

There are different ways to make your donation to support the work of Bwindi Community Health Centre:

- By cash or cheque payable to Bwindi Community Health Centre (please leave at your camp or deposit in the donations box)
- By electronic bank transfer account name: Bwindi Community Health Centre, Stanbic Bank, Kihihi, Uganda. Swift code SBICUGKX. Account number 0140072357301. Please email BCHCfriends@googlemail.com to let us know that you have done this.
- By credit card (see website www.BCHC.ug)
- If you have arrived home you can mail checks payable to The Kellermann Foundation to PO Box 1901, Penn Valley, California, 95946, USA.

All donations are given receipts and are tax-deductible

Thanks for your support from the staff of Bwindi Community Health Centre



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BCHC

Bwindi Community Health Centre

“That which you do for the least of them you do unto me...” (Matthew 25:40)



Bwindi Community Health Centre

History

Bwindi Community Health Centre (BCHC) was started by US missionaries Scott and Carol Kellermann in 2003. They opened a Church of Uganda Health Centre in the village of Buhoma close to the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in South West Uganda. It is now managed by members of the community and provides health care to about 25,000 people in Kayonza sub-county of Kanungu District; one of the poorest regions of the world. The local people include the Bakiga ethnic group and Batwa Pygmies who used to live in the forest but were excluded when the National Park was created to protect the mountain gorillas. They now live in poverty. The Health Centre also cares for soldiers who protect the area against incursions from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and staff who work for the Ugandan Wildlife Authority.

Health problems in Bwindi

The Batwa have the highest child mortality rates in the area. Many do not own their own land, and almost half of their children die before their fifth birthdays of preventable or treatable diseases such as malaria, dysentery, HIV/AIDS and pneumonia. Malnutrition, a disease of poverty, is rife. Adults fare only slightly better. Many women deliver children at home and die in childbirth, HIV/AIDS is epidemic and TB affects every village.

Funding

The Health Centre is partially funded through user fees, although Batwa Pygmies are not charged and other people who cannot afford charges are still treated. The rest of the running costs of the unit (approximately \$400,000 per year) and all of the development costs are met by your donations.

Services provided

The Health Centre is still young, but is developing quickly. Most people are given treatment in outpatients by a doctor or clinical officer. There are two wards that care for patients who are very ill, a delivery unit, an antenatal clinic run by a midwife and outreach programs to isolated Batwa settlements. A community worker manages TB medication and child immunisations. There is also dentistry



and diagnostic facilities including a laboratory, x-ray and ultrasound machine. In 2007 a surgical unit will open that will enable Caesarean Sections to be performed and visiting surgeons to operate.

Plans for the future

We have ambitious plans for the future. BCHC needs a children's centre and nutrition unit to deal with increasing demand. It needs to build a ward to look after surgical patients, an administration wing with a library and staff training rooms, and a Women's Health unit. By 2008 Bwindi Community Health Centre will be a Hospital. At the same time community-based services will be improved. Prevention of malnutrition, malaria and HIV/AIDS requires education and resources at a village level.

How can you help?

All donations make a real difference to the lives of people living in the vicinity of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. We welcome single donations or you could join the 'Friends' of Bwindi Community Health Centre.

'Friends' pay a monthly or annual subscription that helps to fund the running costs of the hospital – staff salaries, medication and equipment that can save lives. In return, you will receive regular updates from the Health Centre about it's progress.

- \$20 a month pays for fresh milk used to feed malnourished children
- \$50 a month pays the cost of fuel to get essential drugs and supplies from Kampala
- \$100 a month pays the salary of a nurse working in the paediatric ward
- \$350 a month pays the salary of a Ugandan clinical officer providing essential primary care services

For more information go to www.BCHC.ug or email BCHCfriends@googlemail.com