



Happy New Year!



We are starting the new year with so much hope at The Plaster House. Every day, children are being brought by their parents, caregivers and community leaders to The Plaster House with so much hope for treatment for their child. Their hope is infectious as the team at The Plaster House receive, assess and plan for each individual child's treatment. Our outreach team are taking the message of hope out on the road and have just started a 1,000km road trip to villages around Loliondo to educate people about disabilities, and to assess and recruit more children who will benefit from our program and care.

We are well on the road to our goal of treating 1000 children in 2021!

While the hope and trust that is placed in us and our program can be overwhelming, we are working hard to be able to meet and exceed expectations placed on us. We have started the year recruiting and employing new staff in all our departments; Medical, Operations, Outreach, and Finance & Administration. We are working with

our existing staff to upskill and provide further education opportunities. We have started renovations to improve our space and use of it (more below). All our plans and activities are to improve the care we provide to children with disabilities in Tanzania – to ultimately achieve our vision that no child in Tanzania should live with a treatable disability.

We look forward to sharing this exciting journey with you!

Building New Skills



This month we welcomed Dr. Prosper Alute from CCBRT in Dar es Salaam to train Dr. Peter Makanza, orthopedic surgeon at ALMC, on the treatment of neglected clubfoot. We set up a 3-day intensive training camp for Dr. Alute and Dr. Makanza to complete surgeries on 10 children with neglected clubfoot.

Jaclyn Lekule, occupational therapist at The Plaster House, has been treating children with neglected clubfoot with the Ponsetti method for many years, but until now we have had to outsource the surgery. We are excited that Dr. Makanza will now be able to do these surgeries at ALMC.

Further development of our clubfoot program is one of our goals this year, employing new staff and upskilling existing staff is key to treating more children with clubfoot through The Plaster House.

Changes at The Plaster House



Renovations have started with John Kraft, Architect, and Jandu Plumbers Ltd, our preferred construction contractors to make some changes to our center to better provide a loving and safe environment for all the children in our care.

We are renovating our kitchen and children's bedrooms that have been in constant use since it opened in August 2013. The kitchen expansion is important as we prepare food for all the children, parents and staff in our employ.

To reduce cost, simplify the logistics of doing laundry off-site and ensure proper hygiene, we are in the process of building a new laundry facility so it can be done on The Plaster House campus!

At The Plaster House, we believe that play is essential for healing. We will complete the therapeutic playground next to the Tencent dormitory to bring more smiles and speedy recoveries!

We recently purchased the building next door to The Plaster House to use for future volunteers, students and interns. We can't wait to welcome volunteers later this year into our developing volunteer/intern/student program.

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