



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

October 2015

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New Water Treatment System Installed at FHM Guesthouse

Providing Clean Water to the Leogane Community

In September a water treatment system was installed in the Family Health Ministries (FHM) Leogane compound next to the FHM Guesthouse as a feature of the FHM Leogane Family Health Center. We partnered with The Research Triangle Professionals of Engineers Without Borders, who are also working in conjunction with Living Waters for the World Haiti, to install the water system equipment. Funding for this project was provided by University Presbyterian Church (Chapel Hill, NC) and the Rust Foundation.

A water treatment education program is underway to educate Leogane residents about the necessity for clean water and to invite the community to get clean water for drinking, cooking and washing. Leogane residents are welcome to visit the clean water hub and fill their water containers each day. Each batch yields up to 600 gallons; several batches could be run per day. The cost per gallon to the public is 3 gourdes/gallon. The system operates off the existing well and includes

bacteria tests and an ozone treatment to clean the water. FHM guesthouse staff member, Jude, is the trained system operator and there are resources in country (both replacement parts and service technicians) if needed.



Sarah Braman, Zach Collins, and Dan Fuccella of Triangle Professionals of Engineers without Borders begin equipment installation at the new FHM water treatment building.



On-going community clean water education program.



On Saturday, September 26th, FHM teamed up with 519 Church for the second year for their 519 Haiti 5k & 10k Run/Walk along the American Tobacco Trail in Cary. 350 folks turned out to run and walk to raise funds for the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center in Fondwa, Haiti. This year's event raised over \$17,600, including a matching grant generously donated by Cross of Grace Church (Indiana). Thank you to all our sponsors, racers, and volunteers for making this a great event!



The Finishing Touches on the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center

In the rural mountains of Haiti many women do not know what to expect during labor. Most labor at home alone without skilled birth attendants with no medication or even the comforts of indoor running water. Should the mother need medical attention, she would most likely be carried on a wood plank (such as a door) for miles on winding steep paths to the nearest road. Once on the main road, hopefully a passerby or a tap-tap (local transportation) will stop to take her to the next town that may or may not have a hospital. Many women have complications during childbirth that result in fatality for themselves and/or their infants.

For this reason, FHM has partnered with the Building Goodness Foundation to build a birthing and education center in Tom Gato. Our goal is to increase safe delivery of Haitian infants, to reduce maternal and child birth-related deaths, and to expand access to skilled birth attendants for the rural community.

The clinic is named after Sister Carmelle Voltaire, who died in March 2012, at age 49. She provided many years of dedicated service to the people of Fondwa, Haiti. Sister Carmelle was a nurse, caregiver and the spiritual leader for the nuns and nuns in training. She was a dear friend and cherished partner of Family Health Ministries. Sister Carmelle is missed by her friends at Family Health Ministries, by all the Sisters that she led in ministry, and by the Fondwa families she served.



Kathy Walmer, FHM Executive Director, states "We are very excited to complete construction on the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center. We are grateful to Building Goodness Foundation for all their support, funding, and leadership to make this project a reality. The women in this rural mountain community, for the first time, will have access to skilled care by midwives and will no longer have to labor and deliver alone at home. FHM invites you to join us at the dedication of this facility on Saturday, February 20th in Tom Gato/Fondwa. We will be celebrating the memory of Sister Carmelle Voltaire. This new birthing center represents her passion for women's health and her love for the community's children."

FHM Hosts the Inaugural Meeting of Haiti *sans* Cervical Cancer

On Saturday, October 11, 2015, Family Health Ministries hosted a planning meeting for Haiti *sans* Cervical Cancer (HSCC). HSCC is being formed as an alliance of organizations who have indicated that they want to work together and in partnership with the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSPP) as part of a national cervical cancer prevention strategy. The mission of HSCC will be to reduce the burden of cervical cancer in Haiti through coordinated partnerships. One of the initial priorities of the organization will be to develop a central registry in order to assist the MSPP in documenting the status of cervical disease as well as the interventions and outcomes of programs offering cervical cancer prevention services. The organization also plans to serve as an advocate for coordinating cervical cancer prevention services across Haiti and for the development of standards of care, community education programs, health care provider education and training programs, an HPV immunization program and services for women who already have advanced cervical cancer. Ultimately, HSCC hopes to serve as a model for reducing health care silos and to encourage the coordination of all forms of health care in Haiti.



Individuals and representatives from non-profit organizations with interest in preventing cervical cancer and improving maternal health in Haiti met Saturday, October 11, 2015 to form Haiti *sans* Cervical Cancer.

Dr. David Walmer Guest Speaker at International HPV Conference

The 30th International Human Papilloma Virus Conference was held in Lisbon, Portugal September 17-21, 2015. Qiagen Corporation held a special event on Saturday evening at the Ajuda National Palace to highlight programs that have adopted HPV testing as a primary screening strategy for preventing cervical cancer in low resource communities around the world. Family Health Ministries was one of three organizations selected to represent this global effort.

Dr. David Walmer, FHM Founder and Chairman of the Board, spoke about FHM's 23 year experience in cervical cancer prevention in Haiti that has culminated in the approval of HPV self-sampling as an approved primary screening strategy. He also discussed FHM's participation in the beginnings of a national cervical cancer prevention effort in partnership with the Ministry of Health. This meeting preceded another important meeting was held in Durham to form an umbrella organization that will begin to unite the efforts of NGOs that have cervical cancer prevention programs in Haiti.



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 Healthcare, Research, Education,
 Safe Motherhood, and
 Spiritual Support.



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FHM Launches Cervical Cancer Screening Program in Partnership with CFAR

In 2014, FHM was awarded a grant from the Duke Centers for AIDS Research (CFAR) for a study in Haiti. The purpose is to first: compare performance of the portable colposcope device to the conventional colposcope as measured by their respective concurrence with clinical impression based on visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) techniques and cervical biopsy, and second: to determine the prevalence of HPV genotypes in a subset of HIV-positive women.

The innovation of this proposal is that additional research is needed on HPV genotypes among populations of African descent. This research could provide valuable information about the appropriateness of existing vaccines for these populations. This information would be useful in informing the development of new vaccines and/or the selection of appropriate vaccine delivery systems for African and diaspora communities. Duke Medical IRB approval for this study was obtained on March 26, 2015, NIH International Clearance was obtained in July 16, 2015 and Haitian IRB approval was obtained on August 13, 2015.

On Monday, August 10th, Missy Owen, FHM Global Health Research Associate, traveled to Port-au-Prince to initiate the CFAR study. Participant enrollment began on Friday, August 14th. Lab specimens for HPV genotyping are being sent to

the Duke Human Vaccine Institute lab. We currently have four quadrant biopsy specimens being shipped to the Mt. Sinai Hospital lab, which will prep and mount the slides. The slides will be read and diagnoses rendered by PathForce Dx.



Miss Josiane Casseus, FHM Blanchard Clinic staff member, takes a blood sample of the first participant enrolled in the CFAR study. Both ladies gave their permission to be photographed.



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519 Race continued:



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FHM Welcomes Duke Intern Kelli Aibel

Kelli Aibel is a Duke University undergraduate student in her senior year earning a BS degree in Psychology and an AB degree in Global Health. Kelli will be our intern during the 2015-2016 school term and will work closely with Kathy Walmer to develop plans and procedures for the new women's clinic in Haiti. Kelli says "I am excited to be involved with FHM, as my research and interests align precisely with their mission. I aspire to earn an MD and eventually become a traveling doctor, working with organizations like FHM to provide healthcare to developing communities worldwide. I have recently traveled to Haiti and had a wonderful experience. I hope to get the chance to travel with FHM to Haiti to see our efforts in action!"



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