the 28th of April.

The contents (beds, lockers, trolleys and mattresses etc.) were predominately given to the Medical wards- most especially to the long term patients on the TB wards and to the male and female high dependency units. What was not needed by the Medical team was distributed equally between Surgical, Obstetrics, Accident and Emergency and Paediatrics. Senior Matron, Mrs Chigwenemba along with ChiraFund Coordinator, Alice Taylor and ChiraFund Project Manager, George Musowa supervised the distribution with ward staff. All items were signed for and placed directly in the wards.

The matron and sisters were particularly grateful for the large number of trolleys donated. The hospital has had a chronic shortage of trolleys and this has made it very difficult for

patient to be moved for x-rays etc. This resulted in some patients being physically carried by relatives so the trolleys were welcomed by all.

QECH was built in 1958 and at the time was considered the pinnacle of hospital facilities in Malawi. Today, nearly 60 years later, the buildings are cramped, owing not only to the HIV epidemic but also to an approximately 5-fold increase in Malawi's population since 1958. The wards are therefore no longer able to meet the needs of sick adult patients, let alone their guardians and families, or indeed the medical staff that work there. Statistics reveal the current problem of overcrowding with, for example, the 50-bed women's ward regularly housing over 70 patients, and sometimes over 100. This overcrowding results in mattresses being placed on the floor between beds and even in corridors. In addition, nursing & medical staff regularly work under extremely difficult circumstances with very limited resources.

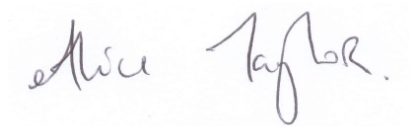
QECH is also the major clinical teaching site for Malawi's only medical school, with over 100 medical students based at QECH each day during the academic year. ChiraFund believes that the creation of a healthier, cleaner and more dignified environment for patients also creates a better learning environment for students. These graduates are Malawi's newest doctors – who will take their experience to district hospitals and health centres throughout the country. We also believe that if they learn their clinical practice in a positive, patient-supportive environment, they will translate this to wherever they work elsewhere in Malawi.

The importance of creating the conditions within which sick patients can be cared for in suitable and comfortable surroundings, as well as accommodating the guardians and families who assist with their care, has long been recognised. In a resource poor environment, donations of beds, trolleys and other medical equipment is hugely valued by all at Queen's and make a significant contribution to treating patients in an environment that enhances their care and healing.

ChiraFund is a registered charity both in Malawi and the UK and has been in existence for over ten years. Our mission is that "every person on the medical wards at Queen's hospital should be in an environment that promotes the best possible patient care, thereby facilitating the process of healing". We try to achieve this by improving the ward environment, purchasing necessary facilities, and providing and maintaining amenities that enhance patients' comfort and dignity.

Again, we are very grateful for your support and hope you will think of ChiraFund again in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Alice Taylor PhD

ChiraFund Coordinator

Dr. Jane Mallewa (Chairperson, ChiraFund Malawi)

Professor Malcolm Molyneux (Chairperson, ChiraFund UK)