

# tiba



## 2024 Impact Report Seeds Planted for the New Decade



# A letter from our Executive Director



As we celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2024, we reflect on two decades of incredible growth and impact, sparked by the shared vision of Gail Wagner and Dan Ogola to provide accessible, quality healthcare in rural Kenya. We also launched a new era of growth for the partnership.

Tiba's third decade begins with a change in board leadership as Gail steps down from the presidency, while continuing as a board member leading our growing cervical and breast cancer initiatives. Bill Plautz, a retired ER and Lifestyle Medicine Physician, and a long-time board member, major donor, and volunteer for 14 years, has stepped up to the board's helm, with Rhiana

Menen, a breast surgery specialist and Boda Girls enthusiast, as Vice-President. Arne Wagner continues as Secretary-Treasurer. Norma Bozzini, one of the founding board members, has transitioned to Tiba's advisory board. We are truly grateful for her years of commitment and service!

This report shares some new opportunities for growth that we are exploring—opportunities that will take time and dedication to fully develop. We could not be here without the unwavering support of our partners, volunteers, and donors, and we humbly request your continued support as we start this exciting new decade!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane Dodge".

*Diane Dodge, Executive Director*

## Meet Bill Plautz, Tiba's new Board President



I am humbled to step into the shoes of my friend Gail Wagner, and am fully committed to leading this organization that I have served for the last sixteen years. I look forward to the opportunity to meet many of you and welcome any ideas and suggestions. You can reach me at [billplautz@gmail.com](mailto:billplautz@gmail.com).

## Expanding Surgical Services

We are excited to share that Dr. Walter Adero, Orthopedic Surgeon, has joined Matibabu and leads the development of the new FIGS Operating Theater. Dr. Walter's specialty is in orthopedics, and we are also developing specialties in breast and cervical cancer surgery. Our goal is that the FIGS Operating Theater will not only provide critical support for the local community but help develop specialty care for all of Western Kenya.

Rhiana's breast surgery camp in May focused on establishing relationships with Kisumu's breast specialists to bring about joint projects and training.

# First Boda Girls Cohort Graduates and Now Serves as *Role Models*

In July, we celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of Boda Girls – women trained to drive motorcycle-taxis – with a special day at Lake Victoria. We call these courageous women the Boda Girls Founders because they were the first women in their community to ever ride a motorcycle. During the past two years, these young women have completed intensive training in 15 areas, including mentoring for a new Boda Girl. Each of the Boda Girls Founders has now paid for her own motorcycle and fully owns her taxi business. **They have increased their incomes from the \$1 a day the typical female worker earns, to \$7-10 a day.**

Moreover, these Boda Girls are now respected as women’s health advocates. Thanks to these women, the Boda Girls program continues to thrive, now welcoming its fifth cohort, for a total of **50 women**, each determined to transform their communities.



10,744

Free rides to Matibabu Hospital to women

67%

Increase in hospital deliveries

100%+

Increase in women attending maternal health programs

188

Women coached by Boda Girls in entrepreneurship programs

# Tiba's amazing volunteers

## OR & FIGS Camp



Ram Ramachandra (lead), Ahmed Alkorashi, Michael Mellenthin, Stefanie Alkorashi, Shay, Adrianna T., Njeri Kuria, Henna A., Anya B., Cara Kelly, Dennisah Francis, Ericka, Anum Hashmani, Mary Schoenman, Sam Pepke, Todd Mara, Trina Spear, Heather Hasson, Diane Dodge, Amanda Schoenberg, Bill Plautz, Gail Wagner



## Cervical Cancer Camp

Susan Jacobson (lead), Rose Ochieng, Richard Godfrey, Walter Otero

## Breast Surgery Camp

Rhiana Menen (lead), Noreen Womack, Phylis Napoles, Albert Odhiambo, Hadley Dermott, Ingrid Ramirez, Darren Pittard, George & Regina Chu, MaryAlice, Aileen King

## Girls STEM Camp

Bridget Wylie (lead), Diane Dodge, Teagan Robertson, Rebecca Girard, Abi Vega, Aminta Steinbach, Amalia Sanchez, Sally Mallowa, Ken Monjero, Daniel Ndugu, Eve Decker.

As we produce this report, two other camps are scheduled this year: the **College Graduation Camp**, led by Bridget Wylie and attended by Mary Ann van Dam, Lucca van Dam, Bethany Channey, Teri Spanner, and Shannon Perry; and the **Fall Surgery Camp**, led by Ahmed Alkorashi and attended by Nanea Meyer, Srilata Madipatti, Arturo Martinez, Kenneth Loh, Paul Preston, Linda Waters, Tennille Parsons, and Ava Vocal.





## Matibabu College Celebrates a Decade of Developments and Commits to Grow

In September, Matibabu College of Health Sciences (MCHS) celebrated its 5th graduating class and **555 enrollees** since its founding in 2024. Accredited by the Nursing Council of Kenya, it is known as one of the top 5 nursing schools in the country, with **100% of its graduates passing the national nursing exam and finding employment within six months**. This year, Bridget Wylie and her Nursing Promise Ambassador Chapter donated iPads and loaded them with all of the required college textbooks, reducing student costs and saving trees.

The 2nd Annual STEM Camp at Lifunga Secondary School for Girls. For two weeks in July, Tiba volunteers co-taught STEM enrichment classes with the Kenyan teaching staff. A heartfelt thank you to Bridget Wylie, Rebecca Girard, Abi Vega, Teagan Robertson, Aminta Steinbach, Amalia Sanchez, Sally Mallowa, Daniel Prince, Ken Monjero, Eve Decker, and Diane Dodge for their invaluable contributions and support.

Through our **Nursing Promise program**, we are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of healthcare workers by ensuring that every girl from Lifunga School who qualifies for admission to MCHS will receive a full scholarship and paid mentorship to pursue a nursing degree.



Donate to  
the Nursing  
Promise





**Harvard  
Business  
School**

# Community Partners Recommends Scaling the *Boda Girls Program*

Tiba was awarded a grant from the Harvard Business Schools Community Partners (HBSCP) which conducted a four-month feasibility study about scaling the Boda Girls Program. HBSCP has enthusiastically endorsed the concept and submitted a plan to license/franchise the Program throughout rural communities across Kenya. The plan contemplates both vertical and horizontal scaling. For vertical scaling, the Boda Girls Program at Matibabu Hospital, now in its third year, will serve as an innovation lab, expanding the program to new activities.

Horizontal scaling will be implemented through joint ventures between Tiba and other established Kenyan organizations to institute the program in other communities – focusing on providing women access to healthcare and financial empowerment. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please contact [diane.dodge@tibafoundation.org](mailto:diane.dodge@tibafoundation.org).

## A New Enterprise to Help *Sustain Matibabu*



For a host of reasons, Tiba is supporting construction of a mortuary adjacent to the Matibabu Hospital. In addition to serving as a venue for funerals – which are extremely important events in the local culture – the mortuary will provide support services to bereaved and needy families. The mortuary will also help financially sustain the hospital, and is required in order for the hospital to qualify as a Level-4 Hospital under Kenya law. The mortuary, featuring a unique chapel and outdoor garden, will open in October.

### *Contact*

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