Mildmay: transforming AIDS care / Mildmay Mission Hospital.

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Mildmay Mission Hospital (London, England)

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Mildmay's mission is to improve the quality of life of those living with HIV+AIDS in the UK and in resource-limited settings.

- This is achieved through the development and delivery of:

 Model holistic care services for adults and children

 Specialist training and technical assistance to health
 workers and institutions, thus empowering them to
 improve standards of care in their communities

Mildmay has specific expertise in HIV-Related Brain Impairment (HBRI), paediatric HIV care and training, and HIV palliative care and training.

Mildmay's HIV+AIDS programmes started in 1988 at the Mildmay Mission Hospital in the UK expanding to Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Rwanda. There are also various training programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe.

Mildmay is a not for profit international NGO (registered in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Rwanda) and a Uk based charity with a non-denominational Christian foundation and a holistic approach to care.



Mildmay UK is this country's leading provider of specialist rehabilitation for people with complex and chronic HIV related conditions. Our aim, wherever possible is to get people back on their feet so that they can return to independent living in the

From its early beginnings during the cholera epidemic of 1866 Mildmay has been at the forefront of providing care where we were most needed. In 1988, Mildmay refocused its work to

open Europe's first AIDS palliative care unit in response to overwhelming need. In the 1990's Mildmay launched the first dedicated HIV-Related Brain Impairment (HRBI) programme in the UK. This is still the only unit of its type in Europe and one of only four in the world. There have been many highlights throughout the history of Mildmay UK. For example, our vital work was brought to the world's attention when Princess Diana made a number of visits to the hospital and spent time with our patients.

But the real highlight for everyone at Mildmay is seeing the difference that is being made in the lives of people with HIV. People like Adam.

Adam is 32 and was admitted to Mildmay UK a few months ago. He was newly diagnosed with HIV-Related Brain Impairment which was impacting on all of his life. His short term memory was deeply affected. He no longer knew how to do the everyday things we take for granted-like how to dress or safely make a cup of tea. He was anxious, frightened and distressed. His mother was devastated and thought she would never "have her old son back again".

Two months later, through a programme of individualised therapy, group work, adherence to medication, empathy, support and most importantly humour, Adam returned "to the son his mother had known". Following a successful staged discharge home, he was fully discharged with minimal support needed from community workers.

There is a mistaken belief that HIV is no longer a threat in the UK. The evidence shows otherwise. Annual UK diagnoses are rising by 7,000+ a year bringing the latest estimates to over 23,000 people in the UK living with HIV.

The type of care Mildmay offers in the UK has changed The type of care Mildmay offers in the UK has changed significantly over the years, adapting to the changing face of HIV. Rehabilitation and meeting complex healthcare needs for people on long term drug therapy has become our focus. Mildmay UK provides both in-patient and day care services with holistic programmes designed around each patient's individual needs that can involve physical, emotional, psychological, social and spiritual issues.

In November 2008 our service moved from our old Victorian Hospital and is now housed in a newly refurbished centre which is more in tune with the pioneering service we provide as well as being more cost effective.



Across the World

Mildmay's work is not limited to the UK. With ninety percent of people with HIV living in developing countries, Mildmay uses its years of experience to help those where even access to the most basic resources like food, clean water and simple health facilities is limited.

Mildmay provides specialist medical care, training and technical assistance in some of the areas where the HIV pandemic is hitting hardest, including sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Eastern Europe.

In some areas seven out of ten hospital beds are occupied by people with HIV related illnesses. Many of these could be cared for at home. Mildmay trains health care workers in the special skills required to develop sustainable home based care programmes.

Much of our international work involves the administration and monitoring of Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) along with training focused on their effective use. Although these drugs can significantly extend the lives of people living with HIV, as in the UK, Mildmay continues to deal with the longer-term effects of HIV and drug therapies.

Mildmay's work also focuses on providing medical care and treatment for HIV positive children as well as care and support for orphaned and vulnerable children affected by AIDS.

If you wish to find out more about Mildmay's work both here and internationally, please contact Pat Creedon

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To make a donation online please visit our website at: www.mildmay.org or make a credit card donation by phone please call: (020) 7613 6311

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