



FAMILY HEALTH MINISTRIES

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

September 2019

www.familyhm.org

Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center:

The Birthing Center to Open in October

In February 2016, the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center opened in the rural mountain community of Tom Gato/Fondwa. Forty-five minutes outside Leogane, up a steep and winding road, this pastel yellow, two-story building sits atop a small rise with 360-degree views of the misty mountains, lush valleys, and neighboring farms. The women's health center has a reception/intake area, 4 exam rooms, administrative space, pharmacy, a large open education and training space, and a guesthouse to accommodate eight visitors. There is additional space that includes two birthing suites, nursery, and a midwife office.



The center is named after Carmelle Voltaire, a Catholic nun who worked endlessly to improve healthcare for women. Carmelle received her nursing degree in Trinidad and returned to her native country to serve her people.

Carmelle saw herself first and foremost as a caregiver. Unfortunately, Carmelle died all too soon from complications of liver cancer at the age of 49. Carmelle's dying wish was for her work with women and children to continue long past her death. Today the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center is a beacon of hope for women and an answer to Carmelle's wish.

Over the last 3 years, FHM's staff has provided healthcare to an average of over 300 women per month including prenatal and postnatal care. The birthing side of the facility remained closed while we worked to secure funding for its operation. We are excited to announce that this Fall we will be taking a giant leap of faith and opening the much-anticipated birthing center. This means that the current budget for the center will increase by \$40,000/year with the addition of 6 new staff members to keep the center open 24 hours, 7 days a week.



Women's Center in Tom Gato

We are asking for your help! Please consider becoming a sponsor of this center. For \$300/year or \$25/month, you can sponsor a safe delivery for a pregnant woman. Your \$300 will give an expectant mother prenatal visits, ultrasounds, vitamins, safely attended delivery by a trained midwife, immediate infant care, and postnatal visits. This is a gift of life. We have cards available at the office that can be sent out as a gift for a birthday, Christmas, or any occasion you care to celebrate. You can go to our website at www.familyhm.org to start your sponsorship today.

Please join us and help to make this clinic a lasting legacy to Carmelle Voltaire's life, and a sustainable birthing center for the future of newborn babies of this community.



My Travels to Haiti with FHM

"A Life Changing Experience"

By Piper Wolfe

Traveling to Haiti was not ever a feat I thought that I could conquer alone, and I was correct. When my mother decided that my siblings and I were to each be awarded a trip for our sixteenth birthdays, the house was vibrant with chatter, about tropical get-aways, distant mountains, and even European adventures. Being the oldest, I knew that this was a great gift, which I am still very grateful to have been offered. Feeling pressured to make such a consequential decision, I turned to God.

I had been praying for just over a year that God allow me to spread his word in a new place, and that I could witness his presence around the world. In the weeks leading up to the announcement of my decision, I attended Lead Pastor Mike Lee's sermons at Hope Community Church. He preached about the importance of missionary work, and mentioned specifically, Haiti. I took this as my sign from God and began my research.

From the beginning I had concerns, or rather, obstacles which nearly deterred me from embarking on my journey. I was aware of the desperation and impoverishment in places like Haiti, and worried about how emotionally taxing a trip like this might be. I also was concerned for myself spiritually. Was I mature enough, knowledgeable enough, worthy enough, to travel to Haiti and represent my faith?

My mother and I reached out to the Hope Community Church trip leader, Diana Teal in hopes of some reassurance. During our meeting, Diana spoke of her previous travels, and how she felt blessed to be given opportunities such as this. Comments such as these began to alleviate my concerns. As our group met monthly prior to the trip, I was also persuaded by the amazing group of women that would be traveling with me. I knew that God hand-picked everyone in my group, and each of our strengths became increasingly more evident, as time went on.

My final concern, being my insecurity surrounding my newness to Christ was the most difficult obstacle. While my communication skills grew and thrived as we ran our clinic at the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center in Tom Gato, I eventually realized that God had blessed me with the ability to help others, and I knew that I was utilizing my gift. Realizations like this further assured me in my relationship with Christ and kept me going throughout the trip.

The value of this experience continues to be unmatched in my life. More than anything else, my takeaway was that God is always present. His presence is evident everywhere, if you are willing to pay attention to it. I made some best friends on this trip. I met multitudes of God-fearing women like myself, and I am a better person for having met all of them.



Piper Wolfe is a rising senior at Middle Creek High School. She is one of 6 siblings, living in Apex, attending the Raleigh campus of Hope Community Church. She will play soccer for Barton College starting in January.

Traveling to Haiti was a feat that I overcame with the support of my family, my mother in particular, my peers, my friends, my teachers, and my community. God's presence as well as their overwhelmingly awe-inspiring support made this trip possible. I would go on a trip like this with Hope Community and Family Health Ministries again in a heartbeat, and I am doubtful that that will change anytime soon.

Give the Gift of Life

For \$300/year or \$25/month, you can sponsor a safe delivery for a pregnant woman.

Your \$300 will give an expectant mother prenatal visits, ultrasounds, vitamins, safely attended delivery by a trained midwife, immediate infant care, and postnatal visits.

Visit www.familyhm.org and click donate now!



Greetings from Haiti

By In-Country Director Michael Anello



2019 will not be considered one of Haiti's better years. Social and economic issues continue to plague the country and many citizens are upset with the current political administration. Haitian citizens are demanding the resignation of the president, Jovenel Moise, who refuses to step down. They are angry and frustrated over the misuse and disappearance of almost \$3.8 billion given to Haiti by Venezuela under the Petrocaribe agreement. Interwoven in this sense of governmental corruption, the average Haitian sees nothing but hardship and continued economic instability. In recent months the local currency has greatly devalued. As I write this article the Gourde is valued at 94.7 GDS = 1 USD and it has been as high as 100 GDS = 1 USD. When I first came to Haiti, almost 10 years ago, the value was 40 GDS = 1 USD.

Protests in the streets have become a way of life as of late. Many Haitian people feel that this is the only voice they have. Burning tires and rocks obstructing traffic make it very hard to move around the country. What often is viewed as an irritation to our trying to get work done is representative of a much larger underlying problem for many of our Haitian friends. They worry about where they will get fuel for transportation and food for their children.

Despite the ongoing unrest, Family Health Ministries' medical clinics and Guesthouse remain open and operating as normal. Years ago, FHM decided that creating Haitian run facilities was a priority. Today our programs are not dependent on our American staff or medical teams being in country to achieve our goals.

The Blanchard clinic continues to provide services to over 300 patients per month and the HPV lab continues to run samples for the Celgene study, identifying those who need immediate treatment for potential cervical cancer. The Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center in Tom Gato has seen an increase in the number of prenatal visits and the staff are working diligently towards the opening of the birthing side of the facility in October.

Fortunately, the protests of recent months have settled down and we can look forward to seeing those of you who plan to visit this fall, including a team from Duke Chapel and a medical team of 16 people! We want to encourage you to think about joining us in 2020. The Haitian people greatly appreciate the time and effort you make to visit them. Your encouragement and partnership in helping them make a better life for their children does not go unnoticed. I am here at the Leogane Guesthouse waiting to see you!



Interview with Dr. Danache

By Michael Anello



Dr. Danache is the lead OB/Gyn physician at the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center. He has been with FHM since the opening of the clinic in February of 2016. He has brought a new standard of care to this rural mountain community. Here are a few of his thoughts, hopes, and dreams for the future of this facility.

Michael Anello: Dr. Danache, I want to thank you for taking time to talk with us today. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Dr. Danache: I am a Haitian physician who graduated from the University of Haiti Medical School in 2008. I did my internship year at Hopital St Boniface in 2009. Then after the earthquake, I went to work as generalist at the MSF Suisse field hospital in Leogane for 4 years. I subsequently completed my residency in OB/GYN in 2016. Upon graduation, I began to work with Family Health Ministries.

I have worked at the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center for over three years. I see over 300 patients per month. Many are pregnant and need pre/post-natal care. I also see GYN issues such as menopause, and screen and treat women for cervical cancer. I have several laboratory tests available to screen for things like pregnancy, urinary tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases, diabetes, anemia, as well as HPV testing for the cervical cancer virus. I can diagnose problems and prescribe medication. I am also responsible for the oversight of the clinic and its staff.

Michael Anello: What other jobs and activities are you involved in?

Dr. Danache: I teach obstetrics and gynecology to nursing students at the Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti (Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti or FSIL) in Leogane. I have a private practice in Leogane and deliver babies at the local hospital, CAMEJO. I am also expected to cover the emergency room one day a week. I am married and have one child. I am an active member at Saint Rose, a local Catholic church.

Michael Anello: What percent of the patients that you see are pregnant and what is your vision for providing continued services for these women?

Dr. Danache: Approximately 70% of the clinic patients I see are pregnant and are between the ages of 16-48 years. I would love to see us expand physician services to 5 days a week. I typically see 25 patients per day, 3 days a week at the clinic. Two days a week the patients are seen by our clinic nursing staff. On occasion I must turn patients away because there are too many patients to see in one day. I also am excited that we are finally in a financial position to open the birthing center side of the facility. I look forward to delivering babies starting in October using highly trained midwives. I would also like to see the construction of a small surgical unit to perform minor gynecological procedures and have the capability of perform emergency c-sections. Lastly, I would like to see us implement a strong family planning program.

Michael Anello: How do you think the community will respond to the addition of clinic-based deliveries?

Dr. Danache: I think the community is excited. Since we opened this clinic three years ago, women have been asking us when delivery services will begin at the Center. Currently, our prenatal patients must go to hospitals in Jacmel or Leogane to deliver their babies or deliver at home. Particularly, many women who are having their first baby want to be in a hospital/clinic to deliver their child.

Michael Anello: What other medical services do you see as a need in Haiti?

Dr. Danache: I see a tremendous need for education on issues of health and wellness for the general population. We need educational classes in such areas as taking care of yourself in pregnancy, what is hypertension and diabetes, how to care for your newborn, and issues like sexually transmitted disease and family planning.

We also need advanced training of local Haitian physicians. We need new knowledge and training in current treatments and procedures. Take for example, oncology. Haiti has limited oncology services. Visiting foreign doctors are often called upon to do surgical oncology procedures. The Haitian medical community needs to be trained to deal with these issues themselves.

Women often have diseases that go untreated and sometime they die. Our maternal mortality rates are too high, and the government needs to take responsibility to provide these services to the population. It is not the responsibility of the foreign physicians to provide services that Haitian physicians should be trained to provide themselves.

Michael Anello: Dr. Danache, I want to again thank you for your time today and all the hard work and wonderful care you provide the women of Tom Gato and the Leogane Commune. We look forward to celebrating the opening of the birthing center side of your clinic in October.

2020 Mission Travel Dates

Come join a Family Health Ministries team and experience the gift of giving. We can learn so much from our Haitian partners. Most of these teams are medical outreach to the different communities where FHM works, but you do not need to have a medical background to serve. Every trip visits the urban capital of Port-au-Prince, the small community setting of Leogane, and the rural countryside of Fondwa/Tom Gato. A day of fun and shopping is always included. Experience the rich Haitian culture steeped in African roots. The people are amazing, and the need is great. One week in Haiti can become a life changing experience.

Most trips are \$1,200 plus airfare and the cost of your trip is tax-deductible. This fee provides housing (air-conditioned facilities with hot water), amazing Haitian food, and in-country transportation. Below are the trips currently scheduled for 2020. Please check our website (www.familyhm.org) as future trips are always being added.

If your church or civic group is interested in forming their own trip to Haiti with Family Health Ministries, please contact Kathy Walmer at the office (919-382-5500) or via email at kathy.walmer@familyhm.org. We look forward to providing you with an adventure of a lifetime and to introducing you to the FHM programs and the people that we love.

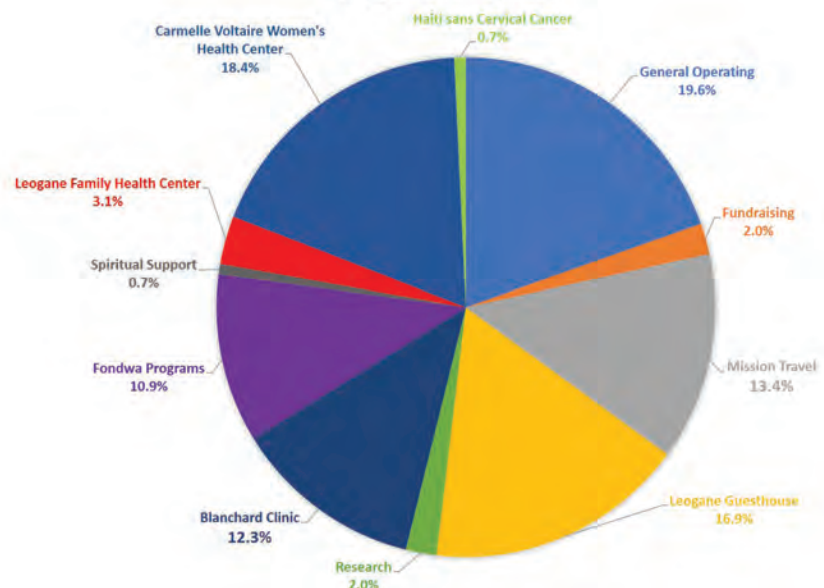
February 15-22	The American Academy of Family Practitioners
March 7-14	519 Church (Durham, NC)
October 3-10	Tom Gato Medical Team
TBA	Blanchard Medical Team



2018 Financials

Income	
Unrestricted Donations and Grants	\$ 133,892
Investment Income	\$ (6,627)
Mission travel	\$ 75,272
Leogane Guesthouse	\$ 67,305
Research	\$ 60,344
Blanchard Clinic	\$ 60,022
Fondwa Programs	\$ 53,106
Spiritual Support	\$ 3,275
Leogane Family Health Center	\$ 1,700
Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center	\$ 90,570
Haiti sans Cervical Cancer	\$ 3,620
Total Income	\$ 542,479
Expenses	
General Operating	\$ 96,002
Fundraising	\$ 9,787
Mission Travel	\$ 65,747
Leogane Guesthouse	\$ 82,581
Research	\$ 9,777
Blanchard Clinic	\$ 60,360
Fondwa Programs	\$ 53,328
Spiritual Support	\$ 3,300
Leogane Family Health Center	\$ 15,301
Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center	\$ 89,970
Haiti sans Cervical Cancer	\$ 3,643
Total Expense	\$ 489,796

2018 EXPENSES





PO Box 16783, Chapel Hill, NC 27516



FamilyHM.org • info@FamilyHM.org
919.382.5500

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Save the Date

Saturday, April 25, 2020

FHM Annual Gala and Silent Auction

Family Health Ministries would like to invite you to our 19th Annual Gala and Silent Auction. The format of this event has changed over the years, but the support of and from our FHM family has not. We hope you'll plan to join us for a fun-filled evening of good food, dancing, and fellowship. More details to come in November.



519



HAITI

10k/5k RUN/WALK

SEPTEMBER 21



On September 21, 2019, 519church is teaming up with local sponsors to offer a 5k/10k run through Perimeter Park in Morrisville, N.C. In its eighth year, this race has become a local favorite. Entry fees, sponsorships, and donations support the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center in Tom Gato.

This year's course provides a great race for both new and experienced runners. In addition to the 5k, there will be a 10K and a 1-mile Fun Run, which families can come out and run together.

Packet pickup and Race Day registrations will be held Sept. 19 and 20, 5-8 p.m. at Omega Sports in Morrisville and Sept. 21 on site, 6:15-7 a.m. for 10k; 6:15-7:30 a.m. for 5k. The 10k begins at 7:30 a.m.; 5k begins at 8 a.m.; and the 1-mile Fun Run following the 5k. Convenient parking will be available.

The registration fee for individuals is \$25 (5K) and \$35 (10K). The family rate is \$100 (5K) and \$125 (10K). Visit <https://event.racereach.com/519-hearts-haiti-5k10k-run> to register.



FAMILY HEALTH
MINISTRIES



Holiday Auction 2019



Visit the auction at

www.bidpal.net/FHMHolidayAuction2019



Bidding opens November 29 and closes at midnight on December 16

Items will be available for pickup at the FHM office in Chapel Hill December 17-20

Most items can be shipped for an additional fee

Buyers in the local area may be eligible for delivery (call the office for details)

Auction items include:

Haitian art

Gift certificates from local restaurants

Sports memorabilia

Gift items from local artists

Gift items hand-picked for the holiday season



Please contact kelly.dassow@familyhm.org or call the office at 919-382-5500 with questions.