



A quarterly newsletter for Friends for Health in Haiti, by founder and executive director, Catherine E. Wolf, MD MPH

### Our Mission

The mission of Friends for Health in Haiti, Inc. is to improve the health status of the people of Haiti through high-quality health care provided in a caring, compassionate and respectful manner, as a means of demonstrating God's love in this world and as a reflection of our faith in Jesus Christ.

### Friends for Health in Haiti is on the web!

- Regular updates on our blog.
- Photo gallery filled with photos of clinic site, patients, and life in Haiti.
- Donate online!

[FriendsForHealthInHaiti.org](http://FriendsForHealthInHaiti.org)

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## GIVE THANKS!

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, it's a good time to reflect on God's goodness to us and the blessings we've received this year. Friends for Health in Haiti is thankful for:

- **Faithful support** from our donors!
- A well-attended and successful **fund-raising banquet** in Milwaukee in April 2009 ("Hope For Haiti")
- Strengthening of our **relationships with the communities** of Gatineau and surrounding areas
- **Positive reputation** of the clinic
- **Increase in numbers of patients** being seen (we're now at a maximum of 35-45 patients per clinic session)
- **Official approval** for construction from the Haitian Department of Public Health
- Successful implementation of a **Hurricane Relief Grant**
- Establishment of a **Patient Poor Fund** to help the most indigent of our patients
- Beginning of **capacity building efforts** at the government hospital in Jérémie (Hopital Saint Antoine)
- **Purchase of a jeep/ambulance** to assist in transport of staff and patients to and from the clinic (we're awaiting its arrival and clearance through customs)



One of three cemented areas placed in sections of the road that frequently flood.

# NEW DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

The board of directors of Friends for Health in Haiti recently voted to name Timothy J. Bedient MD as our Director of Research. He will be assisting FHH in writing grants and developing ongoing clinical research projects in Haiti. He completed his internal medicine residency at Washington University in St. Louis, where he was one of the principal editors of the first edition of the "Washington Manual of Critical Care Medicine". He is presently doing a fellowship in Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver, and does research at the National Jewish Health Center for Genes, Environment and Health in the areas of tuberculous and non-tuberculous mycobacterial lung infections, and interstitial lung diseases. As Dr. Katie Wolf's nephew, Timothy spent several months in Haiti as a teenager and worked in a mission hospital in Kenya at the end of medical school. He has a heart for global health and wants to use his energies and skills to help the less fortunate in the world. We welcome Timothy to our staff.



Dr. Timothy Bedient

## A WORD FROM OUR VISITORS *By Dr. W. Gregory VonRoenn*

*Dr. VonRoenn is Vice-President of the Board of Directors of Friends for Health in Haiti and has visited Haiti several times in the past. He assisted Dr. Wolf and Cherlie at the clinic in Gattineau in September, 2007 and February, 2009, at which time he was accompanied by two medical students.*

As a Board member of Friends for Health in Haiti, I find it a rewarding experience to visit and work at our clinic in Gattineau. Travel to Haiti is unlike anywhere else in the world and I found it difficult to fully prepare the two medical students who were to accompany me for their visit to Jérémie.

Tim Lefebvre and Arun Mannem, both from the Medical College of Wisconsin, were overwhelmed by the poverty and lack of medical facilities available for the Haitian people. Tim, now a resident in Pediatrics in Pittsburgh and Arun, presently an Internal Medicine resident in St. Louis, recognized immediately how important is the Gattineau clinic to the Haitians in that area. The students rode in the back of a Toyota 4X4 pick-up loaded with medications and supplies, over rocky and treacherous terrain to reach the clinic. As such, they experienced first hand some of the many difficulties inherent in providing medical care in Haiti. Along the way, we would occasionally stop to pick up a patient, which made the trip more unique and enjoyable.

The isolation of the clinic site up in the mountains didn't stop the large number of people who flocked in to be seen by a doctor. Our patients waited hours to be seen, yet were very grateful for a thorough medical evaluation. We, in turn, learned how difficult it can be to practice medicine with limited supplies, and struggled to understand treatment options for diseases we weren't accustomed to seeing.



We visited the local government hospital in the town of Jérémie and heard the local Haitian physicians bemoan the lack of basic equipment and supplies, such as an EKG machine, oxygen and laboratory tests. Dr. Wolf routinely visits the hospital to check the status of clinic patients that have been referred there, and sees the effects of these limitations on patient care.

Tim and Arun were a bit overwhelmed with their Haiti experience, but were also very enthused by it. Both plan to return to help provide medical care in Haiti in the future. They realized how important and vital the clinic is to the residents of Gattineau and how the people have come to depend upon Dr. Wolf and Cherlie to provide quality health care. We all admire Dr. Wolf and Cherlie's commitment and hope to continue to support them in this incredibly important endeavor.

Tim Lefebvre, Katie Wolf, Arun Mannem and Greg VonRoenn  
volunteering at a government clinic outside Jeremie



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