



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.

Construction updates

Regular construction updates can be found on our blog:

<http://friendsforhealthinhaiti.wordpress.com/>

Visit our website

FriendsForHealthInHaiti.org

A NEEDLE IN THE WRIST

Melanie Pierre is a 72 year-old patient of ours in our Gattineau clinic. She came for a visit in August 2011 and said that she had been stuck in the left hand with a sewing needle. She wasn't sure if the needle had broken off in her hand and came to the clinic to have it looked at. When I examined her, I saw a small puncture wound on the left palm but couldn't feel any needle under the skin. I suggested that she get an xray at the hospital in Jérémie to see if the needle was still in her hand, but she didn't have money for it and didn't want to go. I thought that was the end of the needle episode.

In January 2012 she came back in for a visit and said she was having pain in the left wrist. She was seen by a visiting physician who felt that her left wrist and hand showed no abnormalities. So, she was given pain medication and went home. She came in the next month with the same symptoms and another visiting physician injected her wrist for pain relief.

In June she came back to the clinic to see me and she sat next to my examining table holding her wrist. "Doctor," she said, "I have a needle in my wrist and I can feel it." "Really?" I said. "Let me see." So, I felt her wrist and, sure enough, I could feel a long hard object under the skin on her left wrist. "Do you want it out?" I asked her. "Of course. I've known it's been in there for almost a year!" she said.

So, with a little local anesthetic, I made a small incision and retrieved the broken tip of a sewing needle – about 1/2 inch long. "Here you are," I said, holding up the needle. "You were right – you did have a needle in your wrist." With that, Melanie pranced out of my consultation room and proceeded to tell the rest of the patients about the miracle that had just occurred!



Melanie Pierre holding up the clamp with the piece of needle that was removed from her left wrist

Inside this issue:

4th Annual Hope for Haiti Banquet	2
Teach Them When They're Young	3
Best Friends	4
Working for the Master	4

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4TH ANNUAL HOPE FOR HAITI BANQUET

The 4th annual Hope for Haiti banquet was held on April 28, 2012 at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee. Two hundred and forty-two people were in attendance and it was a wonderful evening for all. Many thanks go to the volunteer Banquet Committee headed up by Co-chairpersons Carla VonRoenn and Barbara Tyler. The committee did a great job of organizing the Haitian Artists Colony with arts, crafts, vanilla and coffee from Haiti, a silent auction and live auction, emceed by Steve "The Homer" True. There was also a FUNDA (see next article), where individuals could commit to fund certain aspects of construction and operation of the clinic in Haiti. The hard work and dedication of the committee and its leaders was certainly evident during the event.



Barbara Tyler and Carla VonRoenn, Banquet Committee Chairpersons

The program consisted of a slideshow by Engineer Nick Matthews documenting progress on the clinic construction (the slideshow can be viewed on our website blog at friendsforhealthin-haiti.wordpress.com/ and a presentation from Friends for Health in Haiti founder and Executive Director Dr. Catherine Wolf. The real highlight of the evening, though, was a short, entertaining speech by Cherlie Severe, RN, Dr. Wolf's passionate and dedicated Haitian-American co-worker.



Haitian Artists Colony at the banquet



Cherlie Severe, RN, speaking at the banquet

TEACH THEM WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG



Parker Schlick

Parker Schlick is a ten-year old boy who lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He and his parents, Michael and Nancy, attend Eastbrook Church, one of our supporting churches. Here is a story told by his mother, Nancy, to Dr. Wolf:

"Michael and Parker had been talking about possibly donating at the Hope for Haiti auction, but Parker was a little unsure. He had not donated anything before and, as an only child, he isn't even used to sharing his things. He asked some questions and thought about it for a few days and decided he would like to donate something, but he didn't know what. I suggested

we count the change and other money in his piggy bank and see what he had. Parker decided he could donate \$40 that he had earned doing chores and walking his grandparent's dog (and miscellaneous coins that fell out of his dad's pocket when they wrestle).

Parker looked at the FUNDA items for the banquet (individual things for the clinic and construction project that people at the banquet could contribute to) and he was a little sad. He really wanted to buy benches for people to sit on, but the FUNDA list said it cost \$100 for 5 benches and he didn't have that much money. He really liked the benches, though and thought it would be something that would really help the people. I had explained to Parker that patients often walk a long way, even when they are pretty sick, to come to the clinic and they wait patiently for a long time to see you and Cherlie on clinic days. I told Parker that I would ask if he could buy just two benches with the money he had, and, of course, you said yes!

Parker was very excited when he saw the receipt I brought home from the banquet saying that he had purchased two benches for the clinic. He hopes that they are a blessing to the people. Michael and I are hoping this is just the beginning of Parker thinking about and serving God's loved ones. Thank you, Katie and Cherlie, because this opportunity has given Parker a tangible connection to the people of Haiti."



One of Parker's new benches after being painted



Parker's bench being tested out by several little patients

BEST FRIENDS

Cedilia Antoine and Marie Annicia Ulysse are both 80 years old. They're best friends and live near each other in a community called Jean Pierre. It was July 5th and they both came into my examination room together. Cedilia had been to our clinic many times before. She suggested that her friend Marie Annicia come for evaluation of some swallowing symptoms she had been having. They laughed together as Marie Annicia told me about the recent change in her voice and pain she was having with swallowing.



Cedilia (left) and Marie Annicia (right) laughing together as visiting nurse Holly Kellar looks on

Upon examining her, I discovered that Marie Annicia had a large mass in the back of her throat, most likely a cancer, and the festive mood turned serious. We discussed the probable diagnosis and dismal prognosis and I asked her if she was a Christian (in Haiti, this means asking a person if they know Jesus as their personal Savior). "No, I'm not a Christian," Marie Annicia said. "But I know God." We spent some time talking about God and Jesus and how one could know that they were saved. I didn't have anything to offer her medically, but the Lord had everything to offer her spiritually. Before she left clinic that day Charlie and Cedilia, who is also a Christian, prayed with her. Then the two best friends left hand in hand.

WORKING FOR THE MASTER

Bob Chase is a master cabinetmaker who works for the Master. He came to Jérémie with a group from Elmbrook Church in Waukesha, WI in February and built something very dear to my heart – a built-in desk for my office! It was designed by his son Kent and Bob built it in a



few short days. Here's a photo of the master-piece in front of windows that look over the Caribbean.

Here is the master cabinetmaker hard at work in our backyard.



We are thrilled that

Bob has agreed to build the cabinets in our new clinic – a master cabinetmaker doing the work of the Master.



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