

## Chair's report November 2023

We are approaching the month that our dear friend and founder trustee Chris Bendon died in January 2017. 2018 marked both the 5th anniversary of the Charity and in December the end of the Tallinding Children's Health Centre (TCHC) Project. That resulted in the rebranding, *Aidgambia The Community Health Charity (TCHC)*.

Since that time, *Aidgambia TCHC* has focussed its attention on joint funded projects with other charities and the Bendon Bursary. The Bendon Bursary supports students pursuing health-related studies or professional development. Well, it is now five years that the Bendon Bursary has been up and running and this month we were able to welcome Binta S Colley as the 10th Gambian to benefit from a bursary. A number of students has received successive yearly donations and we have managed so far to give every bursarian reconditioned hardware to assist them in their studies.

The Charity is so proud to have supported Chernor, Lamin, Ibrahim and Jassy - they are those students who have completed their studies and are now doing so well in their health-related careers. Next summer (2024) a number of our Bursarians are due to finish their studies. Reassuringly there are more applicants in the pipeline for 24-25.

One extremely positive outcome of the Tallinding Children's Health Centre (TCHC) project (201-2018) was that the Trustees met Chernor and Lamin who in turn have taken on the role of Clinical Advisors to the Trustees (CATs) to offer advice and guidance on health matters and be our eyes and ears in The Gambia! Without their continued involvement and support, the work of the Charity would not be as successful. This is key to the sustainability of the work of the Charity.

Finally, we need to highlight Chernor JALLOW's recent successful application for government sponsored Masters programme in China. Congratulations to Chernor and the determination he has shown in pursuit of sponsorship. The Charity takes great pride in his achievement and we all wish him success in his studies.

The Charity has now supported two hugely successful Youth Health Cup football events in 2022 and more recently just last week in November 2023, These events have highlighted the benefits and importance of exercise and healthy living among the young. Both Nfamara Sanyang, a current Bursarian, and our CAT Lamin spoke to both Academy squads about health matters before the presentations. AVIC Academy Director Bas Bessane also spoke to the two squads of players. Nafisattou, one of our bursarians, supported the event through her attendance.

Another great success to highlight is the new job that our CAT Lamin has secured. He is one of a select team of five nurses now at the Cardiology Unit at Banjul Hospital. What is remarkable about this achievement is that there were 160 applicants! We like to think (and Lamin agrees) that Lamin's record of securing a bursary and working with the Charity certainly strengthened his CV and application.

Another highlight is the recent Health Fair matched-funding project held in Yundum in collaboration with the Japalleh Foundation organised by Lamin Njie. This Outreach activity needs to be encouraged along with the participation of our Bursarians. The future is SUSTAINABILITY

Last but far from least, a BIG thank you to all our supporters