

Helping Hands

LewisGale Regional Health System's Charitable Care Transforms Teens' Lives

Oftentimes, kids don't want to appear too different from their peers for fear of being singled out as "uncool" or bringing unwanted attention to themselves. Two teenagers who arrived in the United States last year with conditions that severely affected their physical capabilities returned home recently as changed teens, and looking a lot more like their friends, thanks to LewisGale Regional Health System and the charitable care it provided.

Kethia Sirena is a 14-year-old from Haiti who was burned over 30 percent of her body after falling into a cooking fire at age three. Scar tissue caused her right arm to fuse to her torso making it unusable. And 18-year-old Anderson Mambwe faced certain amputation of both feet if he remained untreated in his native Zambia. He had a congenital birth defect that made walking extremely painful.



Anderson Mambwe and Dr. Charles Zelen.

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

2013 EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

May 1-31



SPEAK freely and confidentially about what it's like to work here.

We will **LISTEN** to what you say.

We will **ACT** on what we hear.

We will **TELL** you the results and the actions we will take.

www.hcasurveys.com
(800) 318-6614



Community pitched in to help

With help from several community groups, both teens traveled to southwest Virginia to receive surgeries – provided at no cost by LewisGale Health System – to correct their conditions.

Kethia underwent a special surgery at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery to repair her arm, torso and shoulder. Physicians participating in her care included Drs. David Berry, James Farmer, Philip Grubbs and Brian Torre. After intensive physical therapy, Kethia returned to Haiti a changed teen, both in terms of her physical appearance and her arm's functionality, as well as her outlook on life.

Anderson, meanwhile, underwent two surgeries at LewisGale Medical Center and stayed in the country for nine months. Both of his surgeries, valued at \$100,000, were performed free of charge after LewisGale contributed them as part of Anderson's charity care. Podiatrist Charles Zelen treated Anderson. As a result of the surgeries and follow-up treatment his shoe size went from a size 17 to 14. For the first time in his life he can now fit into a pair of shoes, and received his first pair of sneakers from Dr. Zelen. Most importantly, he can now walk without the crippling pain he previously experienced.

"Whether it's in southwest Virginia or in these special cases, around the world, LewisGale Regional Health System is committed to delivering quality, compassionate care that results in positive patient outcomes," says Victor Giovanetti, President. "Our committed, experienced medical staff has changed Kethia and Anderson's lives for the better, and I wish these two teenagers much happiness and success in the future."