



"Kissy Clinic's" Benevolence Fund

I find great comfort in the assurance that GOD is always with us! It's not easy to live among the constant pain & suffering of the people in war torn Sierra Leone without the gift of HOPE given through Jesus Christ.

UMC Kissy Maternity & Health Center strives to serve the poor. We set our fees the lowest possible to meet the health needs of our patients while still allowing us to run a cost recovery system. Sometimes even this is not enough!!!

Benevolence cases are *NOT* turned away from "Kissy Clinic". This quality is unique in that surrounding private & governmental health care facilities require all fees be paid in advance of treatment.

I would like to introduce you to one of the benevolence patients we recently served. Mary Kanu is a 23 year old single women displaced from McKinney during the war. She was admitted to our clinic in a confused state with excruciating bone & joint pain. Mary suffers from a severe, chronic, incurable hereditary blood disease called Sickle Cell Anemia.

The red blood cells affected by this disease are crescent shaped, unlike normal donut shaped red blood-cells with concave centers. The sickle cells cause obstructed flow in the capillaries. Symptoms include fever, weakness, confusion, swelling, & intermittent severe joint & bone pain.

Mary's father & her 27 year old brother have died as a result of Sickle Cell Anemia. She also has one younger brother suffering with the same disease. Mary Kanu's mother & five other siblings are free from the disorder. Mary's mother supports herself raising a small garden & selling the produce. She is unable to contribute toward Mary's costly medical needs.

When I was asked how Mary learned about "Kissy Clinic" she told me about New Life Mission Church. Friends attending this church had been praying for Mary in their prayer group. Mary was invited for prayer & joined the church two years ago. She has received tremendous support from her pastor who has given Mary food, clothing, shelter, & recently brought her to Kissy Clinic.

Mary's symptoms were treated. She showed much improvement & was discharged in just 9 days. The benevolence funds needed to treat Mary Kanu totaled 72,500 Leones (~\$34.62 USD). Our Benevolence Fund total for the year 2002 was 5,811,500 Leones (~\$ 2,767.38). If you would like to help ensure that patients like Mary Kanu are not turned away from "Kissy Clinic" due to lack of funds, *PLEASE* find it in your heart to contribute to our Benevolence Fund...

- Sally F. Morris, GBGM Missionary

For more information please contact Rev. Joe & Carolyn Wagner

Email - wagners@operationclassroom.org

Phone - (765) 324-2556

Fax - (765) 324-2656