

# FRIENDS FOR HEALTH IN HAITI

Save the Date  
Annual Banquet  
April 20, 2024



## WORDS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN HAITI

In August 2023, the US Embassy re-issued their travel advisory for Haiti with the following statement: "Haiti's Travel Advisory is Level 4, "Do Not Travel," meaning that any U.S. citizen still in Haiti should depart immediately as safely as possible via commercial means. Do not travel to Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and poor health care infrastructure." In light of these warnings, you may wonder why Cherlie and I have decided to stay in Haiti. The reality is that we live quite far from the capital of Port-au-Prince which is where the majority of gang activity and kidnappings take place. Jérémie has been quite calm through all these years of instability and unrest, with only occasional demonstrations and roadblocks. We feel that the benefit we can bring to the patients in our outpatient clinic in Gattineau and the assistance we give to people in the communities around us outweighs the personal risks to us, at least at this point in time. So, for now, we feel quite certain that this is where God wants us to be. We appreciate your prayers for safety for us and our staff and eventual stability for the country of Haiti.

*Dr. Catherine Wolf*

## NEW CLINIC STAFF!!!

We are very happy to report that we have some new staff members working with us at our outpatient clinic in Gattineau.



Dr. Danielle Fortil in her consultation room at our clinic in Gattineau

**Dr. Danielle Fortil** joined us in August 2023. She grew up in the area of Les Cayes (two hour drive from Jérémie) and obtained her MD from University Lumière in 2021. She did her Social Service year (government requirement) at Centre de Santé Lumière in Cayes, the clinic which is affiliated with the MEBSH church, under which Cherlie and Dr. Wolf worked in the 1980s and 1990s. Dr. Fortil is becoming oriented to our system and our patients, as she helps Dr. Wolf with patient consultations.

**Mrs. Febee Jeudy** is a laboratory technician who joined the staff at the beginning of July 2023. She grew up in Jérémie and obtained her medical technology degree in Port-au-Prince in 2016. She was working at the government hospital in Jérémie prior to joining our staff in Gattineau. Mrs. Jeudy is married and has a grown son.



Laboratory technician Febee Jeudy in the Gattineau clinic lab



## NEW CLINIC STAFF continued



IT technician Anialie helping with the EMR system in the clinic

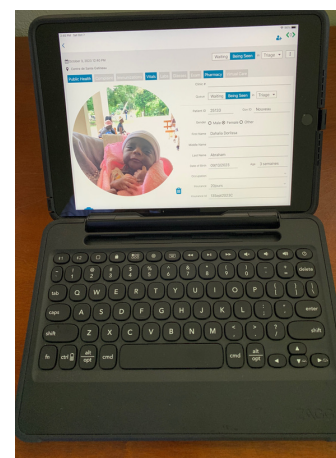
**Maritane Colot** was working in Port-au-Prince for many years before relocating to a community near Gattineau with her husband. We hired her in September 2023 to do light housekeeping in the clinic. She's already making a difference with her attention to detail!



Newest staff member Maritane keeps our clinic clean and bright!

## JOINING THE TECHNOLOGY TRAIN!

For some time, we have been considering whether to implement an electronic medical record system in our clinic in Gattineau. We felt that it would help us gather statistics we need for weekly and monthly government reports as well as providing information that would be helpful in evaluating our activities and services. We were told several years ago that we could implement a system used in Haitian government hospitals but this never became a reality. So, after researching all the options (with help from friend Sally King), we decided to subscribe to Backpack EMR, an EMR system developed specifically for use in low-resource settings like ours. Backpack EMR uses iPad tablets, held in a durable case with keyboard, to store all the electronic information.



iPad tablets are kept in a durable case with keyboard. Each department has tablets to use for their work.

Tablets are connected to one another throughout the clinic through a local network (we don't have internet at the clinic). So, when patients are registered at the Registration window, their information comes up on all the tablets. They are then sent to the Triage area where the nurses record their vital signs and send them to the Consultation area for the physicians to examine them. Those who need lab tests are sent to lab and their results are put into the electronic system, after which they return again to the physicians to write their diagnoses and prescriptions. Once in pharmacy, all the prescriptions are listed on the tablet and Cherie and the nurses fill the prescriptions, give the patients their instructions and send them on their way.





Adrien, our registration clerk, records patient information on the tablet and in the logbook.



Cherlie reviews the patient prescriptions on the tablet prior to giving patient instructions.

The process is easy but using it takes time, especially for the physicians. Since our patient volume is very heavy right now and our speed is not very fast, we're using both electronic and paper charts for the time being. Please pray that we'll adapt quickly and be able to convert entirely to the electronic system soon!

## Earthquake Relief Update

### EARTHQUAKE RELIEF PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

We are very happy to report that almost all of the materials (cement, sand and tin) for assisting families rebuilding their houses after the earthquakes of August 2021 and June 2023 have been distributed! It's been a huge logistical effort, fraught with many delays, but we have finally been able to get the materials in the hands of the families that need them, thanks to our generous donors, our Community Development staff (Gemi and Wilton) and our volunteer Community Promoters. Everyone really pitched in to make this a team effort, designed to improve the lives of rural Haitian families as evidence of our compassion as followers of Christ.

Due to security issues, we had people in the higher mountain communities come to the warehouse to pick up their cement and tin directly from the supplier. We paid each homeowner a small stipend to cover the cost of transportation by motorcycle up to their home. Then, we contracted with dump trucks to deliver sand to the communities, with distribution being supervised by our Community Promoters. Each truckload of sand was divided into 4 portions, one for each of 4 homeowners, who transported the sand in sacks and buckets from the drop-off area to their homes.



Sacks of cement loaded onto motorcycles for transport up the mountain to recipient



Truckload of sand divided into 4 equal parts for distribution to 4 homeowners

# Earthquake Relief Update

## EARTHQUAKE RELIEF PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION continued

In the lower communities closer to Gattienau (where security risks are minimal), we had dump trucks deliver cement, sand and tin close to the homeowners' houses. Local committees were set up to help with supervision of the distribution process, all under the direction of Gemi and Wilton, our own Community Development staff. Everything went smoothly and new houses are starting to go up all over the area! We were able to help 1083 families in 21 communities!



House being re-built, thanks to our Earthquake Relief Program



*We give thanks to all of the generous donors who made this Earthquake Relief Program possible.*

## MAKING PROGRESS IN OUR SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Water & Sanitation

- One aspect of our Earthquake Relief Program has been to repair latrines that we had previously built that were damaged in the earthquakes.
- Gemi, Wilton and our Community Promoters identified those latrines in need of repair, supervised distribution of the materials needed for repair and arranged for local masons to do the repair work.
- They are in the process of repairing a total of 304 latrines (67 of which caved in and 237 which were badly damaged).
- We give thanks to those of you who have contributed to our Water and Sanitation Program which financed these repairs.

### Goat Program

- We recently had a meeting with all 16 of our Goat Program supervisors, those in the "old" program and those in the "new".
- They gave good reports regarding their work and the impact the program is having in their communities. One of the said, "In the past at the start of the school year, people were depressed because they didn't have money to pay for tuition for their children to go to school. Now, thanks to the goats, they're able to pay for tuition and uniforms without much thought."
- Thanks to everyone who has donated to this very important program. We're making rural Haitian families stronger!

### Education Program

- It's the start of another school year and we continue to assist needy students with tuition and expenses related to their schooling.
- We're helping two students in primary school, two in high school, two in university and two in medical school.
- One of the medical students, Jameson, is getting ready to start his internship year and Guy-Johns is beginning his fifth year. We are anxious for them to finish their studies so they can come help us in the clinic!

