



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

February 2015

www.familyhm.org

Laying A New Foundation for Women's Healthcare in Rural Haiti

Construction Update from the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center



Words can not explain how excited we are about breaking ground on the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center in Tom Gato, Haiti. It has been a test of patience over the past year, but we have truly found the perfect place for this clinic to serve the community. Haitians in the surrounding area are all the buzz about the new center. We have construction workers asking for jobs, we have healthcare providers sending us resumes, and the women in the community are excited to finally have a center that will meet their needs.

When the clinic is complete it will have two floors. The first floor will house the clinic healthcare services. The space includes, a reception area, 4 exam rooms, office space, pharmacy, clean and dirty utility, two restrooms, two birthing suites, a nursery, and an on-call room. The second floor will be used to house visiting medical providers and students and provide classroom educational space.

The vision of this facility is to be a place for women to come together, to encourage and educate each other on healthcare needs and receive services such as contraception, prenatal care, and safe delivery. Most importantly, the center will provide, for the first time, access to skilled birth attendants.

It is a blessing to be part of a project that brings so much joy and excitement to this rural mountain community. We thank the Building Goodness Foundation and all the donors who have made this happen.



Michael Anello, Building Goodness Hait Project Manager, and Kathy Walmer review construction plans.



Crews work on site Monday through Saturday.

Haitian Women Helping Haitian Women

Meet Soinie. This determined lady is breaking the mold in order to build a better life for her family and her community. Soinie (pronounced swah-nee) has joined our construction crew to build FHM's Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center. That's right, she's working construction!

Read more on page 4...



FHM Accepts \$50,000 Challenge Grant for Annual Gala & Silent Auction

— Kathy Walmer, FHM Executive Director

I met Jean Marc DeMatteis in Haiti, just before the earthquake in January 2010, at the request of his father who lives in Cary, North Carolina. Jean Marc was asked to set up a visit for me to a health clinic in Port-au-Prince. Little did we know that this chance meeting, would one day blossom into a long-term friendship and partnership between Mr. DeMatteis and Family Health Ministries.

Jean Marc DeMatteis has been a strong advocate and voice for Family Health Ministries over the years. He has worked tirelessly to champion our cause to increase health-care for women in the Leogane commune. He has stepped out in faith again and announced a \$50,000.00 challenge grant for our Leogane Surgical Center. Come to our Gala on Saturday, April 18th and help us raise funds for the surgical center and receive the matching grant!

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, April 18, 2015

FHM Annual Gala and Silent Auction

Join us Saturday, April 18, 2015, 6:00 - 9:00 pm for our annual gala to raise funds for the FHM Leogane Surgical Center. The event will be held at the Levin Jewish Community Center 1937 W. Cornwallis Road, Durham, NC.

We welcome back as guest speaker Pastor Leon Dorleans, FHM partner and notable Haitian community leader. FHM supporters will enjoy an evening of celebration and music by E.G. Peters Band and a delicious buffet dinner featuring Haitian cuisine. The electronic silent auction will allow supporters to bid both onsite and remotely with their smartphones, tablets and computers. Tickets go on sale March 1st at www.FamilyHM.org. For sponsorship opportunities and silent auction donations, contact Heather Robinson at 919.382.5500 or Heather.Robinson@FamilyHM.org.



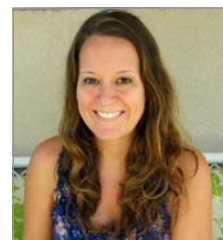
Goodbyes & Hellos at the Guesthouse

"Smiling is the way the soul says hello. Obviously a frown means goodbye. Is there a word halfway between hello and goodbye? Because that's what my soul is saying right now."

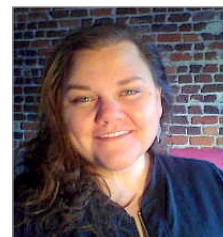
— Jarod Kintz

In March 2015, there will be a changing of the guard at the FHM Guesthouse in Leogane. **Hannah Sterling** has chosen to explore new career paths and will be leaving Haiti. Hannah has done an exceptional job as Guesthouse Manager and FHM In-Country Liaison.

Kathy Walmer says "Hannah has played an integral part in establishing guesthouse protocol and day to day management of our traveling visitors. She has been an outstanding spokesperson for Family Health Ministries through her involvement in the Leogane community. We wish Hannah the best of luck in her new endeavors and we will greatly miss her."



In March, **Lauren McRaven**, of Charlottesville, Virginia, will take over as the FHM Guesthouse Manager. Lauren is a graduate of College of William and Mary with a BA in religious studies. She has experience as a high school English literature and US history teacher, and has worked as a Residence Director for American Shakespeare Company Young Theater Camp. For the past nine years, Lauren has owned and operated a restaurant in Charlottesville, VA. She also has spent the past four years leading mission trips to Haiti. Lauren reflects, "As the trip planner and team leader, I worked to connect with Haitian partners to ensure that we, Americans, did not bring our own agenda to the trip, but understood the needs and vision of the trusted Haitian community leaders we were going to serve." She volunteers with our construction partner, Building Goodness Foundation (Charlottesville) and became familiar with Family Health Ministries when she traveled to Haiti in 2014 to work on another Building Goodness project. Lauren says, "I am so excited that God has called me to join the FHM team. Leaving my life in Virginia is a major change, but I feel a great sense of peace and anticipation for what God is going to be doing. This job brings together so many of my favorite things and I look forward to looking after you all when you come to Leogane."



FHM Welcomes Katelyn Blanchard, FHM Sponsorship Coordinator



Katelyn Blanchard interned at FHM during the summer of 2013 and has been assisting the FHM Durham staff with marketing and sponsorship since August 2014. She recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Environmental and Health Studies. Katelyn traveled to Haiti with FHM in June 2013 where she served on a medical mission team, spent time in Leogane, and while in Fondwa, met the children at the Fatima House Orphanage. "I'm very excited for the opportunity to work with the Fondwa Student Sponsorship Program. Education is such a crucial component to being able to lead a healthier and fuller life. I am incredibly blessed to be part of this program," said Katelyn.

Kathy Walmer, FHM Executive Director says, "Our student sponsorship program is near and dear to my heart. It's success is crucial in our commitment to the Fondwa community. I am so excited to have Katelyn on board to lend her talents and her servant heart to the children of Fondwa." In January, Katelyn stepped into the part-time position of FHM Sponsorship Coordinator where she will work closely with Jamalyn Williamson, Chris and Natalie Wallace to communicate with sponsors, provide more frequent updates, and further develop our student sponsorship program. You can reach Katelyn at FHMSponsorship@gmail.com or 919.382.5500.

We are looking for you!



Has your mailing address changed? Do we have your most current email? We want to keep you in the know about events and project updates.

Send us your contact info to info@familyhm.org

Go to Haiti with us in 2015! There is still space on our VBS, medical mission, and Fondwa service trips. Go to "Mission Travel" at www.FamilyHM.org

A New Dining Hall for the Fatima House Orphanage

The construction of a new dining hall for the Fatima House Orphanage in Fondwa is funded by a group based in Indianapolis called Barn Raisers. In 2014, this group helped fund and build the new cistern for the orphanage. The Fatima House kids don't have a place to gather as a community to eat; they typically eat on their beds or, weather permitting, outside under a tarp. The new dining hall will give them a place to eat and also will be a community room for games and studying.

The dining hall is located just below the girls' dormitory. It will have a kitchen, dining area, and multipurpose room. The kids are excited about the new building. When asked if she was glad for the dining hall to be finished, Widline Louis responded, "Yes, I can't wait to sit and eat, play games, and watch movies!"

It is being built by Bos Ednor Germain, a Haitian who helps with construction projects at the orphanage. He also commissions other Haitians to assist him with construction. The project should be completed in mid February. Jamalyn Peigh Williamson will be taking a team to Fondwa in March to paint the dining hall.



The dining hall under construction.



Children at the orphanage dine outside under a tarp when the weather is nice. Otherwise, they will eat their meals on their beds.



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**FHM Annual Gala and
Silent Auction
Save the date! April 18, 2015**



Meet Soinie continued:

Michael Anello, the Building Goodness Foundation Haiti Project Manager for our new health center, had previously hired Soinie as a cook on his other project sites. Each day the crew takes a break for lunch and were served a delicious hot meal. As Soinie watched the men put up building after building, she began dreaming about an opportunity for her to join the crew. The construction job pays more than what she was making as a cook, and with five children to care for, she knew this could be a chance for her to help them even more. She approached Michael with her idea and he agreed.

Soinie lives ten minutes from the job site and knows the area well. While she looks out over the mountains and acknowledges the beautiful home she has, she also knows the struggles that Haitian families face living so far from a big town. There are no hospitals and only a few, small remote clinics dotted throughout the region, and they have limited hours and services. FHM's women's health center will be an incredible opportunity for the women of Tom Gato and neighboring villages to receive pre- and postnatal care, and labor and delivery assistance.

"I have five children," Soinie says, "I had all of them at my house with only their father there to help me. Thanks to God, all of them were healthy deliveries. Had there been a

problem, I would have had to try to go to the hospital in Leogane." The Leogane hospital is about 45 minutes down the mountain from Tom Gato. You would have to flag down at least two public transportation vehicles to get there. If you didn't live near the main road, you'd have to walk or ride a donkey up to two hours depending on where you lived to get to the main road. For a woman in labor, her chances of reaching the hospital in time are slim. "This is a good project for this community," Soinie continues. "Women need a place to go for medical care."

When asked how the men received her on the job site she said they have no problem with it. Ozee, one of the men on the crew said "We are all happy to have Soinie on the crew." "Li janm!" he said, meaning she's fit and very capable of doing her job. The women who have seen her working on the project call her a "fanm vanyan" which literally translates as a valiant woman. It has the same meaning in English... a woman who is admirable, strong, courageous. A few of the local women have even said that they would love to join her on the crew!

