

NOTES FROM HAITI

Sometimes one is just in the right place at the right time. After dropping off a departing volunteer team at the airport, Corporal, the hospital driver was on his way to the gas station to fill up the car. As he was entering the town of Quartier Morin a young boy ran across the road in front of his car so that he had to stand on the brakes to avoid hitting him. Corporal called to the boy to lecture him on the need to look, before running across the road, but instead the young boy asked for his help, he had heard a baby crying, but couldn't find him. Corporal went with the boy and they finally concluded that the crying came from inside an abandoned latrine. They entered, but still couldn't see the baby, even though the crying was louder. Corporal sent the boy to call his father and get a flashlight while he continued looking.

When the boy and his father returned with the flashlight, they shone it down the hole, and there off to the side, was the baby!!! But now, how to get him out??? The two men found an old board that they



could put from the top to the bottom of the hole. It was steep, too steep to crawl down without taking the chance of falling into all the muck, so they found a rope from which they made a harness, one would descend, while the other held him. With this arrangement one of the men slowly went down into the hole and reached the baby. Corporal happened to have an extra T-shirt with him; they wrapped the baby in this, and brought him out.

He had countless bites and was burned from lying in the muck and his own urine – he had been down

there for 3 days. Corporal brought him to the Pediatric unit where he was bathed, given clothes and fed.

Later the police found the mother, who said that she had 5 children already, the baby's father was an itinerant worker who had passed through the village and she just couldn't cope with another mouth to feed. She explained that she had given birth on Friday night and had deposited the baby immediately into the latrine with the hope the baby would die.

Since his admission, Corporal has developed such an attachment to the baby that he has decided, with encouragement from his other children and his wife, to adopt the child whom he has now named Albert L. Dieudonne. Albert has been recovering in Pediatrics, almost all evidence of his ordeal is now gone. The new proud Papa visits several times a day and just stands and admires this new life which he helped to save and which God has blessed him with - Albert has also been blessed with a very generous and devoted father!!!

*Dr. Bernes Chalumeau, Marie-Ange Barrella,
Raymond Pierre-Louis, Raymond Delnatuis*



President's Comments

I have always felt that the best indicator of a good teacher was a successful student. We have been blessed for the past 11 years to have Daughters of Charity at our hospital providing a religious presence and mentoring and teaching our Haitian staff how to run an excellent hospital. Since their departure in February we have seen the fruits of their good teaching. Our Haitian executive team consisting of Islane Raymond, Raymond Delnatus, Dr Harold Previl and headed by our CEO Dr Bernes Chalumeau have continued to guide and manage our hospital according to the standards set by our board. As a volunteer surgeon recently wrote on return from a week at Hôpital Sacré Coeur, "I was overwhelmed at the job the Haitian staff is doing at HSC. All my concerns as to the direction HSC would go after the sisters left were eliminated. The future is bright!"



We now have a Haitian administration managing the hospital and Haitian medical staff providing daily care to patients, which makes us a very unique non-profit hospital in Haiti and an example the government would like to use for the rest of the country. Despite this success, we are still dependent on volunteers to come as teachers. This teaching takes many forms such as physicians working side by side with Haitian physicians sharing new techniques and information, nurses working at the bedside

with our nurses demonstrating ways to improve patient care, nonmedical volunteers working with our staff to improve our physical plant and the most important lesson taught by all volunteers and illustrated in the story on the front page, the value of human life.

We have always been blessed with medical volunteers but often non-medical volunteers have hesitated to offer their services because we didn't have a structured way to utilize them. That has now changed thanks to the tireless efforts of a non-medical volunteer, Tim Traynor. Tim has used his many skills to assess the current state of our physical plant. He has begun a program of renovation that he has separated into many different projects. The first project is the painting of the hospital and other buildings on the campus. The supplies needed have been donated and are on their way to Haiti. Now we need volunteers who would like to come and help during the last week of May and first two weeks of June. You will work side by side with Haitian staff and volunteers and will return home feeling a sense of accomplishment and appreciating the beauty of the Haitian people and the enormous challenges they face. Please contact the office if you are interested.

It is through the support of our volunteers and our many donors that we are able to navigate the difficult economic times we now face. Your continued efforts to share your resources allows us to continue to provide care to the thousands of Haitians that depend on Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Thank you and God bless you!

Peter J Kelly, MD
President

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.

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Sr. Christine in the Nutrition Center



Sr. Patricia with friends



Sr. Martha, Sr. Ellen and Sr. Johanna

Mesi Anpil

The departure of the Daughters of Charity in February marked more than 10 years of compassionate and dedicated service to the sick-poor of northern Haiti and Hôpital Sacré Coeur.

The Sisters came to the hospital at a critical time in its development and through their efforts it has become a place of hope and succor to the needy, providing amazing medical care for all who come.

Starting with the team of Sr Jean Maher, DC, Sr Martha Balai-Kovich, DC and Sr Patricia Geoghagan, DC, followed by Sr Janet Cashman, DC and Sr Ellen Kron, DC, and ending with Sr Johanna Danson, DC and Sr Christine Casey, DC (Sr Martha has been at the mission for the entire time), the hospital has been most blessed with their individual talents and dedication. They have served through a decade of devastating floods and hurricanes, armed insurrection and civil unrest, as well as severe food shortages and inflation. Utilizing their Orders legendary skills in hospital operations around the world, they oversaw the impressive growth of hospital services and of the CRUDEM campus along with installing solid administrative controls and, at the same time, nurturing a culture of Christian charity for all.

The entire CRUDEM family is deeply indebted to them for all that they have done.

Sr. Johanna at mobile clinic in Choiseul

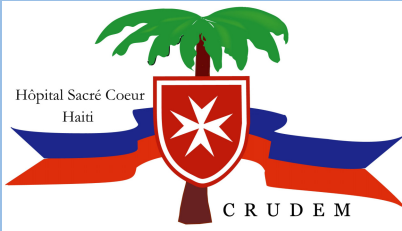


Sr. Ellen, Sr. Johanna, Sr. Janet and Sr. Martha



Sr. Jean making rounds with Bishop Lori





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Newsletter

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Area News

Support for Hôpital Sacré Coeur and its good works in Haiti which began in St. Louis has now spread to many parts of the country, as the following news suggests...

Washington, DC celebrated its first "Taste of Haiti" event in October at the Haitian embassy. It was a huge success. Members of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta and the Haitian ambassador combined to bring the wonderful story of CRUDEM to our nation's capitol. The event raised \$25,000. Msgr. Bill English and Msgr. John Ensler, after visiting Milot in February with a medical team from Washington, have committed to raising \$100,000 to build a parish center for the village church.

St. Aloysius parish in New Canaan, CT, in addition to its annual tithing to Hôpital Sacré Coeur, has spawned other generous donations - Sophie Moorman has been holding annual



tag sales to benefit the hospital and the St. Aloysius School 5th grade and the 3rd grade religious education classes held bake sales to purchase food for the Nutrition Center. Kathy and Leo Karl have marked their coming 50th wedding anniversary in May with a gift to CRUDEM of \$50,000, and Gail and Dick Ahern responded to the "Wish List" in our Fall Newsletter by contributing \$27,000 for a new pickup truck!

From Shelburne, VT comes word that St. Catherine of Siena church - called the "little Church with the big heart" - has donated \$15,000 for infant formula. This is the home parish of Dr. Peter Cataldo who leads a volunteer surgical team to the hospital on a regular basis. The parishioners have been long time loyal supporters of CRUDEM.

Through the fundraising efforts and generosity of Fr Aidan Carroll, Spiritual Director of Pure In Heart in Dublin and his friends, 48,000 euros were donated to the hospital.

St. Cecilia's church in Wilbraham, MA has dedicated the month of March to spreading the message of CRUDEM and highlighting the experiences of one of its parishioners, Tim Traynor, who has spent a considerable amount of time there working on the hospital infrastructure. Their efforts raised \$6,000 in addition to the \$11,000 they raised in December. Also in December the western Massachusetts area held its 3rd annual "Taste of Haiti" event at the Hamden Country Club. A total of \$37,000 was raised.

The "Le Societe Honoraire France" chapter at Olympic High School in Orlando, FL read about the good works being performed at our hospital in Haiti. So they decided to donate the proceeds of their annual fundraiser to Hôpital Sacré Coeur!

OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL
4301 S. Apopka-Vineland Rd., Orlando, FL 32835
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Mrs. Jenny Gibson Linkh
Principal



Angela Roane introducing Ambassador Joseph.
The event raised \$25,000.

Supporters of CRUDEM in St. Louis, MO held their 2nd annual "Taste of Haiti" in September at the Schlafly Tap Room. The event, which featured Haitian music, dance and food attracted over 200 attendees and netted approximately \$45,000, thanks in part to the support of the small but enthusiastic Haitian community.

STAFF PROFILES

DR. HAROLD PREVIL

Dr Previl will assume the role of Medical Director of Hôpital Sacré Coeur on the first of May. He grew up in Port aux Prince and graduated from the state medical school there in 1995. After serving his social service year in Bossin Bleu in the northwest of Haiti, he returned to Port aux Prince for specialty training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the state University hospital.

From 1999 to 2002 Dr. Previl worked full time as our first Ob-Gyn at Hôpital Sacré Coeur - and then continued to work in a part time capacity providing emergency care at night and on weekends while he served as the Medical Director of the Family Practice Department at Justinian hospital in Cap Haitien.

As Medical Director Dr. Previl looks forward to working to improve the quality of care and increasing the educational opportunities for the hospital staff.

He is married to a nurse anesthesiologist who he met at the hospital in 2002. They have two children and live in Milot village.



ISLANE RAYMOND LOUIS

Islane Raymond Louis has been working at Hôpital Sacré Coeur since December 2008. Before joining us she worked for 5 years as a chief nurse at Solano "Port of Call" for Royal Caribbean Cruiseline at Labadee beach. She speaks fluent English. Islane is licensed as a Registered Nurse both in Haiti and in the U.S. She has an Associate Degree in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame in Cap Haitien. She also has a certificate in Accounting. Islane works in the speciality clinics and is responsible for co-ordinating visiting medical teams to HSC. Her duties include among others; the logistics of arranging transportation and accommodations for volunteers and organizing patient clinics. Islane is very interested in her new job and always wants to



prepare well. She researches clinic specialties before each group arrives. Islane is married and has a 5 year old boy. She lives in Cap Haitien with her family

Wish List

Suction for endoscopy

Metallic shelving for the pharmacy and OR

Chemistry instruments and Glucometer strips for lab

Insulin

Office desks and chairs

Folding screens for the wards

Cribs for the Pediatric ward

Patient Trolleys

Propane gas burner stoves and ovens

Refrigerators

Sterilizer

Bobcat

(small versatile excavator)

Note: If you would like to donate any of the above, please contact either Denise Kelly or Joni Paterson at the CRUDEM Foundation offices (413) 642-0450. They can help to arrange for the purchase and delivery to CRUDEM of any item(s) you want to provide. Thank you.

So many ways to help...

The Dr. Theodore Dubuque
Legacy Society

Angel of the Day

Pledge Program

for more information, please contact:

CRUDEM Foundation

362 Sewall Street

PO Box 804

Ludlow, MA 01056

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www.crudem.org

A Dermatologist's First Visit

After my arrival at the airport in Cap Haitien and on the trip to the hospital in Milot, I mentioned to Sr. Martha that I hoped to see as many patients as possible. I got my wish!

One of those patients was a wailing 1 1/2 yr old toddler who greeted me on the second morning. His anguished cries were unceasing. He had severe scaling and thickening of the skin involving his



entire head, face, neck and shoulders, with weeping of his neck. He shrieked in pain when his mother took off his T-shirt. He had been treated appropriately for many months by his Haitian doctors. Nothing had helped.

I was able to obtain a skin biopsy of the rash and brought the specimen back to St.

Louis where a dermatopathologist diagnosed the condition as eczema. Earlier, Sr. Joanna had explained that Voodoo was practiced in Haiti and

some people would go to the witch doctor first for healing, coming to the hospital when they did not get better. I e-mailed

her that a witch doctor probably had treated the rash with something that caused a severe contact dermatitis bordering on a chemical burn.

A treatment plan was dispatched to Sr. Johanna and shortly after she e-mailed me back that the child was clearing up nicely!

Hopefully, through the grace of God I provided relief from suffering for many people during my visit to Haiti. But if the only person I helped was this suffering little boy, then the trip was worth it.

Michael E. McCadden, M.D.



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