

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

September 2020 www.familyhm.org

# The Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center



### Delivering Babies and Adding Cervical Cancer Screening Services

We are excited to announce that our women's health clinic in Tom Gato has added 2 midwives, 2 nurses, and night security to the staff and we now deliver babies 24 hours/7 days a week. This has been a huge emotional and financial endeavor for FHM. The community is blessed to have such a strong healthcare team to deliver high quality women's services to a rural and mountainous area. As of August, more than 45 babies have been delivered.

Our cervical cancer prevention program has moved to Tom Gato and is enrolling women in a new HPV study that looks at thermoablation as an alternative treatment for cervical cancer. For years we have used a much more expensive treatment called cryotherapy that is dependent on nitrous oxide gas, which can be difficult to obtain. We are also developing a new HPV lab at our Leogane office with the newest Ampfire technology. With almost thirty years of work in Haiti and screening of more than twenty thousand patients, FHM has been a significant partner in the development of HPV screening for women in low resource communities. What was once a highly skilled and expensive test is now an affordable, self-collected test, that only requires a skilled care provider if the patient tests positive.



Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center in Tom Gato

## We Need your Support to Maintain Services and Expand our Women's Health Programs

As COVID-19 continued to disrupt our lives, it became apparent that we would not be able to gather in person for our  $19^{\text{th}}$  annual Gala and Silent Auction. We will miss being together, but we hope we can bring a little bit of Haiti to you October  $19^{\text{th}}$ - $31^{\text{st}}$  with an online video series and auction.

This annual event represents 40K to 60K of our yearly revenue for the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center. The loss of these revenues may hurt our clinic outreach. We have also increased our Tom Gato women's clinic budget by 40% this year to cover the addition of our birthing services. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

(continued on page 2...)



First infant born at women's center



**HPV** lab for cervical cancer screening



Proud parents rejoice over safe delivery



(...continued from page 1)

# There are several ways to support the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center:

- 1. Consider buying items from our online auction. The holiday season is around the corner!
- 2. Donate as if you were at our live event. We have been dependent on our sponsors and individual donors at this event to keep this clinic open.
- 3. There is also the opportunity to sponsor a birth for \$300/ year or \$25/month. We have gift cards that we are happy to send out if you choose to give this as a gift to someone for a special occasion or holiday. You can sponsor a birth by visiting our website and clicking on the orange DONATE NOW button. Contact kelly.dassow@familyhm.org in our Finance Department, or at 919-382-5500 if you have any questions.

This event truly gives the gift of life. We hope you will join us in support of the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Clinic through this online event October  $19^{\text{th}}$  -  $31^{\text{st}}$ .



# COVID-19 and Hurricane Laura Brings More Disaster to a Country Already on the Edge



Patients waiting to be seen at the Tom Gato Clinic in the day of COVID-19



Dr. Danache at the Tom Gato Clinic.
Taking COVID-19 seriously.

In the US we often ask when our lives will return to normal. In Haiti, 2020 has just been another year. Our Haitian friends have taught us much about resiliency over the years. COVID-19 was first reported in Haiti on March 16th with 2 known cases. The virus had reportedly entered the country from the Dominican Republic. The number of cases and deaths have increased over the months, but no one really knows the true numbers due to Haiti's limited infrastructure and ability to test and report data.

FHM staff have taken precautions to protect themselves and their patients. Our dedicated staff members at the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center have decided to keep the center open, instituting many of the same COVID-19 precautions we follow in the US. Patient temperatures are taken prior to entering the lower property gate. Only patients with a temperature below 100.4

can move to the clinic facility. All patients are required to wear a facemask, wash their hands, and socially distance.

Michael Anello, FHM In-county Director, left Haiti on April 18th and returned on July 6th once the country reopened. He was there on August 24th when Hurricane Laura dumped massive amounts of rain in Haiti and flooded our guesthouse/office with 6 inches of water. With help from our friends in the community, Michael was able to make repairs to the building, the well, and generator. Please keep our Haitian friends, staff, and Michael in your thoughts and prayers. In a country where it is difficult to access basic needs and there is limited political leadership and social services, it is important for us to continue to support Haitian communities in their efforts to build and sustain healthy families.



Flood waters from Hurricane Laura



FHM guesthouse and office Hurricane Laura



# Partnership Made Between Zanmi Fondwa and Family Health Ministries

Back in 2003, during Family Health Ministries' infancy, two recently graduated Duke divinity students named Dave and Jamalyn Williamson became our first missionaries to Fondwa, Haiti. This was new territory for both FHM and the Williamsons. Their two years of service were marked with the turmoil of the Aristide presidency that ended in the overthrow of the ruling government. Even through such difficult circumstances, Dave and Jamalyn became FHM's ambassadors to the Fondwa community. They organized and cemented many of the relationships that are active in the community today.

Dave and Jamalyn left Haiti and went on to become Methodist pastors and have two children. During the following fourteen years, Dave and Jamalyn brought many mission teams to the Fondwa area and continued to build needed infrastructure. They have long become beloved members of this community.

In 2018, Jamalyn Williamson, with her husband's support, created the organization Zanmi Fondwa (Fondwa Friends). Their mission is to create stability in Fondwa through housing, education, and economic development. Family Health Ministries has always had a strong friendship with Jamalyn and Dave and view them as the next generation to take on the support of the Fondwa community vision. FHM views our mission, "to support Haitian communities in their effort to build and sustain healthy families through healthcare" an extension of the same goals of Zanmi Fondwa. Both organizations see housing, education, and economic development as closely tied to the health of the family.

With similar views, we have officially partnered to support each other in infrastructure and resources. Zanmi Fondwa has rented office, storage, and educational space on the second floor of the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center from FHM. Their financial support through rent goes back into the clinic revenues to support our women's health programs.

Most important, this is an avenue to continue our work together that was started 17 years ago; when a fledgling organization took two recently married young people under their wing and we all stepped out in faith. Look at what God can do!



Jamalyn Williamson at Zanmi Fondwa house dedication



#### \$200 million donated to charities

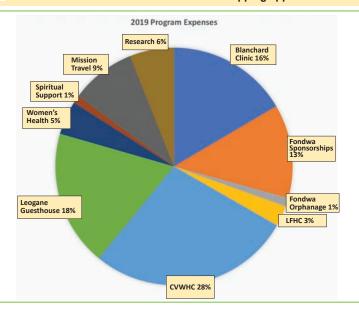
Shop at **smile.amazon.com** or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app to generate donations.



AmazonSmile has donated over \$200 million to charities worldwide! You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to Family Health Ministries Inc by shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2206165 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app.

Income	
Unrestricted Donations	\$102,926
Interest + Investments	\$24,339
Mission Travel	\$29,990
Leogane Guesthouse	\$43,794
Women's Health	\$15,542
Research	\$47,068
Blanchard Clinic	\$52,847
Fondwa Orphanage	\$2,300
Fondwa Sponsorships	\$40,988
Spiritual Support	\$1,675
LFHC	\$1,200
CVWHC	\$89,460
HsCC	\$15,190
Total Income:	\$467,319

Expense	
General Operating	\$70,064
Depreciation	\$23,614
Fundraising	\$9,239
Mission Travel	\$29,990
Leogane Guesthouse	\$62,729
Women's Health	\$15,545
Research	\$20,473
Blanchard Clinic	\$56,042
Fondwa Orphanage	\$4,020
Fondwa Sponsorships	\$43,203
Spiritual Support	\$3,631
LFHC	\$9,505
CVWHC	\$93,703
HsCC	\$-
Total Expense:	\$441,758





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#### Note from the Board of Directors: Blanchard Clinic Closes



With a nostalgic heart, Family Health Ministries (FHM) announces the closing of the Blanchard Clinic in Terre Noire after almost 15 years of service. This clinic was one of our first projects in Port-au-Prince (PAP). It started with a public health outreach in 2004 to survey needs in the community and the clinic building was completed in 2006. The Blanchard Clinic provided family health care, women's health care, pediatrics, childhood vaccines, a nutrition program for at risk children, and became the major outreach for our cervical cancer research program.

Over the last two years the demographics of the community have changed and unrest in

PAP has made it difficult to keep the clinic open. With the uncertainty of Haiti's political future and now the addition of COVID-19, Family Health Ministries felt it important to consolidate existing resources and funding in the Leogane commune. We feel this transition gives us leverage to make the most of your contributions and affect the most change in the communities we serve. We are donating the Blanchard Clinic building to MICECC, the Haitian leadership on the Terre Noire compound, and Leon Dorleans. We thank Pastor Leon Dorleans and MICECC for their support and partnership over the years. They have made us feel welcomed and appreciated in Terre Noire community.

### The Community of Fondwa and their Children Need More Sponsors







The children in Fondwa are returning to the St. Antoine school this month. The Fondwa school provides a rare opportunity for 600 students (preschool - 13th grade) in the rural mountains to attend school close to home. Although, "close to home" can be a three hour walk for some of the older students.

The school administration worked hard over the summer to stay connected to the students and their parents after the schools closed early in March due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Fondwa School administrators worked with the Fondwa Sisters, Fondwa Peasants' Association (APF), moto drivers, the women in the market, and the Fondwa health clinic to set up six public hand washing stations and educate the community on the spread of COVID-19. The market women provided the soap and moto drivers delivered water to the hand washing stations each day. The local radio station, Radio Zetwal, provided COVID-19 health education to the surrounding communities.

In the middle of all this uncertainty, we still need people to sponsor children at the school. For just \$30 a month or \$360 a year, you can provide an education for a Fondwa child. You can suppy these young people a chance to break the cycle of poverty through education and bring hope to their communities. Alfie Kohn, an American author, once said, "If children feel safe, they can take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings, and grow." Please help us make the St. Antoine school a safe place to grow.