



Mission to Laikipia, Kenya, August, 2006

The Paul Chester Children's Hope Foundation, in conjunction with the Gallmann Memorial Foundation and the Pan American Medical Society, has recently completed a landmark mission to a remote area of north central Kenya's Great Rift Valley. The mission began with dance ceremonies by women from Kikuyu, Samburu, and several other tribes from the region and a beautiful dedication to Paul Chester and Emanuele Pirri-Gallmann. At its conclusion we had fully outfitted an operating and consultation room and added monitors and supplies to the Maternity Clinic & Health Center, expanding on work begun earlier by Kuki Gallmann.

Prior to our arrival over 4500 lbs of supplies were shipped from Washington & NY to Nairobi, transported overland 5 hrs to Laikipia, and stored at the Gallmann Nature Conservancy. This included maternal and fetal monitors, a complete OR (lights, tables, monitors, anesthesia machine, surgical instruments) and significant supplies for future trips. During the mission all equipment was checked and the solar powered electrical system was tested.

On day two we began evaluating and treating patients at the adjacent Ol Moran Catholic Mission. Many of these patients were treated on site, some were referred for future treatment (surgical eye and ear conditions), and two had successful surgery in the newly outfitted OR (hernia repair, tumor removal). All the patients were extremely grateful for our assistance.

Our future plans call for a return in January and June of 2007. Prior to these missions we are encouraging local physicians and surgeons, nurses, and government officials to visit the facility with the intent of providing continuous local support and staffing. Our role should eventually be one of collaboration, technology transfer, and possibly funding of full-time staff as the needs of the facility become better defined.

In addition, we will work closely with the Catholic Mission and District Medical officers in coordinating treatment of difficult medical or social problems that may arise. We have agreed to provide \$5000 towards the installation of a solar-powered pump--which will quadruple the pumping capacity of the existing well.

If you have been one of our donors, we appreciate your trust in having us put your donation to good use. Thank you.

*William Chester, MD*