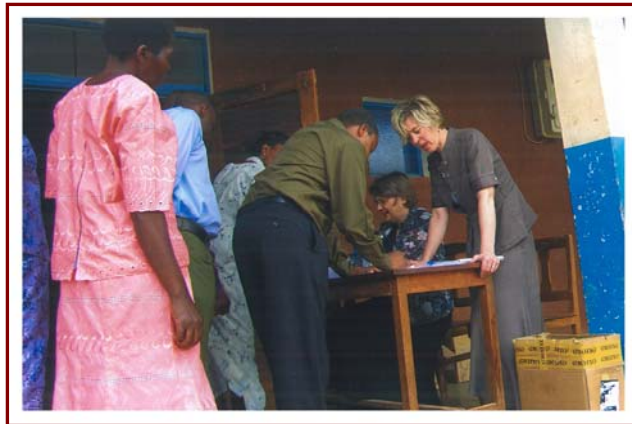


Tanzania Palliative Care Partnership Trains 192 Healthcare Workers, Reaches Year-One Targets

Twinning Center partners at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania's Pare Diocese and the Southeast Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have trained 192 healthcare professionals in palliative care principles and techniques, meeting year-one targets.



Partners register trainees at the March workshop in Same.

Using training materials developed by the African Palliative Care Association, teams from Tanzania and Iowa conducted three training programs in Pare Diocese, Kilimanjaro Region.

Five-day workshops held in November 2007 and March 2008 trained a total of 136 healthcare providers in Same, while a similar session conducted in February 2008 trained 56 participants in Mwanga.

"We are very pleased that people from Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and governmental facilities in both medical districts of the Pare Diocese responded to our invitation to attend these training programs," says Dr. Amini Mshighwa, medical secretary of the Pare Diocese.

According to Pam Powers, a nurse manager/care manager at Primary Health Care, Inc. in Des Moines who served as a trainer for the March workshop, "We learned that our colleagues were only generally familiar with the term palliative care, so our session helped them appreciate its value for the care of terminally ill and their families."

This appreciation was evident the pre- and post-test results, which showed significant differences in participant attitudes toward palliative care, particularly as a part of overall care for terminally ill HIV/AIDS patients.

"The palliative care services will be very important to the people of the region who are suffering from HIV/AIDS," says Pare Diocese Bishop Stefano Msangi, who opened each training session and presented certificates of completion to the trainees.

With support from PEPFAR through CDC/Tanzania, partners are focusing on direct delivery of palliative care in six pilot communities and training volunteer caregivers whose efforts will be coordinated with the healthcare providers already trained.

Published in the Spring 2008 edition of "Field Notes," the quarterly newsletter of the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center.