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Princeton-based Kenyan Healthcare Center Awarded Johnson & Johnson Grant

Princeton, NJ—October 12, 2010—Thanks to a grant from the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies Fund, TropicalClinics, a Princeton-based nonprofit organization, is shipping a 20-foot container stocked with medical supplies to its Pharmacy & Treatment Center in Kakamega, Kenya. The newly renovated facility serves the rural western part of the country where safe, effective medical treatment and preventive care is limited, and impoverished families are ravaged by high rates of infant and maternal mortality, malnourishment, and HIV.

“All people deserve access to quality health care,” said Dr. Margaret Kilibwa, TropicalClinics’ founder and executive director. “It is especially tragic that when a mother is bringing new life into this world, she should lose hers. In Africa, this happens to one in 16 women. Infant mortality is 10 times higher in Kenya than in the United States, which itself ranks only 33 among nations. Nearly 40% of Kenyan children under the age of five are malnourished. Approximately 76,000 Kenyans are newly infected with HIV each year.”

Dr. Kilibwa, a native of Kenya and clinical assistant professor at the Women's Health Institute of the UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, expects that the grant will enable the Pharmacy & Treatment Center to treat more than 8,000 people in the first half of 2011. The center specializes in modern pre-natal and birthing care, childhood vaccinations, nutritional counseling and vitamin supplements, cancer screening, and the prevention of HIV transmission. Its mission corresponds closely with the aim of Johnson & Johnson’s philanthropic giving which is to make a positive difference in the health of underserved communities around the globe. “This grant will save countless lives and help free many Kenyan families from the burden of disease and premature death. For all those mothers who will now survive to nurture their babies into adulthood, and for their children who can now grow into productive members of their society, I am very grateful to J&J for its support,” Dr. Kilibwa offered.

For more information about TropicalClinics, please visit: www.tropicalclinics.org or contact Dr. Kilibwa directly at either 732-331-6859 or info@tropicalclinics.org.