

Hôpital Sacré Coeur

CRUDEM

Issue 11

Fall 2008

Notes from Haiti

Fall has two National holidays – October 17 the Death of Dessalines and November 18 the Battle of Vertières. Both are indicative of the thirst for independence that has and does characterize the people of Haiti. Many don't know that the first place Columbus landed in the "New" world was in Haiti, just 5 miles from Milot. Within a generation through the insatiable greed for gold, the colonists exterminated the native population. To do the work, natives from Africa were snatched from their homes and families and brought to Haiti as slaves. However, the love of freedom and their desire for independence was never forgotten and burned strongly in their hearts. Some of them actually fought in the American Revolutionary war as part of the French forces sent to aid the Americans. They also heard of the values of the French Revolution – fraternity, liberty, equality and took them to heart and challenged the mightiest military force of the era – Napoleon's army!

Dessalines, Toussaint L'Ouverture and Henri Christophe were leaders of the Haitian Revolution at the Battle of Vertières that dealt a decisive defeat to Napoleon's army. They established the second republic in the Americas and the first black republic in the world — quite an achievement!!

Throughout its history, marked by much suffering and oppression, that thirst for freedom and independence has continued to burn. In a way, that fight still goes on though it is different. Today's struggle is for economic independence. The world's increase in food and fuel prices, have affected Haiti badly, just as it has other developing nations. Food prices have doubled and tripled over recent months. In a nation where the unemployment rate is over 70% this is a humanitarian disaster of major proportions. Can you imagine having

to send your child to bed hungry because you have nothing to give him? Or being too embarrassed to bring a sick child to the hospital because you can't afford even the prescription fee?

We see the effects of the price increases both on our patients and the institution. Fewer patients come, and when they do, they are often sicker. Our diabetic and cardiovascular patients not only come for financial assistance more often, but try to stretch their prescriptions by halving them so that they last twice as long. The result of this strategy to economize, is that they often arrive in a critical state and the staff has to snatch them from the jaws of death. We do what we can, but there is always the wish that we could do more! There is a Haitian proverb *The cry of the poor is like the gong of a wooden bell, no one hears it*. We can only ask that you listen with the ears of faith and help in any way you can.

Dr. Bernes Chalumeau, Marie-Ange Barrella, Raymond Pierre-Louis, Emmanuela Beliard, Rayond Delnatus, Sr. Joanna and Sr. Martha



President's Comments

All of you are aware of the terrible devastation that has occurred in Haiti over the past month from the 4 hurricanes. What you probably don't know is how this has affected the people of northern Haiti and Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Let me try to paint a picture for you of the current situation.

There was already a food shortage before the hurricanes causing an increase in malnourishment and the diseases associated with it. People were trying to grow food and relief agencies were trying to send food. The hurricanes destroyed all the crops that were just starting to produce food, destroyed the main road used to transport food and fuel and destroyed the shacks with dirt floors that the people live in.

In our country when disasters strike there is an infrastructure in place to get assistance to the people. In Haiti the only support they receive is from Hôpital Sacré Coeur! We are the ONLY HOSPITAL IN NORTHERN HAITI still open. The other hospitals have closed because of lack of fuel. People that are starving, injured and sick can only find one place for



refuge and care, Hôpital Sacré Coeur.

Our volunteers are still coming every week and are carrying medical supplies with them. The spirit of the volunteers is well described in an article in this newsletter by Dr Bernadette Sheridan, a member of the OMAT team. Teaching is ongoing as our staff and volunteers care for patients. Nursing students rotate through our hospital as part of their training (see article in newsletter) and nursing professors from Boston come every 6 months to provide education to our staff.

As you might imagine, our supplies and staff are overwhelmed by the tremendous need. Our fuel costs have tripled from \$4 a gallon to \$12. We have set up an emergency hurricane fund for people to donate money to help us meet this need.

As you can see in the lead article in the newsletter, the people of Haiti have a rich history. They are very proud and strong. Please keep them in your prayers as they struggle against overwhelming odds to survive and please consider even a small donation to our relief fund. As Mother Theresa said "Do small things with great love. It's not how much we do, but how much love we put into the doing."

-Peter J Kelly MD
President, CRUDEM Foundation

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First time readers of this newsletter are probably wondering what CRUDEM means. It is an acronym:

Center for the
RUral
DEvelopment of
Milot

When the Brothers of the Sacred Heart came to Milot in 1968 and started building roads and bridges, constructing schools, medical clinics, a tile factory, a lumber mill and bringing electricity and clean water to the village; they called their mission CRUDEM.

In 1986 they built an 8 bed hospital with an operating room and called it Hôpital Sacré Coeur. St Louis surgeon, Dr Ted Dubuque was the first volunteer to arrive, and shortly thereafter with his childhood friend, Carlos Reese, Dr Dubuque formed the CRUDEM Foundation in St Louis to support the hospital. It is a 501(c) (3) corporation.

Spirit of Volunteerism

The spirit of volunteerism creeps under your skin after a medical mission has ended. The memories of the sights, sounds and experiences can last for weeks and months. It never really leaves you. An anxious sort of a feeling, it nudges your complacency, and over time fosters a certain restlessness in your mind that refuses to be silenced. One is forever changed - and even when you have returned to your comfortable everyday, business as usual, it rests within you just beneath the surface, silently reminding you of the other world you



(left to right) Delcasse Joseph, MD, Surgery; Abellard Louis-Jeune RN; Fregens Duvalsaint MD, Anesthesia; Dominique Delma, MD, OB-GYN; Stephen Carryl, MD, Surgery

have experienced and pricks your consciousness to the discrepancies of life on planet earth. It is only temporarily silenced when you make plans to return. Service without monetary return is not only satisfying in ways untold, it is also habit forming. Once you have experienced it, like an elixir, it leaves you in anticipation of the next time.

OMAT (Overseas Medical Assistance Team) over the last 15 years has lent its services to several countries in the Caribbean and Africa, but some of our most significant work has been in Haiti. Our travels to the small town of Milot (near Cap Haitien) in the north of the country has been so rewarding because we have been able to see

the progress of the town, the quality of care given to the people and the improvements that have been made to the hospital over time. Because we have returned to Hôpital Sacré



Sr. Martha and Dr. Sheriden

Coeur for the last four years, we have established a bond between not only the hospital and our Haitian medical colleagues but also with the people of the town and surrounding area. Milot adopted our team and we

embraced the adoption wholeheartedly!

Our team this year consisted of 2 General Surgeons, 1 Anesthesiologist, 1 Obstetrician-Gynecologist, 1 Family Practice physician and an RN with a sub specialty in Ob-Gyn. Our objective on each mission is always the same, to blend in and work



with our Haitian colleagues where help is needed, to complement services already in place and to exchange ideas - but never to intrude or change the existing structure.

We will return in 2009.

The author, Dr Bernadette Sheriden, is a Family Practice specialist from New York.



LEOGANE SCHOOL

The Episcopal University of Leogane (Haiti) inaugurated Leogane FSIL) in January of 2005 with a class of 36 enrolled students. The mission of the new school is to improve the quality of nursing education in general as well as providing quality professional training for employment.

To provide more extensive clinical experience for its students, the school recruited HSC as a clinical training site for its students. The first students arrived on April 28, 2008 – all thirteen of them wearing blue scrubs and white uniforms. After a day of orientation, they were ready to get down to business.

As their month long practicum was nearing an end, Mr. [Name] received some experience in Community Medicine. Their performance had so impressed the staff, that everyone was delighted at the end of June. The fourth year students paved the way for the month of clinical rotations in July 2008.

Seven of the fourth year students had such a beneficial experience during their vacation and work as volunteers. Marie-Marthe Desjardins said that they particularly appreciated the opportunity to work in the hospital. They loved their rotations through all the medical services. Mr. [Name] because "that is where all the action is" and Shirley preferred the OR. Marie-Marthe went out of her way to express her appreciation for the staff making all the students welcome, for being available, for asking questions.

The universal wish of all the students is that the relationship be maintained, providing the same "formidable" experience to other nursing students.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

ated its School of Nursing (Faculte des Soins Infirmiere de
thusiastic, energetic, motivated and hopeful students. The
ing care particularly at Hopital Saint Croix and in Haiti in
g to the youth of Haiti in a field in which they could find

nts the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Mme Hilda Alcindor
After extensive discussions and planning the fourth year
. They made quite an appearance in their crisp pale green
assigned to the various services of the hospital and quickly

e. Alcindor asked if they could remain another month and
enthusiasm, their spirit of collaboration and willingness to
ed to have them stay longer. They finished their placement
ay for a group of third year students who arrived for their

experience that they asked if they could come back during
sir and Shirley Dieuveille, two of the fourth year students,
to put into practice what they had learned in theory, they
Marie-Marthe particularly enjoyed the OR and Maternity
rred pediatrics as she "enjoyed working with the children."
ation for the nursing staff, particularly Nathalie Dorcin for
answering their questions, and for organizing their experience.
onship between HSC and FSIL would continue to flourish
sing students.



An All Hands Effort

Over the course of the past year, a new surplus military ambulance changed into a beautiful mobile clinic/ambulance for Hôpital Sacré Coeur. When Leo E. Karl III, president of Karl Chevrolet in New Canaan, CT saw the vehicle on the internet at a bargain price, he immediately wondered whether our hospital could use it. The answer from Haiti was yes - if it had 4-wheel drive and used diesel fuel and could be used for multiple purposes.

The next question was how to raise the money! With the help of the local Rotary Club, CRUDEM Board member Stratford Wallace and the Karl family this was accomplished. The new paint job was donated by the New Canaan Auto Body Shop and the markings by the Economy Sign Company in Danbury. St. Aloysius Church parked the ambulance outside the church one weekend and parishioners contributed over \$12,000 to outfit it.

Finally, Hope Carter, also a CRUDEM Board member, with her daughter Helen drove the vehicle to Ft. Lauderdale for shipment to Cap Hatien, Haiti. It was truly an all hands effort!



CRUDEM FOUNDATION

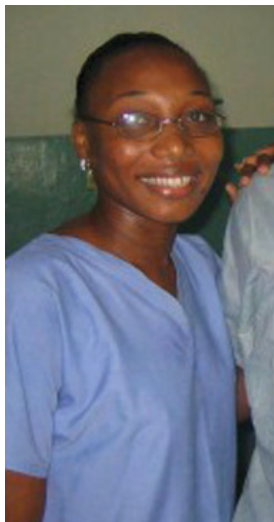
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Staff Profiles

Like most organizations HSC is in constant evolution and change in order to better respond to the needs of the patients and the institution. Therefore, when the Administrator Jean-Mary Louis resigned, the Council decided to divide his responsibilities between two dynamic individuals who were already on staff. We would like to present to you, this ***Dynamic Duo*** – Mme. Emmanuela Beliard and M. Raymond Delnatus.



Emmanuela Beliard

Mme. Emmanuela Beliard is already well known to anyone who has come as a medical volunteer. After she received her BSN from the University of Notre Dame in Haiti in 2000, she began to work at HSC as a per diem nurse. Her varied talents were immediately put to good use as she split her time between working in the in-patient unit and the cardiology and diabetic clinics as well as helping out with the clinics for the medical volunteer teams. Emmanuela became a full time member of the nursing staff in 2003 and became responsible for the specialty clinics in the spring of 2005.

Emmanuela had always expressed an interest in administration, so when she was offered a scholarship for an advanced degree in healthcare management and community health she jumped at the opportunity. Upon completion of her degree she returned to HSC where she was ultimately promoted

to Director of Human Resources and External Collaboration. Her new position assures that she will continue to work closely with the visiting teams in addition to her new responsibilities.

Emmanuela, the only girl and eldest in a family of 12 children, lives with her husband and two daughters Carla (6 ½) and Marly (3 ½) just outside of Cap Haitien. The skills she learned managing her 11 brothers should stand her in good stead!

Raymond Delnatus

Raymond perhaps was destined to come to work at HSC as his first teachers were the Brothers of the Sacred Heart at their school in Trou de Nord. A requirement for Raymond's university program was a practical internship, and that was when he applied to HSC. Raymond chose a hospital setting because "it is a place where knowledge of many different fields and many different skills come together providing endless opportunities to continue learning."

After his practicum, Raymond never really left the hospital; he substituted during staff vacation and helped out as needed. When a full time vacancy became available in the business office in February, 2004 he was recruited for the position. His high level of motivation was immediately evident as he set about reorganizing the cashiers office and providing additional training for the personnel.

From the beginning, he has been interested in improving the workings of the business office. For him no task is too complicated, no task is ever refused, suggestions are always forthcoming. Raymond is available early in the morning, as well as late in the evening.

Raymond has two brothers and two sisters of whom he is the eldest. He had met his wife while studying for the required national exams at the end of high school. They were married May, 2007 and now reside in Petit Anse with their 7 month old son.



Wish List

*A Double-cabin
Pick-up Truck*

*Portable Chargeable
Oto/ophthalmoscopes*

Sphygmomanometers

Wall and ceiling fans

*Buckets with Metal
Mop Presses*

*Yard Equipment
extra sturdy rakes,
shovels, outdoor brooms,
squeegees for windows,
walls and floors.*

Note: If you would like to donate any of the above, please contact either Denise Kelly or Joni Paterson at the CRUDEM Foundation offices (314) 754-7471. They can help to arrange for the purchase and delivery to CRUDEM of any item(s) you want to provide. Thank you.

CRUDEM Celebrations!

Haitian Art Show and Auction - Jacksonville



to benefit Hôpital Sacré Coeur was held at the Karpeles Museum in Jacksonville, Florida on September 19. Carol Fipp, the daughter of the late Dr. George Fipp, reported

that over 100 people enjoyed a special evening through the tremendous effort and generous contributions of Overstreet Ducasse, the artist, Loubens Jean-Louis, the event organizer, and Ryan Gardere.



*Above:
Loubens Jean-Louis (event
organizer) and
Overstreet
Ducasse (artist
extraordinaire)*

*Left: Overstreet
explains the
concepts in his
work.*

Taste of Haiti - Boston

The first "Taste of Haiti" event in Boston to support Hôpital Sacré Coeur took place on September 11 at the Baseball Tavern near legendary Fenway Park. With Haitian music in the background and typical Haitian food on the menu it was a big success!



*Above: Organizers of "Taste of Haiti"
(back row, from left) Peter Kelly, Michael Gillis, Denise Kelly, Bob Downing, Julie Gillis,
(front row, from left) Deb O'Hara-Rusckowski and Suzanne Downing*



Hôpital Sacré Coeur
CRUDEM

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