

REPORT FROM OBAATAN PA WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, ACCRA GHANA on

Fall, 2014 Diocesan grant of \$1800.00 received for purchasing of Fetal Monitor Paper for labor Management.

St James Episcopal Church, Wooster, OH 44691

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

There have been 63 newborn deliveries at Obaatan Pa Women's Hospital from September 2014 to date. On 9/25/2015 we celebrated the birth of the 100<sup>th</sup> baby at this facility. This male child was greeted with a lot of excitement and celebration, particularly because he was born to a woman who was having her second delivery at our facility, testifying to her satisfaction with the care she received before. The Apgar score is a simple score obtained on all babies at 1 and 5 minutes of life to measure how well they are adapting to life outside the womb. A score of 7 or more at 5 minutes is generally seen as a measure of good labor care, and evidence that the baby was not deprived of oxygen nor did it suffer other untoward events during labor. During this period we had ZERO babies born with a 5 minute Apgar score of less than 7. We are very proud of our fetal monitoring units, and our ability to use these with support by the grant received from the Diocese, allowing us to purchase special paper for these monitors, which we use sparingly. All our babies are able to benefit from this element of care. Less than 1% of babies in Ghana or other developing countries would receive such an advantage.

Other activities at the Hospital include Outreach, continued provision of outpatient Gynecologic care, and surgeries. One of our outreach programs involved a visit to a refugee camp on the outskirts of Accra in July 2015, where we spent the day screening for Hypertension, Diabetes, cervical and breast cancer, uterine tumors, and treating anemia, and minor aches and pains. 40 women were seen, and a large number had to be sent away, so we hope to visit again in November and see more of them. There was a significant number (over 25%) of findings of previously unknown pathology, which we then directed the patients to treatment for. We hope to provide surgery for a couple of these women later this year. Outpatient care includes examinations and treatment for minor ailments and provision of antenatal or contraceptive care when desired. The outpatient department is open for 6 days a week for various lengths of time, manned by 4 physicians. Over 1200 visits have been made in the past year. On the surgical side, since September 2014, 15 minor and 58 major surgeries have been performed successfully. We have had fewer than 5 significant complications from surgeries, these including blood transfusion, unexpected return to operating theater or serious infection. There have thankfully been no patient deaths. We are grateful to the Diocese of Ohio for its support for this project which is helping to improve care for women and their newborns in Accra, Ghana.

Other big developments at Obaatan Pa Women's Hospital have been 1. the installation of solar panels to provide power during the frequent –every other day - power outages which occur in Accra. They were installed in July 2015 and have functioned very well to date, saving money on diesel purchases for the Generator, which can be harnessed for direct patient care. They also allow our staff to provide comfortable (fans for the severe heat) and good care (lighting for general nursing procedures), that were difficult and expensive to keep up with before. 2. We have been awarded this month only, a

Rotary global grant (\$49,850.00) towards the purchase of a service vehicle for the facility, and to finance the visit of a Vocational training team of nurses and a surgical technician from the United States to help improve service delivery at our Hospital. They will work alongside our nurses and upgrade the local standards. 3. We are expecting our very first visit from volunteers, 3 non-medical people from St James church who will spend time at Obaatan Pa Hospital sorting out our storeroom supplies, and creating a proper inventory in early October 2015. This should improve our logistics and planning at the Hospital.

Below I attach the Annual Report prepared for maintenance of local Non-profit status.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF OBAATAN PA WOMEN'S HOSPITAL . *April 14, 2015*

##### Accomplishments this year

Maintained the in-patient facility with essentials which allows women to:

1. Labor and deliver safely with appropriate monitoring
2. Undergo surgery under conditions of a high standard
3. Recover comfortably in the hospital after childbirth or surgery.
4. Be admitted for medical care of non-surgical conditions. (E.g. malaria, premature labor, Hyperemesis gravidarum)
5. Opened up the new building for outpatient visit.

These are possible because

- a. We now have enough midwives to provide 24/7 coverage.
- b. There are currently four physician specialist Obstetrician Gynecologists working at the hospital.
- c. We have added more water storage tanks and increased our capacity so as to prevent shortages.
- d. Several smaller shipments of furnishings and medical equipment to supplement the basic ones we have were received.
- e. A laundry machine was installed and is in use.

We have registered and seen over 300 new patients at the facility this past year.

45 babies have been delivered at the facility this second year, all with 5 minute Apgar scores of greater than 7 (an indicator of being born without significant fetal distress.) These include 2 sets of twins. Most of these patients received their prenatal care at our facility.

Over 40 major surgeries have been performed at the facility, all but two of whom have been discharged on the expected date without major complications. These two recovered fully later. There have been no post-operative infections. The surgeries are mostly Cesareans and myomectomies.

A free well woman exam day was held on at which over 20 low income women received free screening for hypertension, diabetes, obesity, cervical and breast cancer. This represented a total of ₺3100.00 in donated care. Together with other discounted or free care, an approximate total value of over ₺32388.00 in health care has been donated (almost 14 % of total income at the facility).

### Infrastructure

Construction of the Outpatient facility was completed, and it is in use, freeing one ward in the inpatient facility to be furnished in the future as a fourth ward. The suite of consulting rooms/offices is done. A small ground floor flat for staff use is complete and available for nurses who need it from time to time. Work is completed with the living quarters on the second floor, including an apartment which will be used by volunteers who come to help with training and other ancillary services.

### Staff training

Training of the staff on maternal and fetal monitoring before and during labor, neonatal resuscitation and management of obstetric emergencies such as shoulder dystocia, preeclampsia and bleeding complications of pregnancy continues. More staff members have been trained in sterile surgical technique and to assist at surgery. We now sterilize all our instruments on site, again by one of our own staff. A University graduate nurse has been hired who is serving as the matron, since the previous one retired.

### Governance

Two board meetings were held at Obaatan Pa in April and October 2014.

### Financials

Total collections from operations from April 2014 to February 2015 are ₺236,180.00. Expenses over the same period total ₺265,466.00 including staff salaries and utilities, but no infrastructure costs. Rent of over ₺132,000.00 has not been paid. A total of ₺5500.00 in donations was been received locally.

### NEEDS

We are in need of a health services administrator to streamline services, as the facility is growing. A service truck to help with staff transportation from their public transport drop points would be extremely helpful. A system for stabilizing electrical power to the whole facility is needed, and we are attempting to establish the use of solar power for the frequent power outages. A small lab for basic hematology and chemical testing would improve our turn-around time and quality of care. Assistance is still needed with funding the facility, given the very large shortfall between expenditures and income.

#### FUTURE

Some of the income deficit can be met when the volume of patients increases, and to this end more advertising opportunities and speaking engagements will be sought to increase public awareness of the facility and what we offer, as well as to educate the public on the need for primary preventive care. Future free well woman exam days for those of low income are planned. We hope once we have a vehicle, to be able to perform some of these in different locations, outside our immediate environment. We hope to be able to perform more technologically sophisticated surgery as we train our operating room staff to handle the equipment, with the aid of volunteers for teaching.

Training of auxiliary health personnel and provision of needed services, which are not currently commonly available (e.g. antepartum testing in high risk pregnancies) to other hospitals could serve as a source of income.

Respectfully submitted

Amelia Laing, MD, FACOG, Medical Director.