

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Health Center Dedication in Kenya
*Project Collaboration between Bethesda Lutheran Communities
and Lutheran Friends of the Deaf*

In 2007, construction began for a medical facility at the Lutheran Compound in Kisumu, Kenya, accomplished with major funding from Bethesda Lutheran Communities and the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, a member of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations. With this funding, over the past 4 years, the Kisumu Health Center has grown and will soon provide health care to members of the ELCK (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya), children supported by the 1001 Orphans Program and students at the Lutheran Special School for the Mentally Challenged.

The public also will be eligible for services at the new health center and doctors from outside offices will be welcome to use the facility's medical equipment. A "rental" fee will be charged for use of a CT scan, dialysis machine, X-ray and surgical tools. As a result, this cash flow is projected to assist in making the clinic self-sustainable. Presently, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf continues to work on obtaining the equipment necessary for the Audiological Center within the clinic.

On December 4, 2011 the Kisumu Health Center was officially dedicated by the Archbishop Dr. Walter Obare Omwanza after a procession of area pastors, distinguished guests and a visiting choir from Tanzania. Among those present at the three-and-a-half hour long ceremony were Dr. John Bauer, CEO of Bethesda Lutheran Communities and Rev. Steven Schumacher, Director of Deaf Ministry for Lutheran Friends of the Deaf. At the unveiling of the Center's dedication plaque, the Director of the Diakonia Ministry, Rev. David Chuchu, introduced Dr. Bauer and

Rev. Schumacher, taking the opportunity to thank their organizations for their presence and participation at the celebration, in addition to the financial support of both.

Following the plaque's presentation by Dr. Bauer and Rev. Schumacher, each spoke to the more than 300 attendees gathered at the divine service. At one point, Rev. Schumacher reflected on touring the clinic the Friday before with Rev. Chuchu and Dr. Bauer. He said, "As we entered the surgical room, the CAT scanning room, the x-ray room, as well as the others, I was overwhelmed with the Christian generosity of many individuals across America. There have been medical doctors, hospitals and clinics from New England to Texas to Washington who have donated the needed equipment to provide health care to so many here in western Kenya. Just as important, are the many financial donors to both Bethesda and Lutheran Friends of the Deaf who have given so faithfully over the years to make this partnership a blessed success."

In further sentiments, Rev. Schumacher went on to say, "How blessed Lutheran Friends of the Deaf is to be part of this clinic and ministry in Kenya, Africa! How blessed we are to have so many supporters who join with us, in each and every project, as we reach out to the Deaf, around the world, to enhance their lives with Christ!" Participants also heard from Pastor Shauen Trump, LCMS representative, before the conclusion of the meaningful occasion, at which time Archbishop Obare offered a few closing thoughts. The final inspection of the new medical center by the Ministry of Health is anticipated for January, 2012, bringing the vision of a mercy-centered health facility to reality.

A mission of Mill Neck Foundation, Inc., Lutheran Friends of the Deaf provides support for educational and evangelistic outreach to Deaf people of all ages throughout the United States and World. To date, over \$7,000,000 has been granted to a variety of church-related ministries here and abroad. Mill Neck Foundation, Inc. and Lutheran Friends of the Deaf are part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, a not-for-profit group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are Deaf, or who have other special needs, through excellence in individually designed educational, vocational or spiritual programs and services. For more information, please call 1-800-264-0662 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

Photo Captions:

1. A choir from Tanzania leads the procession to the dedication of the Kisumu Health Center in Kenya.
2. Archbishop Obare receives the key to unlock the clinic doors.
3. View of the Surgical Room.
4. Diakonia Bible School Choir performing at the celebration.
5. Rev. Schumacher (left) and Dr. Bauer read the dedication plaque.
6. The dedication plaque outside the front entrance to the clinic.