

A story to tell: A new look

At ten, the main challenges facing a young person are what game to play and what to wear when going out for Sunday school. John Mark Talemereirwa (not real names) has bigger issues to handle. He is in rehabilitation recovering from limited Range of Motion (ROM) brought about Kaposi's sarcoma secondary to HIV. Like many children suffering from HIV, John Mark may be wondering why he is one in a million.

He was infected with HIV through mother to child transmission. The cancer has affected his Range of Motion (ROM) within the knee rendering it to get locked; tight Achilles tendon and the woody skin on his lower limbs. This has made his mobility so difficult since he tiptoes while moving.

The Hospice team has worked together to ensure that his life takes a different turn. The Occupational therapist with the physiotherapist (Museruka J Emmanuel and Anne Falster respectively) have worked tirelessly with him. A walking stick that helps him to ambulate around was provided, health education was done for him about skin care, exercises were demonstrated to the mother and she was urged to be part of the treatment.

Following the procedures, on the follow up visits, John Mark and his mother were so appreciative to the Hospice team due to the significant change in his life. It was noted that he could move for short distances with the help of the stick thus with less pain. John Mark had this to say, "I can now limp". He demonstrated it and he is working hard and will continue his diligence as he is keen to carry out his occupations with ease especially find money for his education since he is a school dropout.