



FAMILY HEALTH MINISTRIES

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

October 2021

www.familyhm.org

Pritts-Olive Surgical Suite



Pritts Olive Family

Time has flown by since we first started talking about a health center for women in the rural mountains of Haiti almost 10 years ago. The Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center (CVWHC) is named after a very special nun in the community that was a nurse and helped women birth their babies at home for years.

Back in 2016, the building was opened as a place to bring quality health services to women and children by hiring our OB/Gyn, Dr. Danache.

During those early years we worked hard to find funding to open the facility 24 hour a day and 7 days a week to deliver babies. With the help of faithful donors, we were able to achieve that goal last year. Our next goal is to build a surgical suite that will eliminate the need to transfer unstable patients needing c-sections and other surgeries 30 minutes away to either Jacmel or Leogane.

This new goal is going to become a reality when we break ground on the Pritts-Olive Surgical Suite. Elizabeth Pritts and Dave Olive have been long time donors to FHM. They adopted two children from the Fatima House Orphanage in Fondwa and their roots run deep in the community. When Dave died in 2020, it was his request that donations in his memory go to the surgical suite. That same year, an anonymous donor stepped forward with a challenge grant of \$50,000. Thanks to all our giving partners, we have raised the money and matched the grant to meet our initial fundraising goal. We would still like to raise another \$20,000 to add solar power to the facility because the price to run our diesel generator is expensive, but all things come in God's time.

It is a joy to be part of the Tom Gato/Fondwa community and know that even during difficult times, moms can continue to receive care and deliver healthy babies.

Note from FHM Chairman

Finding the Good amid the Bad and the Ugly

by David Walmer

In 2010, FHM and its' programs were at the epicenter of the earthquake. For many years, out of necessity, we shifted our focus from supporting community development to recovery. In recent years, we have been able to look forward again through the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center (CVWHC), which we believe is becoming a center of excellence and hope for health care in rural Haiti.

In 2021, FHM seems to be threading the needle, dodging the worst of the struggles. Overwhelming community disruptions are once again very close but, by the grace of God, not in our neighborhood. The **bad** news is the latest earthquake that devastated nearby communities. The **ugly** is represented by the civil unrest that prevents safe travel from Leogane through Carrefour to Port-au-Prince. Despite these challenges, our **good** news continues as Michael Anello, Dr. Danache and our staff have kept the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Center open despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, providing continuous care and delivering babies for the communities around Tom Gato. We

even had a successful campaign in 2021 to raise funds to build a needed surgical suite at the CVWHC and we are anxious to begin construction when the crews can reach us.

Amid all of these blessings, the underlying **bad** news for our staff is the fact that the economy across Haiti has been spiraling out of control and undermining the value of the Haitian currency. Our staff, their families, and their communities are finding it more difficult each day to provide for the basic needs of their families. Without a compensatory increase in salaries, life in the homes of our committed staff is getting **ugly** and they are asking for help. They are there for us and we want to be there for them.

While we know how important it is for all of us to support the needed relief efforts in Haiti, we believe that it is equally important to continue to support the successful efforts that are still functional and at risk. Please consider joining our sponsorship program to support the salaries of the doctors, nurses, and midwives who are resolved to providing high quality care at the CVWHC during these challenging times. In the coming weeks and months, we will introduce you to each of these caring and committed people that staff the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center and hope that their efforts will touch your hearts and your wallets.

The **good** news is we are always...**better together...pi bon ansam...**

Resiliency, Faith, and Prayer

Our Haitian Friends *by Kathy Walmer*

As I sit down to write this note to our constituents, I find myself very reflective. It has been two years since I last stepped foot in Haiti and, as many of you know, I celebrated two years post-diagnosis of stage 4 metastatic breast cancer this July. My diagnosis kept me from traveling to Haiti until I finished treatment in April of 2020, then the US went into lockdown and COVID-19 made its way to Haiti. When I was finally vaccinated in February of 2021 and could return to the country, I was strongly advised by friends and family to remain in the US due to the intense political unrest, an unrest like we have never seen in the 28 years we have worked there.

It has been eleven years since the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince devastated the lives of our friends and staff in Haiti. A few of weeks ago, the sitting president was assassinated, and in August there was a 7.2 earthquake that devastated communities to the south of our facilities. COVID-19 continues to tear through the country with few people immunized due to limited supply of vaccine.

There have been many traumas on different levels for the Haitian people over the last decade. Trauma was a word that was not frequently used by the Haitian population before the 2010 earthquake. I remember sitting in a Duke University meeting years ago when a Haitian guest lecturer told us that we, as foreigners, had introduced this word into Haitian culture. Prior to 2010, there was no concept of



Encampment following recent earthquake

(...continued on next page)

A Note from FHM's In-Country Director, Michael Anello

In recent weeks, many of you have seen Haiti in the US news. It seems like whenever something tragic happens in Haiti it makes the news. Ten years ago, it was a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. Now, it is the assassination of the sitting president, Jovenel Moïse and the 7.2 earthquake in the southern part of Haiti. For many months, there have been protests by Haitian citizens, episodes of gang violence, and general upheaval in the country. My travels have been restricted to the countryside since the primary road between Port-au-Prince and Leogane is impassable due to gang activity.

Fortunately, things in Leogane, on the Jacmel road, and in Tom Gato have stayed relatively calm. My travels up and down the mountain to the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center (CVWHC) remain mostly undisturbed. An occasional roadblock will pop up, but typically the instigators will recognize me from living in Leogane for many years and let me pass without much problem.

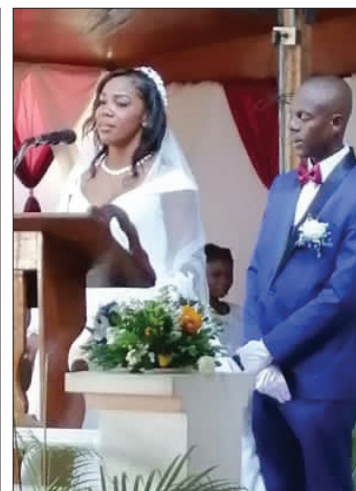
Even though life in Haiti remains challenging for our friends and staff, there are bright moments to celebrate. Two Family Health Ministries employees have gotten married in the last few months. Christaline Belamy, the head nurse at the CVWHC, was married on July 31 at the Leogane Nursing School. It was a beautiful wedding, and I was blessed to attend as an FHM representative. In September, Daphnée Mirville got married. Daphnee grew up in the mountains of Fondwa at the Fatima House Orphanage. After graduating nursing school in PAP, she came back to her community

in 2016 and began work at the women's center when it first opened. She continues to serve the people who cared for her as a child.

I thank you for your ongoing support. Without you we could not provide prenatal care, midwife attended deliveries, and general women's healthcare. Although, you cannot visit us in Haiti right now, be assured your donations are going to good use. Even though this country remains in turmoil, it is rewarding to be part of an organization that strives daily to make a difference in the lives of women in the rural mountains of Haiti.



Christaline Belamy



Daphnée Mirville


“trauma” in the creole language. Regardless of what we call it, the Haitian people have experienced both physical injury and emotional stress of huge proportions.

There is no way around it, times are very difficult in Haiti and our friends are struggling. But it is their strong faith in God that keeps them going. No one can take that from them. Faith is a key component of Haitian life, and it is what keeps drawing us back to Haiti. Haitians inspire us to seek this deep relationship with God that provides them the ability to live life even in the face of daily hardship.

Faith in God, that is the most significant gift that the Haitian people have given me. They have taught me a resiliency in life that I try to achieve, but question, if in my world of comfort, I can ever truly reach. Their resiliency is tightly tied to their faith. People often ask me, how will Haiti get out of its current situation? The answer is, I have no idea, but sense it will be through this continued faith in God, and their resiliency.

I don't think I could have made it through the last two years of my illness without the lessons my Haitian friends have taught me. I am blessed to have lived to celebrate holidays, birthdays, marriages, and life's daily challenges with my family and friends. My Haitian friends have taught me how to live in the moment and to seek God's love and direction in my life. They have taught me to live each day at a time and trust God to provide for tomorrow. My husband has always said, Haiti can give you a death-bed experience while you are young enough to do something about it.

I still cannot travel to Haiti, and I don't know when I will return, but I can keep praying. God is listening to our prayers and doing remarkable things in our absence. He continues to protect our Haitian staff, the Fondwa school is open, children are learning, our clinic in Tom Gato is serving expectant mothers and delivering healthy babies, our cervical cancer outreach is growing in partnerships, and women are receiving screening and treatment. These activities continue to go on because we have a dedicated staff that cares for their community and has an inspiring hope in tomorrow. Please join me in praying for their continued resiliency, faith, and hope. God can do all things through prayer, and it is our Haitian friends who have taught us that.



*Family Health Ministries' Annual
Gala & Silent Auction*

PARTNERING FOR A HEALTHY HAITI:
SUPPORTING MOTHERS AND FAMILIES


SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 6, 2021
6:00-9:00PM

PARAMOUNT EVENT VENUE
5180 PARAMOUNT PARKWAY
MORRISVILLE, NC 27560

COCKTAIL ATTIRE

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.FAMILYHM.ORG OR CALL US AT 919-382-5500

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THE CARMELLE
VOLTAIRE WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER



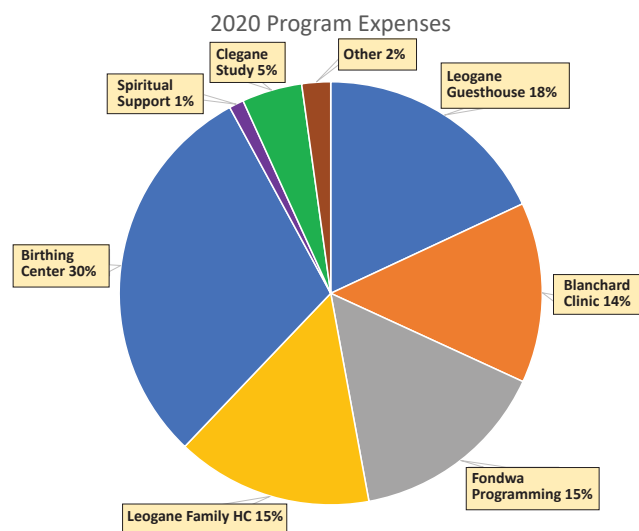
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FHM GALA, November 6, 2021

Do not miss the opportunity to buy some unique items for the holiday season! **If you can not make the Gala on November 6th, you can still bid on items starting November 1st.** Just go to the FHM Gala website at one.bidpal.net/FHMGala2021/welcome. All proceeds will go to funding operations at the Carmelle Voltaire Women's Health Center!

2020 EOY Financials

Income		Expense	
Unrestricted Donations	\$138,135	General Operating	\$89,969
Interest + Investments	\$10,962	Fundraising	\$9,736
Leogane Guesthouse	\$88,914	Leogane Guesthouse	\$58,005
Research Fund	\$18,331	Research Fund	\$2,153
Blanchard Clinic	\$47,017	Blanchard Clinic	\$44,332
Fondwa Programming	\$49,674	Fondwa Programming	\$49,017
Leogane Family HC	\$1,000	Leogane Family HC	\$48,215
Birthing Center	\$65,441	Birthing Center	\$96,279
Spiritual Support	\$6,638	Spiritual Support	\$3,600
Celgene Study	\$28,766	Celgene Study	\$14,783
HsCC	\$910	HsCC	\$1,052
Pritts Olive Surgical Ste	\$34,468	Other	\$7,065
Total Income:	\$490,255	Cerviscopie	\$3,124
		Total Expense:	\$426,329



*expenses less than 1% do not appear on this pie chart



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Family Health Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation registered in NC. All donations are tax-deductible and will be used to support

*FHM's programs.
Tax ID# 56-2206165*

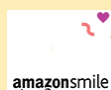
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Mission Travel



Many of you have asked about returning to Haiti. Unfortunately, due to the political unrest, we are unable to travel safely through Port-au-Prince and out the southern peninsula to the Leogane Commune. We hope to

resume travel in the summer of 2022 after elections are held and a new government is installed. Watch for updates on our website and social media. Please pray for the people of Haiti.



\$200 million donated to charities

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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.

Summer Internship with FHM



by Sloane Satow

My internship at Family Health Ministries has been a very educational and enjoyable experience. Over the past few months, I have been privileged to delve into both the administrative and research components of running a non-profit organization that is involved in humanitarian and research projects in Haiti. From uploading auction items for the Gala, to handwriting thank-you cards to donors, as well as organizing and entering data for an HPV clinical trial,

I've been able to learn so much about the labor that goes into maintaining FHM's various operations.

Additionally, working alongside Kathy Walmer, Dr. Walmer, Kelly Dassow, and Oliver Walmer (the dachshund) has been such a great experience this summer. There was always a welcoming environment in their office and each day I looked forward to coming into work, rain or shine. I'll never forget the times I spent talking with Kathy and Kelly over lunch and trying to win Oliver over with many treats. Working at FHM has been a great experience and I'll always treasure participating in such an admirable organization filled with wonderful people.

Cervical Cancer Prevention

**and New Partnership
with Caris Foundation**



We are excited to share that we have a new partnership with the Caris Foundation. Caris Foundation is a Texas based private foundation that is working to aid and empower impoverished people. Like FHM, Caris seeks to establish a local presence within communities, to understand people's basic needs, and to implement solutions that are culturally relevant and sustainable. Caris is the Greek word for grace, the free expression of God's loving kindness.

Caris Foundation has been in Haiti for many years and is currently working with HIV infected women. FHM is training their Haitian employees to screen for the HPV virus and treat those patients that are positive. FHM has hired a lab technician who will be running our Ampfire machine at our new lab in Leogane. The Ampfire machine has the potential to run approximately 100 samples every hour and represents the latest in HPV technology. This partnership is a step forward on our journey to establish a national cervical cancer prevention program in Haiti.