

PRESS RELEASE

MEAK - ORTHOPAEDIC MISSION TO COAST GENERAL HOSPITAL – MOMBASA - NOVEMBER 2009

Kenley couple Mike and Dee Belliere who started the charity **MEAK** in 1994, continue with their programme of medical missions in Kenya by bringing orthopaedics into their itinerary this year for the first time. **MEAK** will have completed a total of nine medical missions, of varying types in Kenya during this year.

Mike Belliere, who is Joint Managing Director of Kenley firm B S W Heating Ltd, one of the largest heating companies in the South East, comments that their charity is unusual in that none of the volunteers in this country receive any remuneration for their efforts, meaning that their total donations are spent on their projects in Africa.

Medical and Educational Aid to Kenya who have conducted around forty medical missions in Kenya to date providing care to the less fortunate members of the population will be carrying out their second mission in the field of orthopaedics at Coast General Hospital in Mombasa from the 20th to 27th November 2009.

MEAK has made their reputation in other fields of medicine by carrying out over two dozen eye missions in remoter parts of Kenya giving sight back to over 3500 people as well as 13 heart trips, when highly specialized teams are brought from the UK to carry out open heart surgery on sick children at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi. Over 250 children have received life saving operations as a result of this initiative.

In January of 2009 **MEAK** made its first venture into orthopaedics when a team from South Devon in the UK under the leadership of Dr Lucy Obolensky went to Nanyuki, North of Nairobi and carried out remedial surgery, mainly to leg injuries. Over 100 people were seen and a total of eighteen people received free operations to relieve their suffering. Encouraged by the success of that trip **MEAK** decided to press ahead with further trips and Coast General Hospital in Mombasa was selected as being an ideal partner with whom to carry out the second orthopaedic mission.

At preliminary meetings at the Hospital general agreement was reached as to the programme of the mission and areas where **MEAK** could assist by providing equipment were identified. **MEAK** have obtained and will be donating to Coast General Hospital an 'Image Intensifier' machine with a new cost of approx £140,000 which will be invaluable to the hospital when carrying out intricate operations in the future. During their visit the **MEAK** team will be using this equipment and demonstrating its capabilities to their Kenya counterparts.

MEAK will be co-sponsored on this trip by the management and staff of the **Nyali Beach Hotel** who will be accommodating the entire team for the duration of their visit on a complimentary basis as their part of this very worthwhile venture. **Nyali Beach Hotel** accepts the need for local organizations to have social responsibility and is very proud of its standing as a leading contributor to local charitable ventures. They fully support the aims and ideals of **MEAK** and look forward to hosting the team in November.

MEAK are proposing to return to Mombasa in May 2010 to carry out their fourteenth heart mission carrying out open heart operations on sick children with heart disease at Mombasa Hospital.

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