



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](http://FriendsForHealthInHaiti.org)

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## OUR NEW LOOK!

We hope you like the new look of our newsletter. We want to “show off” our newly constructed clinic building by putting it as the header on our newsletter. We're in the process of painting the clinic inside and out, putting in the electrical system, plumbing, cabinetry and equipment so we can soon move all of our patient services there. In the meantime, our construction crew is busy building a **septic tank and soak pit** for wastewater, **reservoir** to hold fresh water, **pump house** for the water pump that will pump water from the well up a hill to the reservoir and an **incinerator** for infectious waste.

We recently changed our construction team and the group of masons we're now working with is the same group who built Cherie's house in Jérémie. The foreman is a young man with a lot of skill and we appreciate the dedication he has to his trade:



Who needs a backhoe when you have strong, young men to dig a septic tank hole?



Foreman Mackenson - he's small but powerful

Our clinic actually consists of two structures – the **main clinic building** with consultation rooms, procedure room, Emergency Room and offices (pictured above) and the **pharmacy/laboratory/radiology** building. The latter building is

## OUR NEW LOOK, CONTINUED...

now undergoing the final stucco work, after which a second floor will be added as a **residence quarters**. This addition will allow us to stay up at the clinic during the week, thus avoiding daily driving on the bad roads. It will also be a place where small groups of visitors can stay overnight while working with us. We are grateful to architect Thomas Lee from Princeton, NJ, for designing the second floor addition for us. Tom is coming down in the fall to help supervise construction of the new addition.



Final stucco work inside pharmacy building

## WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?

In developed countries like the US, most houses have running water and people are able to drink water from the tap without fears about getting sick. Such is not the case for 1.1 billion people in the world, including the majority of the people of Haiti. In the area in which Friends for Health in Haiti works, people often have to walk miles in order to find water and, even then, it often is not clean enough to drink.



A contaminated, uncapped underground spring

As many of you may know, for the past several years, we have been involved in a small **seed project** in the communities around the clinic. Through this project, we have been able to identify those communities with good leadership and the most **potential** for future development. Due to the tremendous need for clean water and sanitation in our area, and its impact on the health of our patients, we have decided to begin a small **water and sanitation project** in six of these communities near the clinic. We are privileged to be able to partner with Rotary Club and the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing (JHSON) and are planning to do the following:

- An initial **community assessment** was performed by JHSON students in May 2013 to assess present water and sanitation practices.
- Each of the six communities will choose two young people to be trained as **health promoters**.
- JHSON students will help develop the curriculum and assist with a three-day promoter **training** in October 2013.
- The promoters will be given a small monthly **stipend** and sent back to their communities to do health teaching regarding water and sanitation issues for a year, funded by the Fox Cities WI Morning Rotary Club.

# WATER, CONTINUED...

- The promoters will be **supervised** and assisted by Cherie Severe, RN and Community Coordinator, Gemy Baptiste, and will undergo continuing education sessions with JHSON students in February and May 2014.
- The promoters will work with community leaders and members to identify water and sanitation **needs** in their community and develop a plan for improving these needs (e.g. capping a water source, building public or family latrines, water treatment in the home, etc.).
- These **community projects** will be implemented in the future as funding and community readiness permits.

**We appreciate your prayers for this important step towards development. If you have expertise in the area of water or sanitation, if you are a member of a Rotary Club that wants to get involved in a project of this sort or if you would like to help us make an impact on health through the provision of clean, potable water and sanitation facilities in our area, please contact us! Together, we can make a difference.**



Primary school students listen to health message



Capped spring in a community near the clinic

## CONSTRUCTION ON THE INSIDE—BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

How would you feel if you were nine years old, the only child of your mother and father, caught in a situation where your mother lives miles away, up in the mountains with your half-siblings and you're with your father who has no home to live in, doesn't feed you every day and drinks too much? Meet **Jean Rousel**, the latest young child that Cherie has taken under her wings to care for, as she attempts to live out these words from James (1:27): "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..."

Jean Rousel has the body of a five-year-old, the verbal skills of a professor and the street smarts of an octogenarian – all of this without any formal education! He is, as we tell Cherie, a **project**. His father works for Cherie farming her land down by the ocean, and when she found out he and his son had no house to live in, she let them build a little shelter on her land. Jean Rousel began coming around our house and we soon realized a few things about him:

- *He craves attention (positive or negative) and affection*
- *He loves to talk*
- *He's a manipulator*
- *When you kick him out, he just keeps coming back!*

## RELATIONSHIPS CONTINUED—

Thus, he has become a rather **permanent fixture** around our house and yard for the past several months. We feed him nearly every day and he helps with a few chores around the place. But, he frequently takes to the streets, roaming around until hunger for food or love brings him back to us. His father is neglectful, but willing to have Jean Rousel go to **school** next year, so we will make sure he gets signed up in time to start first grade. We've already given him a writing pad and pencil so he can start to practice writing



Jean Rousel—  
Cherlie's latest "project"

ing even before school starts. And, on a recent trip to the US, we bought him some good used clothes and shoes that he's been wearing to **church** every Sunday. The challenge is great – keep praying for us to have a positive influence on this little neglected boy's life.

**Relationships are wonderful!** Sometimes we develop relationships with people through something as simple as saying "hello" and "goodbye"

as we drive by. We now have 3-4 groups of youngsters who race to the side of the road when they hear our jeep, just so they can wave and shout out loud goodbyes! Here is a "new" group of friends we've recently made:



Greetings from our new little friends!

We're grateful for these and all of our relationships because it is through relationships that **faith** can be shared and lives changed. Many of the children and adults we greet by the side of the road have become our patients and we are able to build on these relationships as we care for the physical and health needs of our new "friends". Cherlie and I believe very strongly in living our faith in an active way and developing positive, nurturing relationships is a first step in this process.



### HELP US SAVE ON POSTAGE COSTS!!

If you would like to help us save money and receive our **newsletters via email**, please let us know by sending us an email at **friendsforhealth@gmail.com** and we'll switch you to the email newsletter mailing list! Thanks!

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