



# Med25 Newsletter

MAY 2010

Questions? Contact Executive Director Rebecca Conte at: [rebecca@med25.org](mailto:rebecca@med25.org)

## ABOUT MED25:

Med25 works at the community level to actualize the basic human right of all individuals for access to competent, culturally appropriate, and affordable health care to improve the health, welfare, and social justice of people everywhere. In accordance with Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Med25 provides basic health care to those most in need, most at risk, and who have suffered the most as a result of historical neglect.

## DONATE ONLINE!

For more info please visit us at our website: [www.med25.org](http://www.med25.org)

## Impacting Mbita- Working Against a Stigma

April was a month of change for the community of Mbita. We knew early on that our focus had to be on community mobilization. The number of patients we treated in April was higher than expected, but it was all due to the hard work of our clinic staff and community health workers (CHWs).

There were many stigmatisms about health care that we had to fight against. The first: that we were a temporary facility. Mbita has been disappointed many times in the past by NGOs entering and exiting their community, making temporary impacts but not sticking around to create real change. The second stigma was about what type of care we would provide. Some individuals

expect that as a private facility our prices will be far higher than what they can afford, and others expect as an NGO that we pro-

### THE NUMBERS

- \* 391– Patients Treated
- \* 135– Patients treated for Malaria
- \* 31– Patients Immunized
- \* 91– Patients treated for Respiratory Diseases
- \* 28– Patients treated for Typhoid Fever

vide care for free. While we wish that were possible, we know this would not be self-sustaining.

Instead, we provide individuals with subsidized costs but high **quality** health care. Patients pay a small fee to replace the cost of their medications, while we turn to donors to support staff salaries.

The community is responding well. We have patients coming from over two hours away because they hear that at our clinic patients are listened to and treated well. Even with this positive response, we have our work cut out for us. We have to show the community that we are here to stay– we are committed to their health and we know that means a long term commitment until we create businesses to financially support the clinic.

## Meet the Staff: Soti Godfrey, C.O.C.

It is with great joy that we introduce you to Soti Godfrey, Clinical Officer in Charge. Soti was our first Kenyan staff member, coming to us from another non-profit organization.

Soti realized his passion for helping others after losing his father at a young age. Soti completed high school in 2003 and attended Kenya Medical Training College for his diploma in Clinical Medicine, Surgery, and Community Health. Soti's long term goal is to see rural, poor communities access quality, affordable, and sustainable health care.

Growing up near Mbita, Soti knew the need in this area was great. When we first met Soti, we knew his knowledge of this community would be the key to our success. Soti is



**Soti Godfrey**  
Clinical Officer in Charge

instrumental in all that we do in Mbita. He is dedicated, hard working, and compassionate. Soti works around the clock to **show** the community he cares.

A few weeks ago, an old woman came into the clinic and was very sick. After being checked in and having a thorough consult, Soti learned that the patient had no money. Instead of turning her away, Soti asked what she had. She explained she had a small chicken not developed enough to sell. Soti asked her to send someone for the chicken. Soti personally purchased the small chicken from the woman so that she could afford her needed medications. Soti is a living example of the Med25 mission.