

## ***Rotary Club of Denver Brings Water to Congo Hospital***

Construction at Our Lady of Hope Hospital in Mbuji-Mayi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was recently completed. The 235-bed hospital serves the medical needs of over three million nearby residents in the city of Mbuji-Mayi in the province of Kasai.



**Our lady of Hope Hospital – Mbuji-Mayi, DRC**

There are two other hospitals in the area, one government run, and the other supported by a company currently in bankruptcy. Both are without clean water and are in extremely poor condition.

The Rotary project provides pumping, storage, and delivery of clean water to the hospital from a 65-meter deep bore hole about 100 meters from the hospital. By funneling rainwater through a series of gutters, additional water is available, captured in a separate storage tank for washing and sanitation.

The Rotary Club of Denver, and Rotary Clubs from Cherry Creek, Parker, Littleton, Westminster, and Mbuji-Mayi along with Spirit of Christ Catholic Church provided funding for the water project.



**Over 100 admissions daily; many others left waiting**

Additional assistance was provided by the following: The Congo Relief Mission helped finance hospital construction, Project Cure provided medical supplies, and a Catholic volunteer agency supplemented the local staff of physicians and nurses.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty is devastating; the need is desperate.

Besides high levels of untreated illness in the region, the hospital treats large numbers of accident victims and those wounded on the on-again, off-again civil war that periodically rages east of the city.



**Water storage and temporary tap**

Without the water system, the hospital would be forced to join the other three million residents of the city making a daily trip to the river to collect water.

The driving force behind the project is Father Gaston Muyombo. Father Gaston established a new parish several years ago, built a new large church, two schools, and medical clinic and now this new hospital.



**Some earn their living from selling water at \$1 ea**

He also established the Congo Relief Mission, a humanitarian organization, which supplies food, medical equipment, radios, and computer equipment to the local needy.

Father Gaston has strong support from local government officials and the DRC Ministry of Health. He is well known to national government officials as well as U.S. Embassy personnel. He visits the States regularly to raise funds for his humanitarian efforts.



**Collecting water from the river; the only available source**



**Endless line of people returning home with water from the river**



*For additional information, contact:  
The Rotary Club of Denver  
Bill Korstad - bkorstad@mac.com*



**The main road to the river is a major transportation artery for travel, commerce, and water transport**