



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!

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

FriendsForHealthInHaiti.org

Save the Date

The 6th Annual Hope for Haiti Banquet will be April 5, 2014 in Milwaukee, WI

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

2014 has brought several visitors our way, each one giving of their time and energy to help us make a difference in the lives of the Haitians we serve.

Hannah Carr, from Eugene, Oregon is here with us for eleven weeks. She has a college degree in International Affairs and is applying to medical school. She is fluent in Creole and has been working with us in the clinic, helping with the water and sanitation project, packing medications on our non-clinic days, assisting with translation and helping out wherever she is needed.

Cherlie's nephew, **Clifton Jourdain**, from Uniondale, NY was here for several weeks in January. He and Hannah helped us out with a continuing education and feedback seminar with our water and sanitation promoters on January 18th. It was a wonderful morning of sharing stories, experiences, suggestions and knowledge among the group. The promoters have been very motivated, involved in educational activities in their home communities almost daily. They want to make a difference in the health of their community members. Several of them are dedicated believers and are also sharing the good news of the Gospel as they work.



Water and sanitation promoters who participated in continuing education seminar in January 2014

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, CONTINUED...

Clif and Hannah went with our community coordinator Gemi Baptiste into some of the communities near the clinic to observe our water and sanitation promoters at work. They were able to see community education first hand and saw that the promoters' messages are making a difference. Many families are now using "tippy-taps" to wash their hands, thanks to the teaching and assistance of the promoters. The tippy tap is a gallon of water with a hole in the top, arranged with a pedal to tip it over, allowing the user to wash his/her hands without touching the gallon.



"Tippy tap" in yard of a family in an area where a promoter is working

Clifton is just finishing his college degree in Public Health and is excited about being more involved with the clinic and our community development programs in the future. We love having young, energetic men and women like Hannah and Clif working with us!



Dr. Wolf, Clifton Jourdain and his aunt Cherlie outside the clinic

Almost every year since coming to Haiti, Cherie and I have been visited by a group from my home church in New Jersey (**Kingston Presbyterian Church**) and other churches in the New Brunswick Presbytery. They have been supporting our construction project with great faithfulness and enthusiasm and it has been a delight to be able to share our progress with them from year to year. When they see the site and we see tears in their eyes, we know we've made some headway!

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Scott Hodge and **David Raduzycski** work on building a shelving unit for the new laboratory and pharmacy



NJ sisters **Janet Rubenstein** and **Nancy Luck** make a young girl happy with a toy beanie baby donated to our clinic by the children in their church back home.

AND CONTINUED SOME MORE...

February brought us a visit from **Richard Graebner** and **Dawn Johnson**, members of Elmbrook Church in Wisconsin. Richard and Dawn held an Eyeglass Clinic for us for four days up at the clinic, checking vision for 106 patients and giving out 74 pairs of eyeglasses. The Eyeglass Clinic was held in the "Haiti Hut" that was donated and built two years ago by carpenters from Elmbrook Church. The patients were delighted to be able to see better and those who are literate were thrilled to read John 9:25 on the eye chart: "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see."



Richard Graebner looks on as translator Kendy helps to check a woman's near vision, using an eye chart with the text of John 9:25 in Creole

THE VALUE OF REFERRAL

Every so often we see critically ill patients, especially infants and children, in our clinic in Gattineau. Since we're not set up to care for inpatients, we have to refer these ill patients to the government hospital in Jérémie. What a joy it is when we find out the patient recovered from their illness and did well! One such patient was a little girl named Sophia Rene, who had severe abdominal pain, distension and signs of bowel obstruction when she came to our clinic one morning. I referred her immediately to the hospital, where she underwent exploratory surgery. She was found to indeed have a bowel obstruction due to ascaris worms. After surgery, we visited her at the hospital and she was doing well.

After discharge, Sophia Rene came to see us in our clinic with her parents. She had made a complete recovery and was healing well. Both of her parents were very grateful for the positive outcome for their young daughter. As we explained to them, the Lord provides for our patients even when we aren't the primary providers.



Sophia Rene after surgery for a bowel obstruction caused by worms

Join us in Milwaukee!

The 6th annual Hope for Haiti banquet, an event to benefit Friends for Health in Haiti, will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at The Wisconsin Club, Milwaukee, WI. Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction begin at 6pm. Dinner program & Live Auction begin @ 7:30pm. Watch our website for exciting updates and call or email for ticket information: www.friendsforhealthinhaiti.org, friendsforhealth@gmail.com, 262-227-9581

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MID-TERM VOLUNTEER

The following article was written by Hannah Carr, who is volunteering with us in Haiti for 11 weeks. Hannah has her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon. She is a nationally registered Emergency Medical Technician and is improving her Creole while applying for medical school.

When I met with my friends Drs. Garry and Mitzi Barker in April 2013 and asked if they had any suggestions for medical experiences in Haiti, I didn't realize how fortunate I was that they knew Dr. Wolf. Now that I'm here I realize I'm even more fortunate that Dr. Wolf and Cherlie agreed to let me come and stay for 11 weeks this winter. Not only am I being given an invaluable opportunity to improve my Creole and my EMT skills, I'm fortunate enough to bear witness to the incredible amount of work that these women do each and every waking moment – which, for Dr. Wolf, is quite a few moments!

Mornings here start shortly after dawn with a simple breakfast and a strong cup of coffee. By the time we have arrived 12 miles up into the mountains and grown an hour older, the caffeine is fully circulating and we are set to open clinic. Despite drinking the same coffee, Cherlie seems to have an extra source of energy. She always arrives ready to give her invigorating morning message to the waiting patients. People laugh, they nod amen, and best of all they come away with an understanding of the heart of the clinic.

We next spend time at the new clinic site, the magnitude of which is heightened by a comparison to the amenities currently available in the area – no electricity, no running water, no two story buildings, few roofs made of anything but tin or thatch and certainly no other health facilities of this caliber. It is a testimony to the power of belief and perseverance. Construction continues on at an encouraging pace. The roof is being framed with a maze of bamboo supports and the masons continue to smooth and beautify the seemingly endless concrete structures. Through it all, Dr. Wolf documents and compares the physical clinic with the architect's plans, patiently keeping everything progressing.

The workers clean up around four o'clock and we tend to leave Gattineau by 4:30. The day is far from over, with many more moments to work. We are home and setting the table for dinner by 6:00. Cherlie is an excellent cook and her enthusiasm for produce has us all eating well. Once the table is cleared, it's time to pack medications for the next day, record the finances and double check the log books. My day's work has ended and I often retreat to the balcony to study and relax. From there, I see the light of Dr. Wolf's office on until the wee hours of the morning, taking advantage of the quiet and what seem like endless waking moments.

You can read more on Hannah's blog at <http://hannahandhaiti.blogspot.com/>



Hannah Carr, volunteer from Eugene, OR working with Gemi Baptiste to input data regarding water and sanitation promoter activities into the computer



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