

Rehab News

Volunteers: In recent months rehab has been blessed by the help of two volunteer OTs who have used their skills and expertise to promote the work of occupational therapy in the hospital, community and rehabilitation department. Many thanks to Loretta Ho and Shelley Crawford, who gave up time from their jobs, in Australia and Northern Ireland respectively, to volunteer within the rehab department.



Tailoring classes: Part of our work at the rehabilitation centre is to try to help disabled clients to become as independent as possible learning new skills, and making an income for themselves. Recently, we started a tailoring class, where disabled clients come in for 2 weeks a month, for 6 months to train and learn the skills to use a sewing machine. At the end of the six months they return home to their communities to try to support themselves with their newly acquired skills. The motto of Kisiizi Hospital is “**Life in all its fullness.**” At the rehabilitation centre we try to enable our disabled clients to achieve a life which is in all its fullness.



Here is one of the stories of a client who attended the tailoring class: Betty was born with a deformity of her left hand, which meant that her left hand was shortened from the elbow to the hand. She lives at home with her parents, but was previously earning very little money as a housemaid. Since attending the tailoring classes and getting a sewing machine, Betty has done

remarkably well. She is now making the school uniforms for the schools in her village. She has a steady and regular income now – and has raised enough money herself, to go for further qualifications in tailoring, where she is now studying part-time and learning different designs and fashions. Betty is extremely grateful for the skills she achieved in the tailoring classes and for the gift of a sewing machine – which has changed her life dramatically.



CP camp: In October, we held another CP camp – this is a short two week camp for children with cerebral palsy (CP) and their parents. Six children were selected of similar abilities and the camp aimed to educate the parents on what cerebral palsy was and how they could manage their own children at home, looking at issues such as feeding, handling, stretching, dentistry, nutrition, and health promotion. The camp also enabled the therapists to provide specialist equipment including a specially adapted chair and standing frame for each child. These children continue to be followed up in the community.



Tools with a Mission (TWAM): Following on from our tailoring class, we were able to establish a link with TWAM, a Christian charity which donates tools and enables people to earn a living and to support themselves. TWAM have kindly donated 10 sewing machines which should be arriving soon – and will enable us to continue teaching tailoring skills to disabled people to help them to become more independent and to earn a living and support themselves. Thanks to TWAM for making this possible.