

FRIENDS FOR HEALTH HEADLINES

WINTER 2016

Celebrating 10 Years!



A Look Back At Ten Years of FHH

2006

Dr. Katie Wolf and nurse Cherie Severe leave Milwaukee and move to Haiti. The FHH home office is set up and fundraising begins

2007

Our clinic in Gatineau opens, seeing patients twice a week in a little house on our clinic site.



2008

In the first year of operation a total of 1783 patient consultations are performed.

2009

Hope for Haiti, the first annual fundraising banquet to benefit Friends for Health in Haiti is held in Milwaukee, WI.

2010

January 12—severe earthquake in Port-au-Prince.

2011-2012

Outpatient clinic is under construction!

2013

February Inauguration Ceremony of Gatineau Health Center.

FHH partners with Rotary Club and Johns Hopkins School of Nursing on water and sanitation project.



2014

Move into the new clinic building in March.

2015

Construction of residence quarters completed.

2016

FHH celebrates 10 years!
Thank you for supporting us on this journey!
Please join us in celebrating 10 years on April 23, 2016 in Milwaukee, WI.

Friends for Health in Haiti

CELEBRATES TEN YEARS!!!

Friends for Health in Haiti is ten years old this year! Hard to believe that it's been that long ago that Dr. Katie Wolf, with the advice and support of a wonderful Board of Directors, founded the organization. Those initial Board members and advisors included Dr. Dale Heuer, Dr. Greg VonRoenn, Susan Kuhlenbeck, Dr. Rita Hanson, Jim Rodrian and Dr. Rene Raymond. Under the Lord's guidance and with the help of generous donors and supporters, the Friends for Health in Haiti team has accomplished much since 2006 in our vision to improve the health and change the hearts of the Haitian people. Join us in celebrating our Tenth Anniversary at our annual banquet in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on April 23, 2016!

ALL THINGS SANITATION

In previous editions of our newsletter and in our blogs, we have told our readers about an ongoing Water and Sanitation Project that began in 2013. This is a project that is funded by various Rotary Clubs as well as some generous donors. We have been assisted as well by faculty and staff at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing who have conducted training sessions for our 12 Community Promoters, performed project evaluations and assisted with our recent house-to-house census. After having our Community Promoters educate their communities about the need for drinking treated water, using latrines and washing their hands, we are now helping them build latrines for 35 families in each of the six communities they represent. This is just the start of what we hope to be a larger effort to bring clean water and sanitation to the communities that are served by our primary care clinic. When people practice good personal hygiene, it helps to prevent disease and helps them live healthier, more productive lives.

So, where are we with our Water and Sanitation Project? In early 2015 we had enough funds to begin the latrine construction project in two of our six Promoter communities.

SANITATION, CONTINUED...

The Promoters, in collaboration with a community management committee chose the 35 families that they felt were candidates to receive a latrine. We asked them to consider the following criteria in their decision-making: the recipients should be those who are unable to afford a latrine on their own, they must be willing to supply water, rocks, planks and dig the latrine hole, and the families should be large or in multiple family yards, so that a maximum number of people would benefit from having the latrine. After the committee made their choices, Gemi and our friend Lifaite Andre visited each of the recipients' homes to verify that they were reasonable candidates. Gemi and Lifaite then held a training session to teach the latrine recipients how to use the latrine, how to maintain it and how it would be built.



Gemi and two Community Promoters hold a training session with latrine recipients to teach them about the use and care of their latrines



Concrete slab with hole in the middle on which a "seat" will be built. A ventilation pipe is in place as well as the corner posts and tin roof.

They also met with the local masons who would be constructing the latrines to be sure that all the latrines are made using the same dimensions and with a similar appearance.

A few months ago we began transporting materials to each of the communities where construction would occur. This included sand, gravel, iron bars, cement, tin and PVC pipe. The latrine recipient was responsible for transporting the materials from the drop-off site by the road to their yard. This was all organized and arranged by Gemi and the Promoters. Once the materials were delivered, the local masons, under the supervision of Gemi and Lifaite began construction of the latrines.

Each latrine is 10 – 20 feet deep, with a rock and cement retaining wall at the top of the hole. Then a concrete slab is poured over the latrine hole with a small hole in the middle, upon which a concrete "seat" is constructed. The concrete slab is reinforced with iron bars and wood posts are put in the 4 corners of the slab. A PVC pipe is put in the slab as well, to provide ventilation of the latrine.



Rock walls are in the process of being built to enclose the latrine, after which a door will be made out of tin.

MORE SANITATION...

Rock walls are then constructed and a tin roof is built over the latrine. A door is constructed on one side of the latrine out of tin with a wooden frame. Gemi has challenged the masons to see which of them can build the most beautiful latrine! He hopes that when there's competition, there are better results!

While latrines are being completed in the first two communities, the second two communities are choosing and training their 35 latrine recipients. Materials are on their way up to these new communities, after which the construction process will begin. We hope to have latrines in all six Promoter communities completed by this summer if the necessary funds are available. We welcome your help in building these latrines!



*Completed latrine with tin door, hinges and lock.
Isn't it beautiful?!*

INTRODUCING JUDITH ROMELUS

I'm pleased to announce that Judith Romelus has joined the Friends for Health in Haiti Family as our new Director of Development. Judith began working with us in December 2015. As Director of Development, Judith will lead and build the development efforts and functions for FHH. Judith comes to FHH with more than 15 years of experience, having served as an Associate Director for Marquette University, Director of Development for Milwaukee Collegiate Academy, and as Regional Director of Community Development for Rocketship Education. She is a native of Haiti and has both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Marquette University. Please join us in welcoming Judith to our team! Below are some comments from Judith herself:

“I am beyond thrilled to be part of an organization committed to improving the quality of life of those in Haiti. This is an exciting time in my life! I asked God for the opportunity to use my skills and talents to support the country of my birth; and HE did! In the next coming months I will be working closely with FHH’s Executive Director, Board and staff to implement our fund development plans and prayerfully meet FHH’s fundraising goals. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you, our faithful donors and supporters who continue to be instrumental to FHH’s success. Thank you everyone for making me feel so welcome!”



SLEEPING ON THE CLINIC PORCH

One day in clinic I noticed that there were a lot of new patients from the community of Lorry. Then, I saw a bunch from Palmiste. As I scanned down the logbook I saw Lorry, Palmiste, Palmiste, Lorry, Lorry, etc. So, I asked one of the patients why there were so many people from her community in clinic that day. "Oh," she said, "we all came together in a group. We walked all day yesterday and slept on the porch so we'd be here early today to get numbers to be seen." She told me that their community was about a 6 hour walk from the clinic! I shook my head in wonder and went on with my day, thinking that it was probably an unusual occurrence to have patients spending two days to come and go from the clinic. On our way home, however, we passed a group of 5 women climbing up one of the hills close to the clinic. They waved to us and laughed as they said "Good afternoon, Doctor. We're going to stay overnight on your porch tonight!" They, too, wanted to get seen early in the morning so they were having a "camp-out" in our clinic waiting area. From the looks of them, they were certainly having fun! We all laughed the next day as we asked them how well they slept on our benches. "Just great," they said with smiles on their faces! The smiles were even bigger when they had their hands full of medications they had just bought and were heading down the driveway to go home.



Macula and Navial Deralin slept overnight on the clinic porch in order to be the first patients to be seen in our clinic the next day!

Save the Date!

Our eighth annual fund-raising banquet in Milwaukee, Wisconsin will be held on

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Watch our website, blog and Facebook for updates.

Please contact us if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or donating to our auctions.

Friends For Health
I N H A I T I



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