

Robin Orner

From: Jodi and Steve Swanson in Tanzania <jodiswanson@57460009.mailchimpapp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 3:59 PM
To: First Lutheran Church
Subject: Building and Transition



Arusha Pediatric & Maternal Care Centre is open!!

May 2026

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson
Medical Global Personnel
Arusha, Tanzania



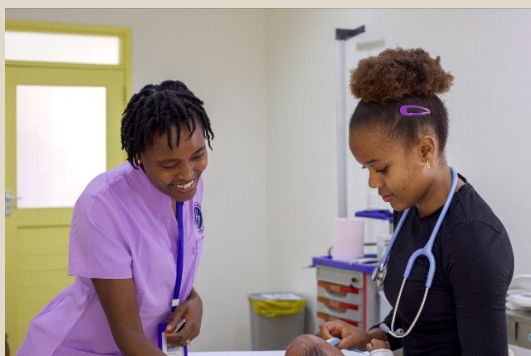
Dear First Lutheran Church

What a joy it is to announce the Grand Opening of Arusha Pediatric & Maternal Care Centre (APMC)! The heart of APMC is caring for children and families — from conception through adolescence — in a space designed to provide excellent, compassionate, and efficient care. From the moment you enter the

centre it is clear that the family is the focus. The smiles on their faces this past week tell their own story. There is a remarkable sense of peace throughout the clinic that is felt by both staff and patients. We only wish you could visit in person!

Creating APMC has been a true team effort and a tremendous joy. I (Jodi) especially loved helping design the gardens, artwork, and clinic spaces. Tanzanian landscapes, playful animals, and colorful murals by children's illustrator Sarah Elliot Mbise bring warmth and life to each room and hallway. We are deeply grateful for the architects, builders, carpenters, landscapers, and artists who helped create such a beautiful place.

Most importantly, though, the heart of APMC is our incredible team — the administrative staff, nurses, and physicians committed to providing outstanding care to children and families each day.



The laboratory is still taking shape and in the future we plan to offer PT, OT, Mental Health, and specialty pediatric services. We are also setting up all the

protocols, procedures, and the Electronic Medical Records systems. This is no small endeavor. We are taking it step by step and ask for your continued prayers.

Transitioning to Christian Health Service Corps

After resigning from ELCA last year, new opportunities have opened for the work of ICHA in Tanzania. ICHA continues to run the NICU at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre, and we have now also opened Arusha Pediatric & Maternal Care (APMC) Centre. We are now serving through [Christian Health Service Corps \(CHSC\)](#) — a significant transition as we move from being church-sponsored missionaries to self-supported global health workers.

For the past 13 years, the funds raised have gone directly toward the work itself: neonatal care, feeding programs for malnourished children, training African nurses and doctors, and the Tiny Feet, Big Steps Neonatology conferences. Moving forward, we are now also responsible for raising support for our family's living expenses, including salary, healthcare, travel, work permits, and day-to-day living costs in Tanzania.

We are grateful to partner with CHSC, a medical missions organization whose vision closely aligns with ours: strengthening local healthcare systems through compassionate, high-quality care and long-term capacity building. We first met one of the founders, Greg Seager, at a conference in Thailand last year, and immediately felt a deep sense of shared mission and encouragement. We are currently onboarding with CHSC and will return to the U.S. in July for orientation.

Many of you have faithfully walked this journey with us for years. As we step into this new chapter, would you consider partnering with us through regular financial support for our own living costs? Your support allows us to continue serving children, families, and healthcare workers across Tanzania and Africa.

We would be deeply honored to have you continue this journey with us.

Support Steve & Jodi Directly thru CHSC

Hongera Sana, Evelyine!!



Please celebrate with us the graduation of **Dr. Evelyine Mushi from Stellenbosch University in Pediatrics**. She has completed 4 years training in a Pediatric Residency at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. These have been challenging years and a huge accomplishment! We are so proud of her. She has now returned to work with ICHA and our Tanzanian staff are delighted to have her mentorship. She will be returning to Cape Town next year to complete a 2-year Sub-Specialty Fellowship in Neonatology.

We love her so deeply and are blessed to call her one of our Tanzanian daughters.

Tiny Feet, Big Steps May 11-15

THIS WEEK we prepare to once again welcome 52 instructors and 220+ nurses and doctors from across Africa to Arusha for our flagship Tiny Feet, Big Steps African Neonatology Conference. We will be gathering pre-conference to give some additional training to our conference nursing instructors.

As we run our 7th TFBS Conference, follow it on our ICHA Instagram and Facebook to see the day to day updates!



Our Hearts are Full!

Work seems to continue full speed ahead these days as you can probably sense from this newsletter. We give thanks to God for the many opportunities and open paths.

Jodi and Steve

[Sign up for the ICHA newsletter!](#)

[Donate Directly to ICHA Projects - NICU, APMC, Training](#)

[Support Steve & Jodi Living Expenses thru CHSC](#)



Institute for Child Healthcare Africa (ICHA) arises out of a decade of innovative pediatric and neonatology work, especially in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). It is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and a registered international non-governmental organization (NGO). Care of hospitalized newborns and children, and training of doctors and nurses, is supported through your donations.

You can see more at: www.ichafrica.org



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Our personal

mailing address is:

Steve & Jodi Swanson

c/o Pam VanEps

Funds received through
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are directed in entirety towards international pediatric and neonatology training of African doctors and nurses, care of children, and the development of healthcare facilities in Tanzania.

Checks can be made out to ICHA and sent to:

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