



# FAMILY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Supporting Haitian communities in *their* efforts to build and sustain healthy families

September 2013

<http://familyhm.org>

Volume 12 Issue 1

## A SUMMER OF PROGRESS IN HAITI

**Thanks to your support**, Family Health Ministries, in partnership with Haitian leaders and some amazing volunteers, has had an exciting and impactful summer on many fronts:

- The Birthing Center finds a home and construction plans begin
- FHM and FOSREF bring HPV screening technology for cervical cancer to Haiti
- The Saint Antoine School building in Fondwa prepares to open
- The Leogane Surgical Center to start construction in the fall

### New Birthing Center to Prevent Maternal Mortality

Family Health Ministries' new birthing center, located in the rural Fondwa mountains, will provide skilled birth attendants for women who typically have no option but to deliver their babies at home unattended.

The Haitian staff at the center will work with the traditional birth attendants in the community to decrease infant and maternal deaths in the area.

The property for the new birthing center is in Tom Gato, with a beautiful view of the Fondwa valley, and is being purchased by Family Health Ministries in partnership with the Building Goodness Foundation (BGF) of Charlottesville, VA. If all goes well, the sale of the property will be finalized and construction will start this fall under the direction and financial support of BGF.



The center will have labor and delivery rooms, an infant nursery, and a pharmacy. There is a separate educational building with dorms for visiting healthcare providers. Lovely gardens are planned as a place for mothers to walk during labor and for growing medicinal plants used commonly in traditional healthcare practices in Haiti.



## FHM and FOSREF bring HPV Technology for Cervical Cancer Prevention to Haiti

In collaboration with QIAGEN, Family Health Ministries brought HPV technology to Haiti six years ago. Family Health Ministries' Haitian medical staff has screened thousands of women for the HPV virus since 2007.

However, all processing of samples was done in Gaithersburg, MD at the QIAGEN laboratory.

Now, a grant from the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund has enabled a new partnership with the Fondation pour la Santé Reproductrice et l'Éducation Familiale (FOSREF).



Haitian healthcare leaders have achieved another milestone in improving healthcare for women by opening an HPV laboratory in Port-au-Prince.

Cynthia Jones, Senior Applications Specialist, arrived in Haiti in mid-June for a week-long program to train the FOSREF staff in using the gold standard for HPV screening, the HC2 assay manufactured by QIAGEN.

Now, independent of outside help, Haitian leadership can move forward in scaling what was once a small program into a national cervical cancer screening program.



## The Saint Antoine School Readies for Fall Semester



It is a true testament to the parents and teachers who value education in the Fondwa community.

More than 600 students are enrolled for the 2013-2014 school year and will fill the new school building the first week of October.

Family Health Ministries, in partnership with Partners in Progress of Ligonier, Pennsylvania, stands committed to the continued support of teacher and staff salaries.

If you would like to be part of educating a young mind- the future of Haiti- please contact Jamalyn Williamson our Fondwa Project Manager about our student sponsorship program at [jp.williamson@familyhm.org](mailto:jp.williamson@familyhm.org).

The Saint Antoine School Building Project has been underway for some time, so we were thrilled when students began using the new Fondwa school building early this summer as they studied for the National Exams.

FHM received the scores for the sixth and ninth grades, and the pass rates were higher than the national average at 90% and 82%, respectively.

We will receive the scores for Reto (12<sup>th</sup> grade) and Philo (13<sup>th</sup> grade) later this summer.

These rates are amazing considering these children are from a very poor, rural, mountainous area and have been learning in crowded, temporary housing since the collapse of the original school in January of 2010.



## Leogane Surgical Center Slated to Break Ground in Late Fall

Hite and Associates of Greenville, NC are putting the finishing touches on plans for Phase 2, the Surgical Center of the Leogane Family Health Center.

Family Health Ministries will continue to work with Jean Marc DeMatteis of DeMatteis Construction Group in the building of the facility, which is planned to begin in October.

DeMatteis Construction built the FHM Leogane Guesthouse which opened in May of 2012 on the 10 acres of property owned by FHM.

This next building, like the guesthouse, will be earthquake and wind resistant to California standards.

The Center will have exam rooms, a state of the art pathology lab, operating and recovery rooms.

This new facility will offer surgical services for women including treatment for life-threatening conditions such as advanced cervical disease, delivery complications needing cesarean section, and other gynecologic conditions.

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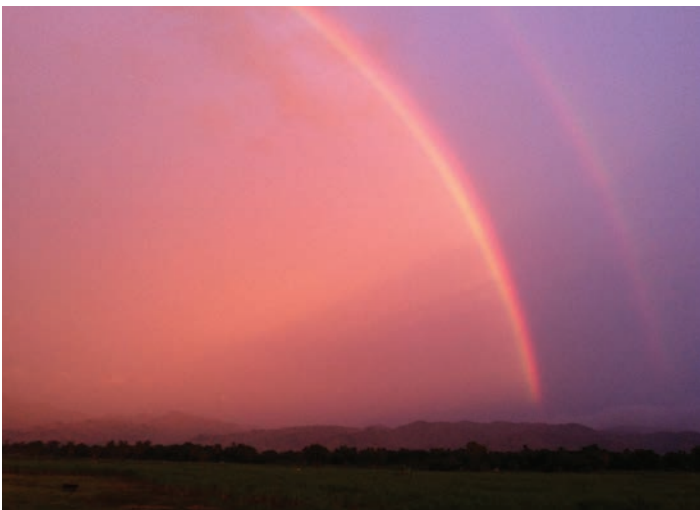


Photo by: Max Kligerman

Faculty and students from US universities will have the opportunity to work alongside of Haitian healthcare professionals to exchange knowledge and provide healthcare services to women.

The FHM annual Evening for Haiti in May raised \$32,175 for the Surgical Center; however, FHM is still seeking supporters for this project to help with the Capital Campaign, purchase of medical equipment and the funding of staff positions to operate the Center.

The double rainbow over the land where the Surgical Center will soon rise symbolizes the hope the Leogane Family Health Center brings to the community.

If you are interested in learning more about the Surgical Center or in donating toward the Capital Campaign, please contact us at [info@familyhm.org](mailto:info@familyhm.org)



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