



HDF Clinic patient

Haitian Development Fund Newsletter

2009 Wish List

- Funds to ship supplies to Haiti
- Antibiotics
- Basic dental supplies
- Recent pocket PDR
- Funds to purchase a reliable used vehicle

Please consider making a gift to HDF for one of these urgent needs. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

HDF Board

*President
H. Brent De Land, Jr., Ph.D.
Springfield, Illinois*

*Vice President/Secretary
Greg A. Richmond
Chicago, Illinois*

*Treasurer
Karl S. Pnazek
Stevens Point, Wisconsin*

*Terry Rossi, Member
Springfield, Illinois*

Clinic Volunteers Treat Record Number

During the May trip the Haitian Development Fund (HDF) Clinic, Dr. H. Brent De Land was joined by Natalie Moore (see Page 2) of Springfield, Illinois, a fourth year student at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and Kari Colgan, BSN, (see Page 4), a recent graduate of St Francis College of Nursing in Peoria, Illinois. Colgan received the Dewan Scholarship for International Healthcare Experience and Moore received the HDF Scholarship for International Healthcare Experience, 23-31 May 2009 in Haiti.

While at the Clinic, the American trio treated 435 patients, 408 patients at the Sarthe Neighborhood Medical Clinic and the remaining at the Nan Pele Hospital of the Missionaries of Charity Brothers.



Patients wait to be seen at the Clinic.

Vitamin Angels of Santa Barbara, California, have awarded 35,010 ProCaps Pre-Natal Vitamins to the Haitian Development Fund. The vitamins are being used at the Sarthe Neighborhood Medical Clinic in Port-au-Prince.

According to Dr. H. Brent De Land, HDF president, "We are delighted to be awarded this grant of vitamins; this will greatly help our Healthy Mother-Baby Program. We received 389 bottles with 90 vitamins per bottle.

Vitamin Angels

This should provide vitamins for all of our program participants and will improve the lives of mothers and babies."

Haiti has a very high infant mortality rate with many children being born with low birth weights. Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. During the recent clinic visit, De Land, Colgan and Moore dispensed the vitamins and instructed expectant mothers on their use.

UPDATE

HDF has received a second grant from Vitamin Angles. About 385,920 children's chewable vitamins, just over 1,599 pounds, were donated. The vitamins will be used at the clinic, providing an estimated one year supply for child patients. This is a critical donation because many Haitian children and even some adults struggle with poor nutrition. The cost to hand-carry the vitamins to Haiti will be about \$1,800.

A Place in My Heart

By Natalie L. Moore

Before traveling to Haiti, my concepts of third world poverty and people in need were based on pictures and documentaries. I tried to prepare myself for the week to come with research on the politics, culture, and everyday life, but it all failed in comparison to the chaotic city of Port-au-Prince.

New Experiences

I was filled with nervous anticipation as we arrived at our destination. We moved through customs and into the blistering hot sun to meet a crowd of Haitians and the smiling faces of our drivers. As we drove to the hotel, I soaked in the rhythm of the city with wide naïve eyes. There were the famous Tap Taps I had read about, colorfully painted and overflowing with people, but seeing the city first hand was no comparison to the pictures.

I realized over the course of a week that you cannot fully describe the city to someone who hasn't been to Haiti before, because it is an experience of the senses. The heat, smells, sounds and sights you take in are uniquely Port-au-Prince.

The Children

Our schedule in Haiti was fairly routine. There were long hours at the clinic, but the individual stories and patients made each day special. I was instantly drawn to the children that we treated. They touched my heart with their beautiful smiles, making the conditions around me easier to absorb. I found them to be both my strength and my weakness throughout our week at the clinic because it is the stories of the sick children that will stay with me forever.

Treating the patients as best we could was gratifying, but often frustrating because our resources were limited. It made me appreciate our health care system in the States, no matter how flawed it can be.

Gratitude

Appreciation is one of the many emotions I encountered on my trip to Haiti. Looking around at an underdeveloped country with no sanitation system or major infrastructure, you cannot help but to be moved by compassion and give thanks for

what comforts you have been given in life. Whether you are giving your time to a third world country or donating in a different way, know that the small sacrifices are important. As little a thing as a toothbrush or a bottle of vitamins impacts a person's life, even if it is momentary.

When I sat down to write this reflection I realized how hard it is to write about a country and city so foreign to most people, and it occurred to me that I couldn't do it justice. Haiti is a world its own and it will always hold a place in my heart. Through all the suffering, we saw hope and happiness and it inspires me to be a better person, to simply give back for what I have been given and to share my story about a little week in May that changed my life.



Natalie Moore treats a Clinic patient.

Tylenol Sundays Net Big Results

This spring, three Tylenol Sundays have been held for the Sarthe Neighborhood Medical Clinic. Cynthia Yergler and Linda Johnson hosted a collection at First United Methodist Church Adult Sunday School; for a second year, Chuck Hunt hosted a collection at Chatham United Methodist Church; and Terry & Kate Rossi and Marty Vandiver hosted a collection at Blessed Sacrament Parish. In total over 200 pounds of over-the-counter medication and monetary gifts in excess of \$1,500 were collected. The medicine and cash are now at work in Port-au-Prince. If you'd like information about doing your own Tylenol Sunday, please call 217-546-6360.



Packing medical supplies.

Students Help HDF

Jack Richmond and David Quintavalle, students at St. Walter School in Chicago, needed a project for confirmation. Jack, whose parents are HDF co-founder and Vice President Greg Richmond and Janelle, HDF Newsletter editor, selected Haiti as a project.

Jack and David collected over 150 pounds of gently used t-shirts in all sizes from toddler to adult. After collecting them, the boys helped sort and stack the shirts for Janelle, who washed and dried them.

In May, HDF began the distribution. According to Haiti volunteer Natalie Moore, "We had so many nice shirts we feared we might have problems giving them out. We controlled access to the clinic exam room, held the kids until all had received a shirt and had no problems. The Haitian boys, girls and some adults are very happy with a nice t-shirt from the USA. For many kids in Haiti, this might be only the third shirt they own!"



Haitian kids wearing t-shirts donated by St. Walter School students and families.

Clinic Photo Gallery May 2009



Kari examines a boy as his mother and a translator look on.



Dr. De Land wraps a leg infection, the result of a burn..



Discussing treatment options with a diabetic patient.



Dr. De Land instructs a patient on the use of prenatal vitamins.



Natalie with one of the Clinic's young patients.



Kari examines a scalp injury.

More Than Giving

by Kari Colgan

My short time in Haiti was an experience that I will never forget.

There were ups and downs, sad moments and happy ones, but I can truly say that it was a life changing experience.

Overwhelming

My first full day in Haiti was overwhelming. As Natalie, the other volunteer, and I made our way to the clinic I saw so many people, squeezed into small quarters, with so much poverty.

Arriving at the clinic was equally overwhelming. There were dozens of people waiting to see us and the Haitian medical team. I knew that there were far fewer resources in Haiti as compared to the States but I was hoping I would still be able to make a difference.

While working in the clinic we were able to see on average 40 to 50 patients each per day and some will remain in my memory forever. Two had drastically different situations but each touched my heart.

Patients in Pain

The first patient was an elderly woman in excruciating pain from osteoarthritis. Although I could not understand her words, I could see the pain in her face. Aside from providing Extra Strength Tylenol and comforting her, there was little I could do.

The other patient was a 4 day old infant who had not eaten anything since birth. The baby was extremely dehydrated and near death. We provided the mother with money for a taxi so she could be rushed to the Baby Hospital, run by the Missionaries of Charity.

There is no real way of knowing what happened after they left the clinic.

These two very different cases left me with mixed emotions. It was difficult to see these patients and feel so helpless. In the States these health issues are fixable but in Haiti little can be done.

I Gained More than I Gave

After giving serious thought to my experience, I came to understand that the purpose of going to Haiti was because things are different there. I know that the work we did in Haiti was valuable. We were a resource that Haitians often do not have.

I gained more from this experience than I gave. I know that our trip was beneficial and I hope that HDF continues to take new volunteers to Haiti and to make a difference.



Kari treats a patient at the Clinic.

HDF Announces New Board Member

Terry Rossi, of Springfield, Illinois, will join the Haitian Development Fund Board of Directors at the July Annual Meeting. Terry is a heating and air conditioning contractor with many years of volunteer experience in Haiti.

He has been to the Sarthe Clinic on several occasions and also worked as a volunteer with the Haitian Health Foundation and Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach.



Check Out Our New Website

HDF recently launched its new website. Visit us at www.hdfund.org for more photos and additional information about us.