



Creating “Homes-Away-from-Home” For Women with Cancer in Tanzania

The Challenge

Tanzania has some of the highest rates of cervical and breast cancer in the world, yet only one hospital in this country of 49 million has specialized services to treat them. Based in Dar es Salaam, Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) treats close to 10,000 women each year for cervical and breast cancer, 60 percent of whom live outside the capital. A second cancer hospital is scheduled to open in 2016 at Bugando Medical Centre (BMC) in Mwanza, the nation’s second-largest city, on the shores of Lake Victoria.

Despite the availability of these facilities, many women diagnosed with cancer do not seek care, or drop out once they have started. Most will die at home.

The reason? They simply live too far from the hospitals, and have no safe and affordable place to live between sessions of their cancer treatment.

Women who lack the funds to pay for long-term lodging, or those who do not have family or friends in Dar es Salaam or Mwanza with whom they can live with for extended periods, face the prospect of having to camp outside without appropriate shelter on or near the hospital grounds. As a result, many women choose to stay home and die, rather than endure cancer treatment in a city far from family and home in places that are uncomfortable or unaffordable.

Proposed Solution: The “Hostels for Hope” / “Bweni la Matumaini” Design Competition

Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon, the American Cancer Society, the George W. Bush Institute, HKS, Inc., Southern Methodist University (SMU) and T-MARC Tanzania seek to provide a home-away-from-home for these women, much like the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodges in the United States. After detailed research, we have found the cost of designing and building similar places in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza with traditional construction methods to be financially prohibitive. This has stimulated a search for a creative and cost-effective alternative.

We know innovative people have solved similar challenges in the developing world by using modular units, pre-fabricated structures, local materials and ecologically sustainable approaches. We wish to bring such creativity to bear on the design of wellness hostels, so that women with cancer in Tanzania can get the care they need to survive.

We are launching an international architecture and design competition to find new ways of constructing “home-away-from-home” communities for cancer patients by using innovative methods, fresh thinking, sustainable materials and resourceful ingenuity.

The proposed competition would stimulate inventiveness and creativity, resulting in projects with the potential to increase access to critical treatment that will save the lives of many women. We hope this competition will also help generate sufficient interest in the winning ideas to support investment in their construction, as well as the replication of the models in other places.

Goals of the Competition

1. Ensure **more women can complete their cancer treatment** by removing logistical barriers;
2. Use innovative design to **create greater awareness** of women’s cancers;
3. Provide an opportunity to **advance the goals of socially responsible architecture**;
4. Offer young/aspiring architecture, design and engineering students, including those from Africa, the **chance to create a real-life work project** that will change lives; and
5. **Inspire new partners** to work with Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon.

Competition Details

The launch date of the competition is April 7, 2016.

- The organizers of the Competition are **Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon and the American Cancer Society**, in collaboration with **SMU, HKS, Inc., T-MARC Tanzania** and the **George W. Bush Institute**.
- **Submissions will follow one of two tracks:**
 - One for **professional** architecture, design and engineering firms; and
 - One for university or post-graduate **students and recent graduates** in those fields.
- **Entrants will compete for prizes by submitting their most innovative design for one or both of the hostels**, and should take into account both general parameters and specifications unique to each site.
- A jury, composed of internationally recognized architects, designers (including at least one prominent Tanzanian) and cancer specialists, **will judge the entries, and choose the winners in the two categories.**

Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon: A Global Catalyst

Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon®, affiliated with the George W. Bush Institute, leads coordinated action to save women and girls' lives from cancer in countries where the need is greatest. Launched in September 2011, the partnership's other founders are the U.S. Government through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Susan G. Komen® and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Dedicated to providing services for the prevention and treatment of cervical and breast cancer, Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon also includes corporate and foundation members – Becton, Dickinson and Company; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation; the Caris Foundation; GlaxoSmithKline; Merck; and QIAGEN – and collaborating partners, such as the American Cancer Society, the National Breast Cancer Foundation, LiveStrong Foundation, and GE Healthcare. With the engagement of national governments, non-governmental and multilateral organizations, and key local leadership, the partnership results in country-owned, sustainable programs that allow women and girls to access the care they need to have the opportunity to thrive.

How We Work

By mobilizing resources from governments, multilateral organizations, foundations and corporations, Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon® and its partners work on a full continuum of interventions from prevention to palliative care by:

Educating

communities about breast and cervical cancer, and enabling women to access prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support.

Vaccinating

girls against the virus that causes cervical cancer.

Screening

women for breast and cervical cancer, including through visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) and HPV DNA.

Treating

women for cervical pre-cancer with simple, low-cost methods: cryotherapy, thermal coagulation and the loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP).

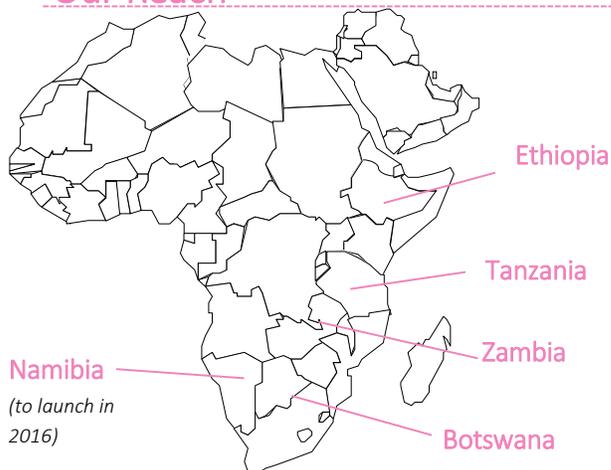
Increasing

access to life-saving diagnostics, products and treatment, and providing care and support.

Training and equipping

public and private providers to screen for and treat cervical and breast cancer.

Our Reach



Our Results

- **104,907** – number of girls vaccinated with all three doses of HPV vaccinations in Zambia and Botswana since 2011;
- **168,959** – number of women screened for cervical cancer in Zambia since 2012;
- **16,126** – number of women screened for cervical cancer in Botswana since July 2012;
- **35,711** – women screened for cervical cancer in Tanzania since July 2013;
- **10,143** – number of women screened for breast cancer in Tanzania and Zambia since July 2013.

To learn more about how you can partner with Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon, visit www.pinkribbonredribbon.org