



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

February 2014

<http://familyhm.org>

Fondwa Community Dedicates New School

On January 10, 2014, FHM Executive Director, Kathy Walmer, was in Fondwa for the dedication of the new Saint Antoine School. "It was with great joy that I had the opportunity to witness the completion of this extensive project and to share in the celebration," said Kathy Walmer. Hundreds of students, parents, administrative staff, and donors congregated under carefully constructed canopies on a gorgeous, sunny day to celebrate the completion of the new school. "We were just two days shy of the 4th anniversary of the devastating 2010 earthquake that destroyed the previous school," Kathy said. "After many years of hard work and dedication, we give thanks for this amazing new school and for all those who helped to make this dream a reality."

The new school is three stories tall with 11 new classrooms and new administrative space. The school provides

education for approximately 700 Fondwa students, pre-school through the 13th grade. The new building is primarily used for the secondary students.

The two-hour dedication service included dancing and singing performed by the Sainte Antoine students, as well as a worship service provided by Father Joseph Phillippe. At the end of the service, Family Health Ministries was presented with a plaque thanking us for our solidarity in their progress.

It is evident that the community and the Saint Antoine students are greatly appreciative of their new surroundings. They stand proud and value their education. They strive hard to educate themselves and break the cycle of poverty. They have the same hopes and dreams that American children have and now they have a beautiful, well-constructed, and safe school to go after those dreams.



Leogane Family Health Center Update

The Leogane Family Health Center is currently under construction on a 10-acre site purchased by Family Health Ministries in 2007, located in southern Haiti approximately 1.5 hours from the capital of Port-au-Prince. Fundraising is underway for Phase 2, a 6,000 square-foot, multi-purpose Surgical Center. "FHM is greatly appreciative for individuals like Jimmy Hite (Hite Associates) who have given many volunteer hours to make the plans available for the construction and Jean DeMatteis (DeMatteis Construction Group) who has made the construction process a reality," says Kathy Walmer.

This facility will provide life-saving care to mothers and their newborns with pregnancy-related complica-

tions, and provide reproductive health services including surgery for women who are at risk for fatal cervical cancer. The Surgical Center will also have a nursery, pharmacy, laboratory, and data center.



What Twenty Years of Experience Has Taught FHM

– Kathy Walmer, FHM Executive Director

Each year, Haitian women are dying in significant numbers from both cervical cancer and pregnancy related complications. The Haitian maternal death rate is the worst in the Western Hemisphere. In Haiti, 49.2% of cancer deaths are related to cervical cancer as compared to 2.5% in North America. As a Haitian woman, you are six times more likely to die of cervical cancer than your American counterpart.

For over 20 years, Family Health Ministries has been working to reduce the maternal death rate in Haiti. In 1993, Dr. David Walmer set out to make a difference in the lives of Haitian women. As an obstetrician and gynecologist, he understood the gravity of the statistics mentioned above. At the request for help by one Haitian physician, life dramatically changed for Dr. Walmer. Since those early years, Family Health Ministries was established as a non-profit and six clinics now have dedicated Haitian staff to screen women. Over 13,000 women have been screened for cervical cancer in these facilities.

In January 2014, Family Health Ministries met with FOSREF, USAID, UNFPA, and the Ministry of Health to discuss the future of cervical cancer screening in Haiti. Who would have thought back in 1993 there was potential for a national screening program? It has taken 20 years to get to this point, but persistence and perseverance prove rewarding. We have dealt with political instability, hospital closings, hurricanes, and an earthquake, but our Haitian staff

and friends have taught us how to get back on our feet and continue to move forward. We credit our success at Family Health Ministries to the two decades of personal relationships that have developed along the journey. In reality, it is the Haitian people who understand the problems of their country and they know how to solve those problems. We are there in partnership to follow their lead and help provide the needed resources. It is not for us to dictate the solutions.

Who knows what the next 20 years will bring? We thank each of you for your time and financial resources that support the work going on in Haiti. We value your partnership. It has been a twenty - year adventure, but one thing we have learned, we are committed to continuing to strengthen our Haitian roots until all Haitian women have access to quality women's health services and we can begin to see a positive change in those staggering maternal death rate statistics.



Some of the FHM Blanchard Clinic staff

FHM Welcomes New Staff

Hannah Sterling, FHM In-Country Coordinator and Guesthouse Manager.

Hannah Sterling graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a bachelor's degree in psychology. In 2005, she began full-time ministry as a missionary and lived in Mexico and Namibia working with orphans and vulnerable children. Hannah also served with a missions organization in New Orleans for two years following Hurricane Katrina. Her first visit to Haiti was a one-month trip to Leogane in August 2011. She instantly fell in love with the people, the culture, and the language. She spent an additional 18 months serving with various organizations in both Leogane and Croix des Bouquets. Hannah joined FHM in January 2014 as FHM In-Country Coordinator. Her primary responsibility is managing our guesthouse in



Leogane and she will also be integral in the coordination and communication of other FHM projects in Haiti.

Kelly Dassow, FHM Accounting Manager.

Kelly comes to us with a wealth of diverse experience in nonprofit management. Her background is in finance and data management, and she also spent several years working in fund development. She has previously worked with a host of mission-focused organizations, including Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont, the National Conference for Community and Justice, and (most recently) the Quixote Center in Washington DC. Kelly holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of Miami and is currently pursuing her MBA.



A Spirit of Collaboration

Twenty years ago, FHM began by developing relationships with community health care leaders who had a vision for improving health care in Haiti. Supporting the efforts of those leaders has resulted in two decades of clinical research by FHM and a cervical cancer prevention strategy that is based on: 1) HPV screening to identify at risk women; 2) visualization of the cervix with magnification to identify premalignant disease; and 3) the introduction of digital pathology to diagnose high grade disease in large populations of women. The fruits of those labors include a clinical HPV laboratory in Port-au-Prince, the invention of a portable colposcope and the ability to use cloud-based technology to more effectively diagnose cervical dysplasia.

In January of 2014, FHM took two teams of medical leaders to Haiti to begin developing relationships with health care organizations that have a vision for improving health care in Haiti.

Our vision is to demonstrate that the past two decades of clinical research in cervical cancer prevention can be scaled up into a national cervical cancer prevention program. We also want to use FHM's model of cervical cancer prevention research to create Haitian-run research initiatives that will spawn new clinical investigations to improve health care delivery in a variety of areas..

Some of the meetings that FHM held in January were...

- Kathy Walmer met with the United Nations Population Fund – Haiti & USAID to discuss the future of cervical cancer prevention in Haiti.

News from the FHM Guesthouse

Our home away from home is buzzing with activity and guests. The FHM Guesthouse has hosted groups from Building Goodness (Richmond, VA), University Presbyterian Church (Chapel Hill, NC), Triangle Presbyterian Church (Durham, NC) and FHM staff and medical research partners. The FHM Guesthouse is so nicely appointed and in a convenient location in Leogane; news is spreading that we are welcoming groups and individuals and 2014 looks to be an exciting time at the Guesthouse. You can follow the FHM guesthouse blog at www.FHMInHaiti.blogspot.com and for more information about making your reservation at the guesthouse visit, www.FamilyHM.org. We'll leave the light on for you!



- Dr. Gregory Henderson & the FHM team met with all of Haiti's pathologists to discuss bringing digital pathology to Haiti and creating a network of national reference laboratories.

- Dr. Russ Hall & the FHM team met with the leadership of the University of Notre Dame of Haiti (UNDH) to begin discussions about advancing both clinical and research medical education.

- Dr. David Walmer & the FHM team met with the Ministry of Health to talk about establishing new guidelines for cervical cancer prevention based on 20 years of research in Haiti.

- The FHM team met with members of Project Medishare in Port-au-Prince to begin talking about coordinating efforts to improve maternal child health and to prevent cancer deaths in Haiti.

FHM will be investing in Haiti's research and education health care system in 2014 by beginning construction on the surgical wing of the Leogane Family Health Center, beginning construction on a birthing center in the mountains 45 minutes from Leogane, expanding the offering of HPV testing to other organizations, expanding the number of cervical cancer prevention clinics and participating in the development of new residency and fellowship programs at UNDH.

We are excited about the potential that we see for improving health care in Haiti over the next 20 years.

Join FHM on a 2014 Mission Trip

Service • Spiritual Support • Healthcare.



June 21 – 29: Medical Trip to Blanchard

July 19 – 27: Vacation Bible School

October 4 – 12: Medical Trip to Blanchard

Select your trip date, download the registration form at www.FamilyHM.org, submit it and your \$200 deposit to FHM. A registration form and deposit is required to reserve your spot on a team. The \$1000 trip cost is considered a tax-deductible contribution. You will also be responsible for your airfare. For more information or to reserve a space on a trip, contact info@FamilyHM.org or 919.382.5500.



1921 North Pointe Drive, Suite 200
Durham, NC 27705

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Family Health Ministries'

Fête de Famille



Annual Gala and Silent Auction
Saturday, May 3, 2014 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Charlotte and Dick Levin
Jewish Community Center
1937 W. Cornwallis Road • Durham, NC 27705

Tickets (before April 24, 2014):
Adults \$80, Students \$40, Couples \$150
At the door: Adults \$90, Students \$50, Couples \$180
Purchase tickets at www.FamilyHM.org
or call 919.328.5500

Cocktail Attire

