

**W**elcome to the third issue of The Society Newsletter 2018. UCS is a civil society coordination network established in 2011 with the aim of coordinating civil society and individual efforts for a systematic contribution towards effective cancer control in Uganda through fostering collaborative advocacy, awareness creation, capacity building, research and patient support.

Uganda Cancer Society plays a catalytic role in ensuring coordinated responses by creating a common platform to identify the gaps that exist and begin developing joint actions towards realizing effective cancer control efforts. UCS will always leverage the capacity and experience of its member organisations to have a strengthened voice, coordinated approaches and strategic responses in cancer control.

This Newsletter is a quarterly publication creating a platform for the UCS membership to showcase their activities, discuss emerging issues and joint actions around cancer epidemic. It is also a platform to share regional initiatives and international engagements in cancer control.

**SPEAKER REBECCA KADAGA PARTNERS WITH UCS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER**



At the centre, Rt. Hon. Speaker and from left to right: Mr. Paul Ebusu, ED; Mrs. Miriam Wipfler, member Advisory Council; Prof. Charles Olweny, Chair Advisory Council, (and after the speaker), Dr. Margaret Okello Nyeko, Chair BOD; Ms. Gertrude Nakigudde, Board member; and Ms. Patience Asiimwe, RMO.

Uganda Cancer Society team meets with the Speaker of Parliament in a move to build partnership for a course - establishment of a Cancer Patients' Sanctuary and Information Centre. In this collaboration, the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga will be the Patron of the proposed sanctuary.

This Newsletter is written for UCS staff, member organisations, development partners, government, friends, well-wishers and any other person seeking information on our activities and what is happening in cancer control.

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The sanctuary will among others provide; Comprehensive counseling services, Group support sessions for patients/ caregivers with survivors, establish a one stop cancer information centre for patients and the general public, access to services like wigs, and prosthesis (artificial breasts, legs, arms etc.) for patients and survivors, and a call centre with a toll free line to provide the public with basic information through phone call conversation.

*Below: Imaginary structure of the cancer sanctuary*



## KITGUM POSITIONS FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

**D**oris Oyella Foundation (DOF), a member organisation of Uganda Cancer Society, is a newly founded and registered Community Based Organisation in Kitgum district, with a work secretariat in Kitgum Town Council. It was founded on the premise of recognising and carrying on the legacy of Doris Oyella who died of Cancer on January 14th, 2017.

The Foundation partnered with St. Joseph's Hospital to enable free access to screening for all women who come to the facility for cancer screening. This was a one week's exercise was preceded by one week's awareness raising from 24th to 29th September. A total of 471 women were screened and

23 of them were asked to return to the Hospital immediately for further investigations and or procedures.

The activities of DOF are being done 100% voluntarily! Resources for funding the various activities are being contributed by the Founding Members and Program Volunteers.

The Foundation has not been able to receive any other funding to support the vast planned activities, especially in the areas of awareness raising and outreaches to take services closer to the most disadvantaged rural communities.



Above: DOF conducts cervical cancer sensitization meeting and screening in Kitgum market.

## HEALTHAID UGANDA IN A CAR WASH FOR CANCER TREATMENT

**H**ealthAid Uganda conducted car wash as part of resource Mobilisation drive to raise funds for the screening and treatment of women with cervical and breast Cancers. The Executive Director, Agnes Agwang, revealed that health aid has positioned its self as a patient centered organisation. The car wash event that was held in ntinda was part of a series of others that were conceived with the motive of making greater contribution to cancer control.





## FORGING PARTNERSHIP WITH UGANDA CANCER TRUST UK

Right: Uganda cancer society meets with partners from Uganda Cancer Trust UK, and the center of discussion was building partnership for the purpose of building cancer patients' sanctuary and information Center in Uganda.



## CANCER ORGANISATIONS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT UNDER SOURCE PROGRAM

The Source Program is an organisation strengthening initiative for cancer organisations, that is implemented by Mabadiliko Changemakers, with funding from the American cancer society. The goal for the program is to strengthen cancer organisations and networks working in low and middle income countries so that they can implement a more effective and collaborative response to the local cancer burden. It is a competency based training and technical assistance program designed to strengthen participating organisations systems, processes, skills and resources.



Above: Uganda Cancer Society Board members and Secretariat receive their certificate of achievement from the SOURCE Program, 25th July 2018.

Dr. Jackson Amone, Commissioner Clinical Services MOH, addressing participants at the SOURCE program recognition event. This program looks at strengthening organizations for a United Response to the Cancer Epidemic.

He has appreciated the American Cancer Society for setting this program in place as the outputs are already visible an example being the cooperation by civil society in planning the annual World Cancer Day



## CANCER ORGANISATIONS EMBRACE URA TAX PAYERS APPRECIATION WEEK

Below: UCS participates in the Tax Payer Appreciation Week in September, 2018, Organised by Uganda Revenue Authority. Disseminating information about how our health sector is affected by cancer burden was key.



## KAWEMPE HOME CARE HOLDS AGM, 21ST JULY 2018

The AGM attracted participants from UCS Umbrellar senior public servants and other partners from the health sector. Attendees were treated to a wide range of activities including testimonies giving, presentations on cancer among others. The AGM had a senior retiree of Ministry of Health, Dr. Jacinta Amandwa as the Guest of Honour

Below: Attendees gather for a group photo





## PARTNERSHIP MEETING WITH MAKERERE AND QEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Below: Uganda Cancer Society team meets with Dr. Lynne Lohfeld, a medical anthropologist from Queens University Belfast, and Mr. Chrispus Musinde, Head of Department for Population Studies at Makerere University. At the center of discussion was building potential partnerships in pediatric palliative care in Uganda.



## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SECOND QUARTER

UCS held the first meeting for 2018, of Heads of member organisations dubbed Coordination Steering Committee on 19th July 2018. The meeting saw the election of Simon Wagalaga, the Executive Director at Health Home Initiative as the new Committee Chairperson, replacing Dr. Catherine Omaswa, the ED of Dr. Freda Omaswa Foundation (FOSHE Foundation), whose term ended that day. On the agenda were many issues including but not limited to the selection of civil society representation to the writing team of the National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP) and nomination of members to committees of the National Cancer Symposium (NCS).





## CAMP LA VIDA 2018

UCS participates in organising the child cancer survivors' camp at Lubowa. In partnership were Baylor Uganda, Texas Children Hospital and Uganda Cancer Institute. The event brought together childhood cancer survivors to participate in a wide range of activities including bouncy castle, football, balloon toasting and blowing.



## HEALTH HOME INITIATIVE CONDUCTS COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND SCREENING IN KAYUNGA, MUTUNDWE AND BUWAMA, JULY, 2018

*Below: A Section of community members waiting to receive cancer screening services during one of the medical camps organized by HHI in Kayunga*





## UGANDA CANCER INSTITUTE RECEIVES MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY UNIT VAN.

India's Honorary Consul to Uganda, H. E Madhsudan Agrawal, handed over a mobile mammography van to Uganda Cancer Institute, for screening and treatment of breast cancer in Uganda. The Chief Guest, State Minister for Health (In charge of General Duties), Hon. Sarah Opendi applauded H. E Agrawal for the passion and his philanthropic heart in the fight against cancer. Other dignitaries at the event included but not limited to, Uganda's High Commissioner to India, H. E Akello, Mrs. Rugunda, Prof. Charles Olweny (UCI Board Chair). The first cancer patient was handled during the commissioning.



Below: Minister Sarah Opendi (in black suit to the left) cuts a tape to mark the commissioning of the mammography van as Mrs. Rugunda (in white African wear) looks on.



Below: UCS and member organisations participate in the process of writing the much needed National Cancer Control Plan for Uganda.



Below: Uganda Non Communicable Diseases Alliance -UNCDA holds preparatory meeting for the 2018 United Nations High -Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases- NCDs slated for September. UCS board Chair, Dr. Margaret Okello Nyeko later represented the cancer fraternity at the international high level meeting in the United States.



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