



# FAMILY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Supporting international communities in their efforts to build and sustain healthy families

June 2011

<http://familyhm.org>

Volume 10 Issue 1

## THE CHALLENGE OF MEASURING IMPACT



Family Health Ministries continuously assesses the work of its employees and volunteers. What makes a successful mission trip to Haiti? Are we helping Haiti in a sustainable way? Is our time well-spent? Is the work we do together making a difference? Are we using donor funds wisely? What is our impact?

A recent construction trip to Fondwa to build a “Kay Professeur”(underway, above) is a good example of the challenges FHM faces in program and process evaluation.

### The need:

Community leader and St. Antoine School principal Sister Simone had requested the new, temporary home for teachers who do not live in Fondwa. Most of the instructors who will use the new house teach secondary school classes. They are in Fondwa a few days a week. The rest of the time, they live in Port-au-Prince.

Since the earthquake, this group of teachers has traveled back and forth daily. The trip is expensive, time consuming, and sometimes impossible if the roads are impassable—flooded or slippery from mud slides.

Before the earthquake, the teachers had stayed in a rented house close to the school, but it was needed by the owner. When the teachers cannot get to work, the students do not have class.

### The project:

In May, US volunteer team members from St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Raleigh, NC worked alongside seven paid

Haitians. The group started with bare ground. The Haitian part of the team completed the roof, doors and windows after the US members returned home.

The new home’s funding was provided by North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, under the leadership of Pastor Lisa Schubert. Schubert is leading a US team to paint the house in mid-June.

### The results:

Sister Simone was well-pleased with the project, showing her enthusiasm when visiting the job site (below left).



The week after the St. Francis team departed, the first teacher, Met Alert, a biology instructor and one of Sister Simone’s key administrators, moved into the new facility. Met Alert is also in charge of the spelling curriculum for the entire school, where he has worked with dedication since 2004.

### Analyzing the numbers:

The materials for the new house came in at \$4000; however, the total cost (e.g. food and lodging for team members, Haitian labor) brought the

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price tag for the home to a little over \$8K. Add in the plane tickets for the US team members and the entire project cost about \$52/sq. ft., not bad for post-earthquake Haiti.

As everyone knows, cost is only part of the picture. FHM wants to know if the community will benefit from the house-building effort.

A main benefit is that the children should have better test scores on their national exams because they will now get more instruction time. Of course, it is impossible to attribute any change completely to the presence of a new building.



### Deciding what else can and should be measured:

The St. Francis group also accomplished a number of other tasks that should be considered in the team impact. For example, the volunteers distributed anti-parasitics to 330 preschoolers and elementary students (above). FHM's past research has shown an overall increase in the general health of the children when they get daily vitamins, regular lunches and semi-annual deworming. Better health also translates into better test scores.

### Evaluating the intangibles:

In addition, FHM always wants to know if the US team members had positive experiences. FHM team leaders observe as the participants respond and learn. A longer-term measure is whether new team members continue to be committed to the Haitian people.

FHM also cares deeply about the seven Haitians who helped build the professors' house, and for all the other community members who looked on. We want them to feel respected, valued and loved because of the St. Francis team's "ministry of presence." And, we hope that each team "intervention" will reinforce FHM's working relationship with Sisters Carmelle and Simone, to enable future collaboration.



Family Health Ministries has sent more than 1000 mission team members over the past ten years. In 2011, many of our teams were filled with volunteers before the calendar year started. We continue to be welcomed in Haiti. These seem good indicators that we are on the right track.

### Your input needed:

The real measure is whether you, our supporters, learn what you want to know. Are we doing a good job of explaining the impact of the work we do? What else would you like to see reported? What would be a good use of time and money? Please contact Janet Portzer at [janet.portzer@familyhm.org](mailto:janet.portzer@familyhm.org) with your ideas and suggestions about this key issue.



### "AN EVENING FOR HAITI" RAISED MORE THAN \$40K

Thanks to a hard-working volunteer committee (above) and generous sponsors, Family Health Ministries' annual fundraiser in April at Duke Gardens raised more money than in previous years. The numbers tell the story: 276 guests, 124 auction items, 53 event volunteers.

FHM was honored that many individuals from our partner organizations attended, including those who traveled from Haiti: Pastor Leon Dorleans (below left) of the Christian Community Church, Dr. Harry Beauvais (below center) of the Haitian NGO, FOSREF, and Marie Louise Baker (below right) of Groupe de Support Contre le Cancer in Port-au-Prince. Compliments flowed during the evening, indicating that participants had a fine time.



A friendly competition for the Carolina-Duke basketball tickets donated by Annette and Eric Munson and the Duke-Carolina basketball tickets donated by Freda and Chip Chesson added to the fun and the funds.

Expenses for the event were generously covered by the thirteen sponsors.



## NEW PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

During the last week in May, FHM founder David Walmer, MD, PhD, spoke with members of the Haitian Ob/Gyn Society in Port-au-Prince. Walmer presented FHM's HPV research on a new best practice for screening women in Haiti for cervical cancer. The Haitian physicians are excited about the changes, and will work with the Ministry of Health to endorse this new practice guideline.

Dr. Walmer will be working with Dr. Ronald Cornelly, head of oncology for the Haitian Ministry of Health, and Dr. Harry Beauvais of FOSREF. They will recommend HPV testing, when available, followed by colposcopy as an acceptable primary screening strategy for cervical cancer. If FHM's proposal is accepted, it will become the national screening strategy for all of Haiti.

FHM is indebted to a number of partners whose knowledge and dedication have enabled the new guideline:

- Dr. Delson Mersier and Dr. Junior Duliepre for screening over 10,000 patients.
- Dr. Paul Eder and Qiagen for helping FHM learn about the different genotypes in Haiti.
- Dr. Harry Beauvais and the Haitian NGO, FOSREF, for providing infrastructure to expand the prevention program across the county.
- Mme. Marie Louise Baker and the members of the Group de Support Contre le Cancer in Port-au-Prince for promoting screening among the women of Haiti.



## SIXTEEN STUDENTS CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Summer 2011 brings 16 students to FHM locations in Haiti, working on five different projects. Duke Engage (above) is the largest group, now in its third year of partnership with FHM, with eight undergraduates. Their research projects include aspects of "Safe Motherhood" and PTSD as well as cervical cancer prevention.

Led by FHM Research Director Nicole Tinfo, PhD, and In-country Manager Missy Owen, the group of students also includes eight others - a Duke medical resident, medical students from Duke and Northwestern, more undergraduates from Duke and Yale plus two Duke Global Health Master's candidates.

- Lead sponsors were American Party Rental, Duke Global Health Institute, Sam & Kay Leaman, and Management Services on Call.
- Table sponsors were David & Melissa Carter, Ted & Kate Shults, and Jean Smith & Russell Hall.
- Family Level sponsors were Dennis Clements & Martha Ann Keels and Bob & Claudia Lempp. Partner Level sponsors included Laura Bell, Susan Denike, Patrick & Mary Norris Oglesby, and Hardy Vieux.

## NUTRITION PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN BLANCHARD

Improving needy children's nutritional status has long been a goal of Pastor Leon Dorleans and his team at the Blanchard Clinic. Thanks to a generous donation from Reginald and Carole de Matteis, Cary, NC residents who grew up in Haiti, FHM was able to launch a "Medika Mamba" (peanut butter medicine in green packages, below) program.



After receiving training from the food supplement's Haitian manufacturer, *Meds and Food for Kids*, staff members Guerda Belvu and Annaus Franckel (above left) began enrolling children based on the heights, weights, and "MUACs" - middle upper arm circumference.

Children aged 6 to 59 months can participate if they are more than two standard deviations below the norm. Many children come to the clinic with concerned parents but not all qualify as malnourished, per the program's protocol.

Now that FHM clinic staff are experienced with the new program, they have begun to enroll more patients. FHM research staff will be tracking the progress of the children over time to evaluate their ongoing health.



Reg (left) and Carole (right) de Matteis with David Walmer

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### OTHER UPDATES

- A different contractor was hired to rebuild the Fondwa school. Work began the first week in June with site surveying.
- A revised bid is being sought for the Leogane Nancy Ferree-Clark Guesthouse, with the construction postponed until late summer to avoid “post-earthquake prices.” FHM expects to be able to shave \$500K US off the first bid.
- Duke Global Health Institute recently renewed its “memorandum of understanding” with FHM, extending collaboration and financial support for another three years.
- In partnership with the University of Florida, the chloroquine-resistant malaria research kicked off at the Blanchard Clinic.

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