

Yotkom Newsletter – February 2023 Update

Dear Yotkom supporters and partners,

Thank you for continuing to enable our medical work in Uganda.
We are starting the new year with an attitude of expectation.



Because of your generous giving we have gathered funds to place an order for a digital XRay conversion pack which promises to be a great leap forward. Thanks to you, when Andrew returns in March he will also have finances available to order all the components necessary to establish a microbiology service unique to Northern Uganda. This is going to help the medical profession in this part of the world to make wiser decisions when treating many of the infectious diseases which prevail in the community.

In 2023, there are several Australians who are planning to come to Yotkom to share with our team and build relationships.

They include people with backgrounds in medicine, paediatrics, surgery, nursing, midwifery, business and finance, building and construction and information technology.

Our scholarship program continues to give opportunities for gifted local students to study in such areas as physiotherapy (Isaac) and radiography (Daisy).

Two of our medical students, Richard and Denis have now graduated and are already providing a boost to our hospital and to our leadership team.

Collins is proving to be a skilled anaesthetist in our operating theatre after recently finalising his 2 year course.

The medical services at Yotkom are gaining in their reputation for excellence and on average, 10 babies are born in our maternity wing each week.



We have become a focus of referral for trauma and orthopaedic care. About 400 patients a week attend our Outpatients department and approximately 40% of these are trauma related presentations.

Our orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Julius Abonga is the only one available to serve a population of around 500,000 people who live in poverty in this very low income country.



Yotkom is forging links with a charitable orthopaedic organisation called SIGN who have agreed to provide us with a supply of free NAILS for treating fractured femoral shafts.

<https://www.signfracturecare.org/> In order to initiate this partnership we need to first buy 50 nails from SIGN and then provide them with regular patient summaries and reports.

When the initial 50 nails are used up, we will receive subsequent supplies for free which will make it possible for many more patients to access our trauma services.

Please consider helping us to start this process by giving toward our **target of \$8000 AUS** so we can order the initial 50 Nails from SIGN

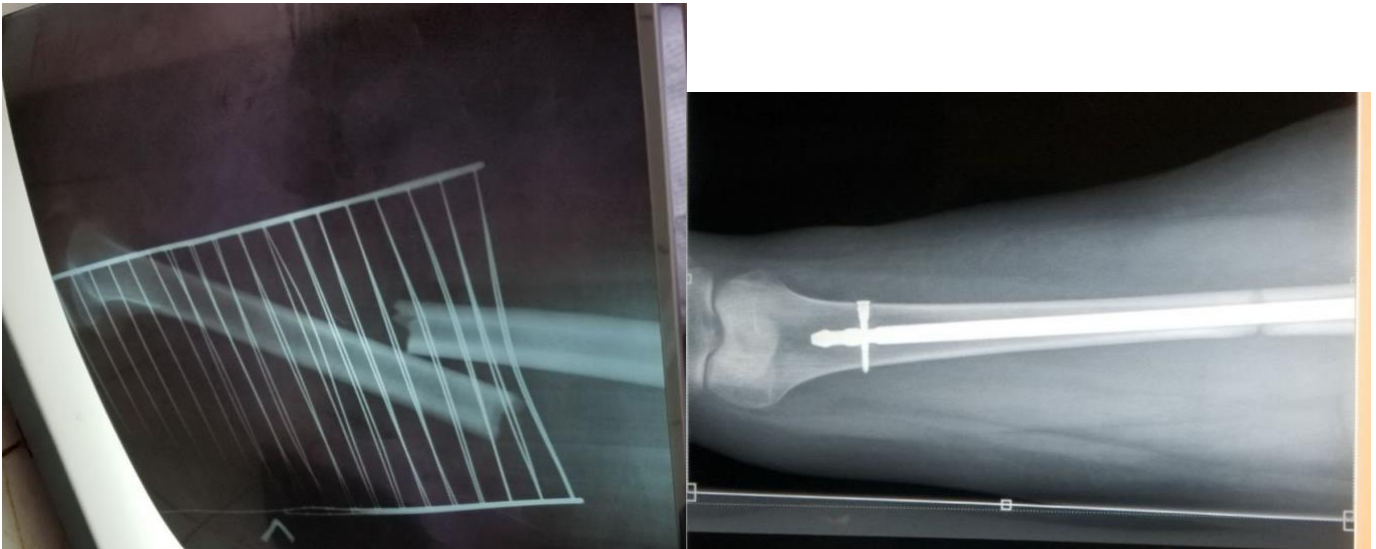
At our private non for profit hospital in Northern Uganda, we currently charge \$730 for a femoral nailing procedure in our operating theatre.

This cost to the patient is their contribution to all the surgical, anaesthetic, medication and hospital admission fees .

It could be reduced in future to \$350 if the nail could be provided for free.

These procedures change peoples lives, alleviate pain and promote quick recovery , minimising long term disability

(see before and after XRay photos of a broken femur below)



We know that it is very possible to meet many of the significant needs in this community in a sustainable way with your partnership.

You can donate by going to our web site and pressing the donate button

www.yotkom.com

OR

**by a direct credit tax deductible donation to our Australian account below.
designate gift "NAILS"**

**thank you
from**

Andrew and Anne Wright
Australian Directors
Yotkom Uganda

www.yotkom.com

Australian Bank details :
Account Name : Yotkom Uganda
BSB: 064 186
Account Number : 10884542



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