

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPERIENCED PAEDIATRIC PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS TO GAIN THERAPY EXPERIENCE IN A COMMUNITY PROGRAMME IN UGANDA

At Potter's Village, in KISORO, Uganda we can offer a voluntary placement from 2 weeks to two years joining our rehab team in assessment and treatment of children with neuro developmental conditions such as cerebral palsy, developmental delay, Down's Syndrome, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida and hydrocephalus. We run the 'ABANA' parent training programme from the London Hospital of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases, are starting community clinics and disability awareness training. There is also involvement in treating children under the age of 12 yrs in the medical centre ward and special care baby unit establishing an early intervention programme for children with neuro developmental conditions. There is low cost accommodation available on site in the visitor's hostel. This is a volunteer position and needs to be independently funded.

Background

Potter's Village is a children's project in Kisoro, south west Uganda near the border with DRC and Rwanda. It is run by the Church of Uganda, is partly supported by a UK charity (Friends of Potter's Village) and has a strong Christian ethos. It consists of a crisis centre for approximately 18 babies, offering a temporary home for babies whose Mother has died or has severe mental illness.

A medical centre offering outpatient and inpatient care for children up to the age of 12yrs, an immunisation programme and a special care baby unit with approximately 26 beds for premature, very sick and asphyxiated babies with facilities for oxygen and CPAP treatment. A nutrition programme for malnourished children and the rehab programme for disabled children.

Rehab Programme for disabled children

The programme started in November of 2019 and is currently run by a volunteer UK paediatric physiotherapist and a rehab assistant with hopefully, a Ugandan physiotherapist joining the team soon. There is no paediatric therapy service in the whole of the district of Kisoro and the number of disabled children is estimated to be well over 5000. There is a lot of stigma and superstition regarding disability in Uganda, and families with a disabled child are often the poorest, rejected and marginalised by other members of the family and community where the mother is often blamed for the disability. The rehab centre offers these families a haven of love, respect and hope as we work to help each child reach their full potential. As well as the therapy opportunities above there are opportunities to be involved with the teaching and training of staff and mothers, locally made equipment, and toys made using paper technology. For more information see www.pottersvillage.org.uk, click on ministries and rehab programme for disabled children and email Janie Robson (physio) at karibu7rafiki@gmail.com