



FRIENDS FOR HEALTH HEADLINES SPRING, 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!

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

FriendsForHealthInHaiti.org

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Clinic Stories | 2 |
| Underlying Philosophies | 3 |
| Chickungunya Fever Hits Haiti | 4 |
| Construction Update | insert |

LITTLE CHILDREN—BIG GIFTS

Nancy Willerton is a veterinarian in Denver, CO and she and her husband Craig have twin boys, Zeb and Zadie, who were born in Haiti. For the boys' fifth birthday this March, Nancy and Craig asked their friends to make a donation to Friends for Health in Haiti in lieu of giving the boys presents. Nancy and Craig heard about FHH from their church, Montview Presbyterian Church, and hope to come visit us in the fall with a work group from Montview. A total of 32 gifts were received in Zeb and Zadie's name, giving a donation of over \$1500! We are going to use some of the money to help buy supplies and tools for the work group from Montview to use on their visit here and the rest will go into our Poor Fund to help pay for pediatric patients whose parents are unable to afford their medications.



Five year old Emmalee is the granddaughter of our Banquet Committee Chairperson Lin McKenney. Last summer Emmalee opened a lemonade stand in front of her house and saved all of the money she earned as well as money given to her by the Tooth Fairy and put it all in a plastic bag. She presented it to Grandma Lin recently and told her it was for the needy children in Haiti.



Precious money donated to FHH by young donor Emmalee

We appreciate these generous, creative children and their thoughtful parents and grandparents who instill in them a sense of compassion for those in need. Their gifts are precious and sacrificial and we will use them with wisdom and conscientiousness. Thank you!

Left: Zeb and Zadie
Haitian-born children helping Haitians!

CLINIC TALES

Since March we have been working in our new clinic and we love it! Our patients are impressed by the ceramic tile, paint on the walls and beautiful cabinets, desks and exam tables. We're thrilled with the iron doors and windows that provide security and the pleasant breezes that flow through the building as we work during these hot, humid months. We are seeing record numbers of patients and expect to soon expand to holding clinic four days a week and then five. The road up to the clinic is worse than ever, so making that many trips each week is a challenge! Pray with us for rapid completion of our second floor residence quarters on top of the pharmacy/lab/xray building (see Construction insert).



Patients waiting in the hallway of the new clinic

We make it a point to help our patients find ways to afford their medications. Sometimes that involves letting them buy on "credit" with the understanding that they pay what they owe on their next visit. Some of our regular patients are elderly and rely on gifts from their children, many of whom live in Port-au-Prince, to enable them to have money to come to clinic and buy their medications. When they've received a "gift" from their children, they pay their bill and buy medications for another month or two. When they don't have money, we sell the medications on "credit" until the next "gift" comes through. Some of the patients have gotten even more creative, like Rosier Joissant. He is a farmer and plants beans up in the high mountains above the clinic site. At harvest time, he brings us beans in exchange for his medications. It's a win-win situation, since we get some great beans to cook and he gets his medications!



Rosier Joissant pays for his medications with beans

JOIN US ONLINE!

Keep up with the latest news from Friends for Health in Haiti

Visit us at our Blog and on Facebook:

friendsforhealthinhaiti.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/friendsforhealthinhaiti

BEING A GOOD SAMARITAN

In our clinic here in Haiti, we believe it is essential for our patients and the communities around us to know that we are a Christian institution and our faith is the reason that we are in Haiti. We feel that we have been called of the Lord to serve him in this country and this site and to do so to the best of our abilities. We are committed to providing excellent medical care with compassion and respect for all who come to us, regardless of their beliefs or status in life. And, we are committed to developing this clinic and our programs to use limited resources to have the greatest impact on the greatest number of people in a sustainable manner that empowers the local people, rather than creating dependency. It is a huge responsibility and we take it very seriously. We presently have three young Haitian men working with us. One is Gemy Baptiste, our Community Coordinator who supervises our water and sanitation project. The second is Guy-Johns Chevalier who we are training to be a Pharmacy Technician and the third is Adrien Jean Jacques, who works in registration and is our clinic chaplain. Recently Adrien shared an interesting story with us that I recount here as an example of the kind of dedication and compassion we greatly appreciate in our employees.

Late in the afternoon on a rainy day, Adrien was walking up the road above the clinic site and saw a handicapped woman fall off a motorcycle taxi she was riding up the mountain. She had only one leg and lost her balance as the motorcycle slipped in the mud and down she went by the side of the road. He recognized her as someone who lives in Jérémie but she was apparently on her way up to her family home in the hills when she fell off the motorcycle. The taxi driver shook his head as if to say "No way. You're not getting on this motorcycle again," and he took off back down the mountain. Adrien stopped to ask how she was and noticed she had some scrapes



Adrien Jean Jacques, registration clerk and clinic chaplain

and bruises but no apparent major injuries. But, she obviously couldn't walk with one leg and no crutches and was still far from her family's home. She had a young daughter with her who was frightened and wild-eyed and offered no helpful information. None of her family members were waiting for her, nor were any of them on their way down to the road to pick her up. Adrien didn't know what to do. He didn't know the woman but here she was lying on the side of the road with no one to help her. It was getting dark and he knew he had to do something quickly. He checked with a few people whose homes were near the road and no one wanted to take her in for the night. His own house was too far away to take her there. So, he went to the local community leader and borrowed a stretcher, gathered up a group of about 10 young men and they put her on the stretcher and carried her up into the hills to her family's home, arriving there well after dark, around 9pm. All this for a stranger! Needless to say, the patient and her family (negligent as they were) were grateful. But, as we know from the story of the Good Samaritan in the Bible, the eternal reward will be great (Luke 10:25-37). Good work, Adrien for loving your neighbor as yourself!

CHICKUNGUNYA FEVER HITS HAITI!

Never heard of Chikungunya Fever? Well, most of the rest of us hadn't either until we received a message here in Haiti from the US Consulate Office in May warning us that this mosquito-borne viral infection was in the Dominican Republic and would most likely spread to Haiti. And, spread it did! Official statistics are unreliable, since the disease is not being reported in a routine fashion and many people who are infected are not seeking medical care, but the disease has already affected thousands of people in Haiti and in many other countries in the Caribbean. Most of our co-workers and many of our patients have had it and even I (Dr. Wolf) had it recently. It is a viral infection that is transmitted by mosquitoes that bite during the day (in comparison with mosquitoes that transmit malaria that bite at dusk). Symptoms include fever, headache, joint pains and a diffuse rash and the only treatment is supportive therapy with medications like acetaminophen. Most symptoms resolve completely, although some patients may have persistent joint pains long-term. We've been seeing 4-5 patients with it each day in our clinic. The Public Health Department has sent messages via cell phone and radio to inform patients as to the symptoms and treatment for the infection. So, now everyone is familiar with "the fever" as they refer to it here. Chikungunya has become a household word! We're hoping it will leave the country as quickly as it's come.

WATER AND SANITATION PROMOTER EDUCATION CONTINUES

In mid-May, we had a visit from another group of Johns Hopkins School of Nursing (JHSON) students, led by faculty member Grace Murphy. They helped us do some community teaching in communities near the clinic site that aren't directly involved with our water and sanitation program. Then, they helped us put on a two-day continuing education seminar for the 12 promoters who were trained last October in water and sanitation issues. The promoters have been conducting hundreds of community education activities since their initial training and this recent session provided us with a chance to reinforce previous information as well as teach some new subjects to them.



Johns Hopkins nursing students teach promoters using colorful posters in their continuing education session in May



Friends for Health in Haiti, Inc.

P.O. Box 122

Pewaukee, WI 53072

www.FriendsForHealthInHaiti.org

Phone: 262-227-9581

Email: friendsforhealth@gmail.com

Blog: friendsforhealthinhaiti.wordpress.com



www.facebook.com/friendsforhealthinhaiti

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

It was in the spring of 2011 that we began excavation of our building site up in Gattineau. Since then, we have built an entry road onto the site, a bridge over the creek running through the site, a storage depot to store construction materials, and the main clinic building that was inaugurated in February 2013 (see our newsletter from Spring 2013). In the past year, we have solidified and put a new surface on the bridge to prevent it from flooding.



New surface on the bridge with drainage canals preventing flooding and the accumulation of mud.



View of the bridge over the creek with the new clinic up the hill

In addition, we had a well dug on the site to provide a reliable source of water to our buildings. A pump house was built over the well and a water pump installed to pump water from the well to a reservoir on the hill above the clinic.



Pump house over the well and water pump



Reservoir for storage of water on the hill above the clinic. Water will flow by gravity down to UV filters that will purify it before it goes into the clinic buildings

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW, CONTINUED...

We also completed construction of a patient latrine and shower, a septic tank and a soak pit for waste water (see Fall 2013 newsletter, available on the newsletter page of our blog). The first floor of our second clinic building will house the pharmacy, laboratory and xray and was completed in August 2013.



Completion of the first floor pharmacy/lab/xray building



Patient latrine and shower built behind the main clinic building for use by patients and their families

In September 2013 we began construction of a second floor residence quarters on top of the pharmacy building. This will provide us with a place to stay up at the clinic site, so we don't have to drive up and down the mountain each day to work in the clinic. The workmen are now doing the final stucco work on the second floor and have completed the sidewalk connecting the main clinic building with the pharmacy building.



Nearly completed second floor residence quarters on top of the pharmacy/lab/xray building



Sidewalk and roof connecting the main clinic building with the pharmacy building