



# FAMILY HEALTH MINISTRIES

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

September 2011

<http://familyhm.org>

Volume 10 Issue 2

## ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS, LASTING CHANGE

FHM Board member Susan Rogers was asked recently by a friend, *“What makes FHM different from other organizations you have seen at work in Haiti?”*

Susan answered, “Family Health Ministries invests in long-term relationships. We start by identifying community leaders with a vision. Then we help find resources, implement their vision and review the impact of our joint efforts.”



*Susan Rogers, FHM Board member, in Leogane*

Rogers, who holds an MDiv from Duke Divinity School, was quick to supply details on an example of the “enduring friendships” approach. She was excited with FHM’s recent cooperation with the Haitian Ob/Gyn Society in Port-au-Prince that has generated new screening guidelines for cervical cancer prevention.

“FHM could have jumped in and imposed its own solutions,” she explained. “Instead, Family Health Ministries has invested years in collaboration with Haitian partners. We followed their lead, analyzed results and refined the screening strategy. We have overcome cultural barriers as they emerged. Through these efforts, we have learned together what works in Haitian culture.

The result from these long-term relationships will be a network of effective clinics that will save thousands of lives.”



*Women at FHM's Cervical Cancer Prevention Clinic*

### Making Lasting Change in Haiti

When Dr. Jean Claude Fertillien first met Dr. David Walmer in Leogane in 1993, the Haitian Ob/Gyn asked for help with a problem he knew was solvable, given the appropriate resources. He wanted to screen and prevent the cervical cancer that was killing up to five percent of Haitian women.

As time passed, Walmer realized that his Haitian colleague needed a committed, long-term friend as much, if not more, than the financial support that Fertillien had requested. Seven years later, when David and his wife Kathy formed Family Health Ministries, they had cemented a novel approach to creating lasting change. “If you work with FHM, you will discover that listening, learning and developing mutual respect is a required first step before trying to help a community,” David explains.

### Partnership Principles

Because of David’s medical background, most people when they meet him expect him to launch into the technical details of cervical cancer. And he’s good at that. “But he is really animated when he talks about building relationships,” said Susan. She listed the FHM partnership principles. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

- Long-term friendships are more important than short-term results for FHM.
- FHM priorities may change. Friendships do not.
- True friends care, look past shortcomings, give and receive graciously, and are patient, trusting and accountable.



*Ed Binanay, FHM Board member (left) with FHM Blanchard partner, Pastor Leon Dorleans (right)*

### Now for Some Details

“I think we should also understand some of the details of FHM’s cervical cancer prevention program to really understand the impact of the many years of working together,” says another FHM Board member, Ed Binanay. He listed some key points derived from the many years of partnership:

1. Pap smears, usually the first stage in screening for cervical cancer, miss as much as 85% of treatable disease in Haiti.
2. Looking at the cervix with a colposcope is more effective in finding treatable disease than a Pap smear.
3. A portable, battery-powered colposcope like the one invented by FHM can be used inexpensively in difficult-to-reach clinics without electricity.
4. The best, first step in identifying women infected with the cancer-causing HPV virus is using an inexpensive test developed by the Qiagen corporation.

These discoveries are now the basis for new treatment guidelines, adopted by the Haitian Ob/Gyn Society and recommended to the Haitian Ministry of Health. They are changing the way health care is delivered across Haiti, all because of one collaborative friendship that started almost 20 years ago.

### Byen Prese Pa Rive

“I love Haitian Creole,” continued Binanay. “I am intrigued by how succinctly the language expresses big ideas.” One of Ed’s favorite Haitian proverbs is *byen prese pa rive*. It means that if you rush too fast, you’ll never get there. And Ed is a man in a hurry to get things done. However, the former pharmaceutical sales executive and small business owner understands that it is imperative first to build long-term relationships.



*Architect’s drawing of the Leogane Family Health Center*

### Leogane Family Health Center

“Our new health center in Leogane will be built in phases,” explains Ed. “We already have the land and the plans. The guesthouse that will share the property will be ready in early 2012. Yes, I wanted it to be finished yesterday.”

Binanay is leading the committee to raise funds for the Leogane Family Health Center. “What’s fundamental is that we’ll use what we’ve learned to continue to improve health care in Haiti. Our model can be reproduced. As we cement new relationships to combat cervical cancer, we’ll also be able to address infant and maternal mortality, both terrible problems for Haiti.”

### Phase One

Phase One of the new center requires Ed and his fundraising team to raise two million dollars. The first wing will provide a surgical suite and space to continue cervical cancer prevention. The center will expand services for women with advanced cervical cancer as well as provide C-sections and hysterectomies.

“We plan to employ approximately 20 Haitians with annual operating costs of about \$112K. It’s a big project,” comments Ed. “And we will need lots of colleagues here in the US to help us with the funding.”

But think of what we’ve done with cervical cancer. Yes, we have to ‘go slow to go fast.’ It’s hard. But that’s what it takes to develop relationships with the medical professionals and the community to ensure success. David tells us all the time that it is enduring friendships that create lasting change.”

Ed finished with energy, “It’s what sets FHM apart.”

# SUMMER 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*Duke Engage students at relaxation training for Fondwa women*

## Relaxation Sessions Popular

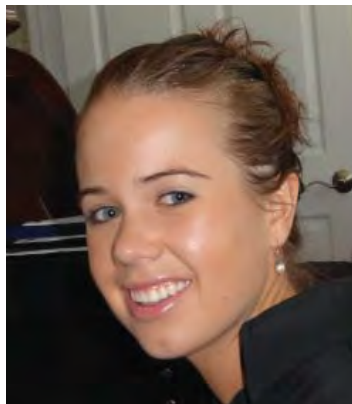
When Benjamin Reese, PsyD and Cynthia Frazier, PhD, arrived in Fondwa for a follow up to their earlier stress-reduction training, they were greeted by more than 120 women. This was a much larger crowd than was anticipated and eight times the number who had attended previously.

The resourceful Haitians created a place for each attendee by building benches from two chairs and a board.

Then the summer's eight Duke Engage students jumped in and helped translate and lead small groups, ensuring a rewarding experience for all those who had walked miles to attend the relaxation learning session.

## Staff Changes at FHM

Naomi Kelly joined FHM in August, taking the role of Research Coordinator recently vacated by Jackie Ndirangu. Jackie moved on to a new job after earning her Masters in Global Health. FHM is grateful for Jackie's years of service and wishes her the very best in her new endeavors.



*Naomi Kelly, FHM's new Research Coordinator*

Naomi is a Duke alumna with a degree in public policy and a minor in chemistry. She brings to FHM a keen interest in global health and a lifetime of living and working around the world. In addition to time in Vietnam, Tanzania and Indonesia with Operation Smile and World Vision, Naomi lived for many years in Kenya and Cambodia.

## Chloroquine-Resistant Malaria Study Begun

University of Florida researcher Bernard Okech, PhD, began work in the Blanchard Clinic to understand the epidemiology of drug-resistant malaria. About 15% of the 102 patients studied were positive for malaria infection but none had drug resistant genes. The study also found that 27% of patients were positive for sickle cell.

## Many Projects Completed

Six mission teams with 92 volunteers, and 17 university students completed a wide range of service and research projects in Blanchard, Leogane and Fondwa. Read the details at:

<http://familyhm.org/FamilyHealthMinistriesSummer2011.html>



*Duke Global Health Institute Masters candidate Marnie Cooper-Priest (right) in Fondwa*



*Vacation Bible School in Blanchard*

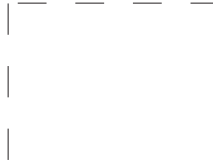


*Dr. Nicole Larrier (center) works with patients with help from her translator (right) during the June medical trip*



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## OTHER UPDATES

Look for FHM's Annual Holiday catalog, available online at the end of October at <http://familyhm.org/>.

Eighteen donors from the United Methodist Church's *The Advance* project recently contributed over \$8,000 to women's and children's health. FHM's Advance number is **3021059**.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for September 1st in Leogane. Construction is beginning on the much-anticipated Nancy Ferree-Clark Guesthouse. Expo Industries of San Diego, California is supplying the seismic-resistant materials. The De Matteis Construction Group of Haiti anticipates completion by April 1st.

More students than ever are attending the Fondwa school. Enrollment has increased to over 600 students. Contact Jamalyn Peigh Williamson at [jp.williamson@familyhm.org](mailto:jp.williamson@familyhm.org) to support a student for only \$25/month or \$300/year.

### FHM's Durham office is moving

the week of October 1st. Our new location is:

**1921 North Pointe Drive  
Durham, NC 27705**

near the intersection of Guess Road, just north of I-85

FHM celebrates the opportunity to grow and serve our Haitian brothers and sisters, thanking FHM Board member Chip Chesson for arranging the new rental space

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