Contents

Letter from Board Chair and Executive Director ......................... 3
Projects and Programs ......................................................... 4
2007 Highlights ................................................................. 5
New Small Hospitals ............................................................. 6
Midwifery College ............................................................... 7
A Walk to Beautiful ............................................................. 8
Donor Highlights ............................................................... 9
Financial Summary ............................................................. 10-11
Meeting Best Practice Standards and Accountability to Donors ...... 12
Charity Navigator Rating ....................................................... 13
Board of Directors and Staff .................................................. 14
Partners and Supporters ....................................................... 15
Dear Friends,

We are dedicated to helping prevent and treat obstetric fistula, a wrenching childbirth injury eradicated in the United States over one hundred years ago. We are honored to support the work of Dr. Hamlin and her team in Ethiopia in their pioneering efforts to eradicate fistula.

Over the last five years the Hospital has expanded dramatically, from a single site facility in Addis Ababa to a network of five Hospitals, with a sixth under construction, a long term care facility (Desta Mender) and a Midwifery College. This expansion will enable the Hamlin Fistula Hospitals to treat nearly 4,500 women a year. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 9,000 women a year in Ethiopia develop fistulas, so the expansion is clearly needed.

The Foundation is delighted to be able to support construction of the new Hamlin Midwifery College, which will help fulfill Dr. Hamlin’s long term goal of eradicating fistula, by helping prevent fistulas in the first place.

The Foundation’s role is to raise awareness of and support for the efforts to eradicate fistula. We were therefore pleased for the Hospital and the Foundation to receive additional media coverage in 2007. In addition, we happily welcomed internet giant Google to our list of corporate supporters; Google will help us raise additional awareness and support. Lastly, the masterful film, A Walk to Beautiful, premiered in May 2007 and continues to open hearts and minds to the plight of fistula victims and the transformation made possible by the compassionate efforts of Dr. Hamlin and her team.

We are inspired by the many dedicated volunteers and donors all over the United States and abroad, who give of their time and resources to help treat destitute women they’ve never met.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your involvement in and support for the Foundation.

With warm regards,

Kassahun Kebede
Board Chair

Kate Grant
Executive Director
Programs and Projects funded

The Foundation provided $750,000 for general operating support to the Fistula Hospitals in 2007. In addition, the Foundation was pleased to be able to provide support for the following programs and projects such as these:

- Anesthetic Machines
- Advanced Medical Training for Fistula Hospital Senior Surgeon
- Maternal Health Unit Upgrade
- Fencing for Yirgalem Hospital
- Midwifery College
- Software
- Travel expenses for key Hospital staff to attend major international conference
- Vehicles
- Washers and Dryers
- Water Service upgrade for Hospital in Yirgalem
- Medical supplies
- Computers
2007 Highlights

Media Coverage

National Public Radio: NPR reporter Brenda Wilson provided a detailed nine minute story on the work of the Hospital, featuring a compelling interview with Sister Ruth Kennedy, January 2007


Reuters News: Beyond stillbirth, shame: Women with Fistula” by Elana Ringer, March 2007

San Jose Mercury News: “Money and Political Will can Save Women from Dying in Childbirth”, editorial by Foundation ED, Kate Grant, October 2007


Outreach

Dr. Hamlin and Medical Director, Dr. Mulu Muleta were welcomed at the International “Women Deliver” Conference in London in October. Dr. Hamlin gave a keynote address on obstetric fistula, and Dr. Mulu moderated a panel on the topic.

Executive Director Kate Grant, gave a number of talks to organizations, such as: University of California in DC, the United Methodist Women, American Association of University Women and Grand Performances in Los Angeles, Tesfā Ineste in Washington, DC.

New Corporate Support

The Foundation was honored to learn we’d been awarded a “Google Grant” from internet powerhouse Google, Inc. The grant provides the Foundation with free advertising on the world-famous Google network. The ads help direct users of Google to the Foundation’s website when searching using a wide variety of search words. The Foundation is deeply grateful to Google for this generous grant to help the Foundation spread awareness about fistula.

Kate Grant (Fistula Foundation, ED) and Elizabeth Victoreen, University of California

“Most women I know enter pregnancy with a great sense of anticipation. And while first-time mothers here may wonder how motherhood will change their lives, very few worry that pregnancy and childbirth might end their lives. The same is not true for women of reproductive age in developing nations. For them, pregnancy and childbirth are still the leading causes of death and disease.”

– Kate Grant
in San Jose Mercury News, October 19, 2007
In order to address the needs of the many women in the provinces who require fistula care and to help prevent fistulas, the Fistula Hospital is opening permanent small fistula hospitals in five strategic locations in Ethiopia. By the end of 2007 three of the five planned hospitals were opened in the cities of Bahir Dar, Mekele, and Yirgalem.

The purpose of these small hospitals is threefold:
- Treatment
- Prevention
- Education

**Harar Hospital**

The Foundation is pleased to be able to provide the full funding for the construction of the fourth planned small Hospital in the Eastern Ethiopian city of Harar. Construction began in May 2007 with the MAFER Construction Company, with the official opening scheduled for the first half of 2008. The Hospital has the support and encouragement of the regional health authorities and the Harar city authorities. The new Hospital will have 50 beds and treat women in the Eastern portion of Ethiopia – a region previously without a fistula treatment facility.

The Foundation’s Tesfa Ineste program contributed nearly $300,000 toward the cost of the new Hospital. Tesfa Ineste means “Let’s give them hope” in Amharic, a main language of Ethiopia, and is a volunteer effort organized by the Ethiopian-Americans in several large U.S. cities.

“I thank God for so many of you who give generously enabling us to expand and do more for these deserving and forgotten mothers.”

— Dr. Catherine Hamlin
Obstetric fistula was eradicated in the United States in the late 19th century. While the Fistula Hospital has been largely focused on treating and curing childbirth injuries, efforts have been building to try to prevent fistula in the first place. The issue of prevention is one dear to Dr. Hamlin and a core part of the Foundation’s mission. In 1959 Dr. Hamlin and her late husband Reginald came to Ethiopia to start a Midwifery program. Though she has focused most of her energies and talents on treating fistula victims, she is now committed to starting a midwifery program in conjunction with the Hospital. Her goal is to help place midwives in villages near the five small hospitals to help women in labor, thus preventing fistula and other childbirth injuries.

This is an exciting step forward. Seed funding to begin the Midwifery College came from generous grant support from both long term supporter Johnson & Johnson and first time funder, the Caris Foundation. By the end of 2007 the main facility building, next to the Fistula Hospital’s long term care facility at Desta Mender, was completed.

The goal was to open the College for BSc level midwives in 2008. The initial intake will be about fifteen and then twenty each year afterwards. The clinical and classroom tutors were hired, and the curriculum was developed in consultation with a visiting Professor, Dr. Ann Thomson from the UK.
The long-waited feature length documentary “A Walk to Beautiful” premiered at the San Francisco International Film Festival on May 5, 2007. 2007 was the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco International Film Festival, one of the oldest and most respected film festivals in the country. As a most auspicious beginning, the film won the Festival’s coveted “Audience Award”. The Foundation hosted a reception on May 5 and participated in a panel discussion following each of the three screenings of the film.

The movie was produced by Engel Entertainment. Founded by Executive Producer, Steve Engel, the production company is based in New York. The production team, headed by Director, Mary Olive Smith, with Co-Director Amy Bucher and Producer, Allison Shigo visited Ethiopia three different times, shooting over 120 hours of film from which to craft the 84 minute film. Edited by Andrew Ford, the final film is a masterful effort; it movingly documents the plight of fistula sufferers and the inspiring journey of five separate women as they move from devastation and despair to restored health and dignity.

In the following seven months the film screened at film festivals in the U.S. and internationally. This included festivals in Sedona, AZ; Missoula, MT; Santa Barbara, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Cleveland, OH; West Long Branch, NJ; Colorado Springs, CO; Boston, MA; and Providence, RI. It also screened at festivals around the world including: Melbourne, Australia; Toronto, Canada; Barcelona, Spain and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

It also won key awards, such as:

- Best Feature-length Documentary from the International Documentary Association
- “People’s Choice” Award for Best Documentary from the Denver International Film Festival
- Audience Choice Award for Best Documentary and Interfaith Award for Best Documentary at the St. Louis International Film Festival
- Human Rights Award at the Docúpolis, International Documentary Festival of Barcelona
- Witness Award Nominee AFI/Silverdocs Film Festival

“A Walk To Beautiful will leave you speechless, two times over – first with despair, then with joy.”

-Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times
Circle of Friends

Our popular Circle of Friends program assists groups and individuals in holding fundraising or informational events to support the work of the Hamlin Fistula Hospitals. This form of volunteer fundraising helps ensure that the hospitals will continue to restore health and dignity to women devastated by fistula - for as long as there is a need.

Danielle Polland of Great Neck, New York raised funds for the Foundation in a way both as unusual as it is inspiring. When Danielle learned about fistula, she said she was “shocked by how girls around my age could be shunned from their families and communities because of a condition they could not help”. She said it “made me realize how lucky I was”. She decided to turn her middle-school graduation party into a fundraiser for fistula, and asked that rather than gifts, her friends and family instead make a gift to the Foundation.

Tesfa Ineste

Tesfa Ineste, an Amharic phrase meaning “let’s give them hope,” is the Foundation’s campaign within the Ethiopian-American community to help fund the construction of the Harar Hamlin Hospital in the city of Harar. The Tesfa Ineste program is led by National Chair and Foundation Board Member, Abaynesh Asrat, and is supported by regional committees in several major cities. The largest of the Committees, in Washington, D.C., is chaired by the very talented and dedicated, Tsedale Assefa. In December 2007, the Tesfa Ineste Committee in Washington, DC held its third-annual fundraising event, attended by over 300 Ethiopian-Americans in the Washington, DC area.

Tribute Gifts

The Foundation is honored by gifts made to honor loved ones and gifts given as part of estates. In 2007 the Foundation received a particularly special donation from the late Kathryn Davis, of Reston, Virginia, forwarded to us by her loving sister, Gloria Word. After a courageous five-year battle against breast cancer, Kathryn passed away in spring of 2007. Those that knew Kat, as she was known, said she was beautiful both inside and out, always thinking of others, and she was doing just that to the end of her life. She specifically requested that there be no funeral, saying that these funds could be better spent helping innocent young girls and women treated by Dr. Hamlin and her team. The words “thank you” seem inadequate to express how honored and grateful the Foundation was for Kathryn Davis’ generosity.
The Fistula Foundation Statements of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2007

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
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<td><strong>Revenues and support:</strong></td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>199,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction for purpose</td>
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<td>-557,671</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues and support</td>
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<td>-141,514</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,779,479</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenses:** |              |                        |                        |           |
| Program services | $1,748,388 | -                      | -                      | 1,748,388 |
| Management and general | 215,796 | -                      | -                      | 215,796   |
| Fundraising       | 224,558     | -                      | -                      | 224,558   |
| Total expenses    | 2,188,742   | -                      | -                      | 2,188,742 |

| **Change in net assets** | 732,251 | -141,514 | -          | 590,737   |
| **Net assets at beginning of year** | 3,910,592 | 290,071 | 32,155 | 4,232,818 |
| **Net assets at end of year** | $4,642,843 | 148,557 | 32,155 | 4,823,555 |

Financial Summary

An independent audit of the Fistula Foundation by Delagnes, Mitchell & Linder, LLP attests to the unqualified strength and integrity of the Fistula Foundation’s financial control and reporting systems.
“The Fistula Foundation outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate in the most fiscally responsible way possible. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates the Fistula Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust”.

– Trent Stamp, President, Charity Navigator
Better Business Bureau

The Fistula Foundation is proud to have qualified to use the Better Business Bureau’s seal through 2010 for meeting all twenty of the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.

Charity Navigator

The Fistula Foundation was designated a 4-Star Charity by the charity rating organization Charity Navigator for the 2nd year in a row. Only 15% of charities have received at least two consecutive 4-star evaluations.

Charity Navigator strives to help donors make better giving decisions, so that people can give with confidence that their donations are used well. Charity Navigator’s aim is to help charities and donors alike by “shining lights on truly effective organizations”. Their approach to rating charities is guided by two primary objectives: “helping givers and celebrating the work of charities”.

Accountability

The Foundation Staff and Board work together to ensure that the organization’s operations are conducted efficiently and ethically. In order to do so, the Foundation uses the following practices to ensure accountability:

Independent Audit: The Foundation Board has an audit committee, that contains Director Members. The Committee retains an independent public accounting firm who undertake the Foundation’s annual audit.

Board Oversight and Governance: The Foundation’s annual operating budget is reviewed in detail by the Board’s Finance and Investment Committee. Then the budget is reviewed and approved by its 13-member Board. The Board’s Finance Committee reviews the Foundation’s performance against its goals quarterly. The Board contains a group of talented individuals who are leaders in their chosen fields. The Board contains three physicians, two attorneys, five existing or former non-profit leaders, and three experts in investment and finance.

Employee Compensation: Fistula Foundation staff compensation is determined each year after a rigorous review of a major nonprofit survey conducted amongst more than 15,000 nonprofit employees in nine counties in northern California. The Executive Director’s performance is reviewed twice a year by the Board of Directors’ Executive Committee.

Transparency: The Foundation makes its audited financial statements and annual tax returns, the so-called 990, available on our website. For those without internet access, the Foundation will send copies of these documents to anyone requesting them.
October 30, 2007

Kate Grant
The Fistula Foundation
1171 Homestead Road
Suite 265
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Kate Grant:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate The Fistula Foundation on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America’s premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient charities such as your own, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Based on the most recent financial information available, we have calculated a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce The Fistula Foundation has earned our second consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 15% of the charities we’ve rated have received at least 2 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that The Fistula Foundation outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate in the most fiscally responsible way possible. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates The Fistula Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

The New York Times, NPR and The Chronicle of Philanthropy, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our irrefutable data shows that users of our site gave more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, last year Charity Navigator visitors gave over $3 billion in charitable gifts.

We believe our service will enhance your organization’s fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of The Fistula Foundation’s fiscal health will be visible on our website as of November 1st and to help you share this significant accomplishment with your donors, we will be sending you a direct link to The Fistula Foundation’s rating page and our 4-star logos.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Trent Stamp
President

www.charitynavigator.org
Women shouldn’t be dying from the complications of pregnancy...500–600,000 women die each year; these are preventable deaths. There is no reason for these women to die. We need attention to change that.

— Dr. Allan Rosenfield
Fistula Foundation Board Member
Dean Emeritus, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
from his interview on the Charlie Rose Show

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Kassahun Kebede
Chair
PANTON Capital Group
New York, New York

Abaynesh Asrat
Nation to Nation Networking Ltd.
New York, New York

Ato Tekalign Gedamu
Director, (Honorary)
Board Chair, Trustees
Hamlin Fistula Hospitals
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Deborah Harris
World Vision U.S.
(Board Member)
Charlotte, North Carolina

Cleopatra Kiros
Secretary/Treasurer
Woodside, California

Linda Levee Samuels
Mesa United Way
Community Volunteer
Scottsdale, Arizona

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Former Ethiopian Vice-Minister of Education and Culture
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Larry William, MD
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Foster City, California

Kate Grant
Executive Director, Ex-Officio Board Member

Anne Ferguson
Operations Director

Terry Rodriguez
Donor Relations Manager

Betsy Lydster
Administrative Assistant
The Fistula Foundation could not do the work of supporting fistula treatment and prevention without the participation and support of our Congressional, Corporate, Nonprofit and Media partners. These organizations have joined in the effort to treat and prevent fistula in Ethiopia by donating necessary medical supplies, sharing knowledge and heightening awareness. We are honored to collaborate with the following organizations:

**Congressional Friends**

- Mike Honda
  Congressman
- Carolyn Maloney
  Congresswoman
- Chris Smith
  Congressman
Our Mission

The Fistula Foundation is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula through support of the Hamlin Fistula Hospitals in Ethiopia.

The Fistula Foundation
from despair to dignity

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Layout and Design by Kathy Noverr, Kate Grant and Terry Rodriguez, Written and edited by Kate Grant, Thank you to Dr. Larry William whose photographs are featured throughout the report.