

FRIENDS FOR HEALTH HEADLINES

OCTOBER, 2014

A 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!

FriendsForHealthInHaiti.org

Save the Date!

The 7th Annual Hope for Haiti banquet and fundraiser will be held on April 25, 2015 in Milwaukee, WI

More details coming soon!

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FOLLOWING PATIENTS AS THEY GROW

Emmanuela was a struggling newborn when we first met her and her 16 year old mother in September 2010. We wrote about Emmanuela in a blog back then describing the challenge in getting her young mother to properly care for her in order for her to survive the newborn period. Survive she did and we connected with her again at the age of six months, looking not too happy but definitely growing and appearing to be healthy. A few weeks ago, we happened to see Emmanuela's aunt in the clinic and she told us that Emmanuela was being cared for by her paternal grandmother, since her own mother had gone into Port-au-Prince to live after the infant was weaned. We told her aunt that we would like to see Emmanuela, so she brought her in to the clinic the next week. She's now almost four years old and appears to be a healthy, contented young girl. Following the lives of little patients like this is one of the joys of our ministry.



Emmanuela at the age of four



Emmanuela at a few weeks of age



Emmanuela at age 6 months with her mother Linda

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"SHOW ME YOUR FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS, AND I WILL SHOW YOU MY FAITH BY WHAT I DO." (James 2:18)

I think it's fair to say that Cherlie and I are "doers" when it comes to our Christian faith. We prefer to show what we believe by our actions, rather than our words. That being said, sharing the Good News of the Gospel is an important part of sharing one's faith. So, every morning when we begin our clinic, we share Scripture with the patients, pray with them and make sure that they know that we are here in Haiti to serve the Lord through our medical ministry. As our medical services expand, so will our spiritual ministry, not only to our patients, but to the communities around us. Our desire is that people who come to our clinic and those who live in the surrounding communities understand what it means to live a life consistent with Biblical principles. Haiti is a well-evangelized country, but many of those who profess to be Christians and even some of those who attend church regularly don't know what it means to be disciples of Christ. They still hold on to their beliefs in Voodoo and live in fear of those around them. We want them to understand the freedom that Christ offers, but also the responsibility for one another that the Christian life requires. We appreciate your prayers for us in our daily witness for the Lord here in Haiti.

THE JOY OF BEING PAIN FREE

Etide Clermont is a 70 year old woman who has been a patient of ours for many years. She suffers from osteoarthritis and has frequent joint pain that we treat with nothing more than acetaminophen and Muscle Rub (a cream similar to Ben Gay). She had heard about some problems that we have been having with regard to unjustified claims on our land, so she proceeded to offer me some words of encouragement during our consultation time together. "This clinic has done wonders for me," she said, as she got up from her chair and started dancing around the room. "I used to have pain every day," she said, "but now I'm able to carry water myself." She sat down in her chair long enough for me to take her picture, but she kept singing a song of praise as I finished writing up her chart. "Send the troublemakers to me," she said. "I'll tell them what this clinic means to us here." And, with that, she danced out the door!



Etide Clermont sitting in the consultation room in our clinic before "dancing out the door!"

**THANK
YOU!**

Donors who commit themselves to give **on a regular monthly basis** provide ongoing support towards our mission to improve the health of the people of Haiti in a caring and compassionate manner as a reflection of our Christian Faith.

To become a regular donor, return the enclosed envelope with your credit card info and indicate how often you'd like to give, or call us at 262-227-9581. **Thank you!**

MORE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

We are happy to say that the end of our capital construction project is finally in sight, as the finishing touches are being applied to the pharmacy/xray/laboratory building, which is next to the main clinic, and the residence quarters on the second floor of the pharmacy building. Ceramic tile is being installed, porch railings are going up, painting is being done inside and out and wooden windows are being built by a local Haitian carpenter. Here are some photos of our progress:



Paint on the walls and ceramic on the floor of the residence living room



Iron posts installed along the sides of the back porch of the residence. Horizontal railings will be attached to the posts for safety.

Steps are being built going up to the storage building doors and the stairwell leading to the residence level is being finished off. In addition, some needed landscaping is being done in front of the pharmacy/xray/laboratory

building with all the work being done by hand, due to the fact that we haven't been able to get a bulldozer to help out.



Partially completed steps leading up to the doors of the storage depot. The electrical system is in the room on the left and the water filters are in the room on the right.



Carpenters working with hand tools to prepare wood for the windows of the clinic

We were fortunate in getting our solar panel array and electrical system installed, thanks to the help of David Farquharson, a missionary from Port-au-Prince. So, we now have electricity in the building, making it possible to keep a refrigerator running that can supply us with wonderful cold water to drink during the hot work days! In addition, we set up our UV filtration system for the water coming into the clinic and we now have filtered, drinkable running water in the examination rooms. Thanks to everyone who helped bring our clinic into this century!

LITTLE BOYS AND MACHETES DON'T MIX

Jean Remy Fantaizy was brought to the clinic one afternoon by his mother, his left thumb wrapped in a piece of cloth. Blood was soaking through and it was obvious the crying six-year old had suffered a serious injury. According to his mother, Jean had been playing with a cousin at home and they decided to take down his father's machete from its hiding place in the rafters. The first thing Jean did with it was to cut into a coconut. Unfortunately, his left thumb was holding the coconut and the machete cut his thumb as well as the coconut. When I took off the bandage, I could see that he had a serious laceration. Since there are surgeons available down in Jérémie at the government hospital, we sent Jean and his mother down to them to see if the thumb could be repaired in the operating room. We put on a clean dressing, gave Jean some pain medication and sent them on their way down the mountain on a motorcycle taxi.



Jean Remy Fantaizy sitting in clinic with his healing left thumb

A few days later, Jean and his mother appeared at the clinic again. As I talked with them, Jean held his thumb gingerly in his lap, looking apprehensive as I loosened the bandages. "They sewed it up," his mother said,

explaining that the surgeons had told her that Jean lost a small part of the tip of the thumb, but they were able to close it up and told the mother to follow up with us for dressing changes. "We'll see you through this," I said to Jean as the tears welled up in his eyes. "We'll just put on a new dressing, put you on some antibiotics and pain medicine and you can come back and see us in two days," I said.

For the next month, we saw Jean and his mother in clinic two or three times a week, cleaning his poor little thumb, watching it heal and keeping it from getting infected. Near the end of the month, his mother shook her finger at him. "He's been bad," she said. "He went out and played in the yard and hit his thumb and it started to hurt," she accused. Jean didn't act like anything hurt, judging by the mischievous smile on his face. He hid his face when I asked him about his behavior, but my examination of his thumb showed that everything was more or less intact. "Play at your own risk," I said. "And, don't play with any more machetes!"

Friends For Health
I N H A I T I



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