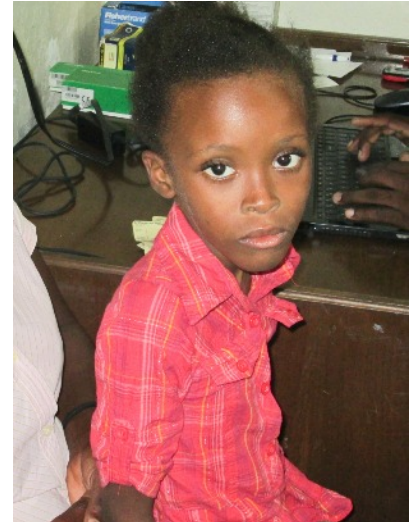


LAMP for HAITI

SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

Summer 2015



Dr. Hyppolite examines a patient. 33% of all patients at the Lamp clinic are children below the age of 6

Dear Friends — by James Morgan MD

Dear Friends

As the summer rolls along, I hope that it has been a good one for you and your families. I hope that you have a chance to get a little rest as well, but not too much rest! Like you, I am quite certain, I feel

fatigued after a long day's work, but this project is worth losing some sleep over as it truly is one that saves lives.

I am looking forward to this September when we mark the end of the ninth year of Lamp for Haiti's having dramatically impacted the neighborhood of Bwa Nèf, in Cité Soleil! September 2016 will mark our 10 year anniversary. Through involvement in this work, you and me, along with our staff, and of course the local residents with whom and for whom we work, are showing that it's possible to sometimes do the impossible. It takes organization, commitment, competence, and caring. Lamp has all of these.

What began as a dream and a challenge from a couple of intrepid colleagues, has grown into a community health center, providing *quality, cost-effective* healthcare in one of the poorest corners of the globe. (As my son put it ...*Lamp health center is legit!*) Our staff works rain or shine. We have weathered an earthquake and tropical storms, political unrest and shortages of supplies. And still we carry on with our mission.

Whether it is training an anxious mother-to-be about her future role, or in sending children excited with the notion of learning to a local school, or in providing nutrition support to hungry and undernourished youngsters, or



EMR Raises the Bar



Rony Charles (right) and Dr. Hyppolite discuss additions to the EMR system

It is the goal of the Lamp to provide the highest quality health care we are able. We want to push the envelope, to improve the effectiveness of our work in every way we can. One way we have been able to do this is by implementing an electronic medical record system. It has been a challenge! EMR systems need computers,

appropriate software, uninterrupted electricity, trained personnel and maintenance. Our first two attempts to use US-based commercial systems were not sustainable. But the potential rewards were too great to ignore.

Our answer, after those two attempts, was to “buy local”; always a good idea in international settings! We opted to adopt an open-source EMR, called OpenMRS, that had been developed initially in Haiti and then rebuilt at MIT. Nick Sahagian, a remarkable young medical student, took this shell and customized it for our clinic. That was in 2013.

The benefits have been greater than we even imagined. The system provides unparalleled access to a patient’s medical history, unparalleled efficiency and an unparalleled ability to analyze our

medical activities. All of these “unparalleled” things mean that we are providing substantially better medical care for our patients, and that was always the main goal.

Now, the final piece of the puzzle has fallen into place. We have found, and hired on contract, an excellent Haitian programmer, Rony Charles. Amazingly enough, Rony has extensive experience with OpenMRS itself. He is, as we speak, adding new modules to the system and making it even more robust.

With Rony available for maintenance and upgrades, we can be confident that our system will always be up-to-date and fully functional. Our EMR system is here to stay.

The next innovation? A fully solar-powered clinic. Will it pay off? We will have to wait and see...



Jim’s message continued

treating a severe pneumonia (diagnosed by our state-of-the-art digital x-ray system, and treated with appropriate medications from our pharmacy), or caring for the complexities of aging in a poor locale, our staff does so with kindness and respect.

We are delighted that Dr Sévere has recently returned from a medical conference in the US. It is but one of multiple examples of professional development that we need our staff to engage in.

Nine years is a long time, and Lamp is not just surviving but we are growing. We can do so only because of great hearts like yours, who

continue to see the positive fruit being borne and who want to be involved in history being made.

I thank you, again, for all of your confidence and your support in this effort. Please visit our website www.lampforhaiti.org for periodic updates on the work being done in Haiti. Know that you are making a difference, a genuine difference in the lives of some of the poorest on the planet. It is a cause worth getting a little fatigued over, and a

project whose results I hope make you smile!



A patient leaving Dr. Ophnie Sévere’s office at the Lamp’s women’s clinic

Sakala: An inspiring partner agency in Cité Soleil



The large community garden is visible behind the soccer pitch

The Lamp is committed to working in partnership with all “agents for change” in Cité Soleil, including the government, other international organizations and local groups. Working together is critical if we want to learn from one another, maximize our resources and coordinate our activities. One of our closest partners is the vital, local organization called Sakala.

Sakala has developed some mar-

velous facilities in a neighborhood that is not far from our own. Its focus is on local youth. Director Daniel Tillias himself grew up in this area, and he knows how critical it is to engage youth in constructive activities.

Sakala’s program features organized athletics, education, and community gardening. It also features mobile clinics from the Lamp! Its philosophy is strongly oriented to strengthening community pride:

We see a future where each of these children chooses a peaceful alternative to armed groups and violence. Sakala seeks to inspire the 150,000 children of Cité Soleil in a way that one day a new Cité Soleil will inspire a new Haiti.

Check out Sakala’s excellent new website at www.sakala-haiti.org and be inspired, just as we are!



Director Daniel Tillias discusses matters with community members

Special Program: Child Nutrition

One of the special programs of the Lamp is the child nutrition program. It is often called the Medika Mamba program because it uses a therapeutic food based on peanuts. In Haitian Creole, Medika means Medical, Mamba means Peanut Butter: Peanut Butter Medicine!

The program is an acknowledgement that our best efforts to treat ill health can be undermined by simple malnutrition. This is especially the case with children, who can survive many illnesses if their bodies are strong enough when the illness strikes. Of course, malnutrition also has far reaching consequences for growth and development.

Dr. Hyppolite, our Medical Director, recently commented on some related issues:

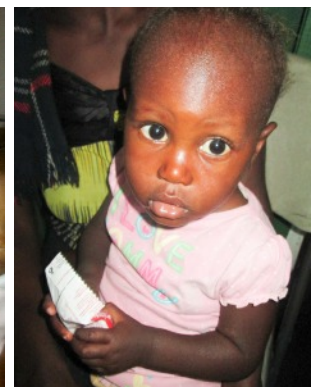
[Last week] I was surprised to hear from the Ministry of Health that the

Haitian government only spends \$5.70 USD per capita on health, 100 times less than Cuba. And we are a nation with 211 years of independence! Sincerely, I have had big headaches to hear about this. And this shows us the importance of the work of LAMP, with programs like Medika Mamba, in this community, the biggest slum in Haiti.

It is very important to support these parents with a low economic level. For example I met this woman, mother of twins and she also has a girl. She has no revenue and no husband to give her support with these children. It was terrible to see her every week crying, trying to bring herself and these twins to the clinic. This program has a crucial place when you [understand

that] malnourished children are at much higher risk to contract infectious diseases like pneumonia, acute enteritis, and so on.

All the data shows us that [we cannot wait] for the improvement of our health system [by the government] – we have to reinforce this kind of program and allow these children to have a better future by avoiding the malnutrition curse.



The girl on the right is holding one of the packets of medika mamba that are essential to the program



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This Lamp Will Soon Be Solar Powered

The Lamp is becoming well known for its innovative approaches to low cost medical interventions. Our women's health clinic, radiology services and EMR system are cases in point. Now a new innovation is on the horizon, thanks to a special grant we have received from one of our most progressive supporters. The Lamp is moving toward full solar power! There is more than one reason why this is a marvelous thing.

Bwa Nèf – where the clinic is located – is a slum which has never been supplied with electrical power lines. Residents pool money to buy trans-

formers which are connected to high tension lines on roads that border the neighborhood. Each household – including us! – then attaches individual wires to the transformer. The result is a very weak current, very prone to failure; and even this power is often unavailable, since many areas in Port-au-Prince receive less than 8 hours of electricity per day (sometimes much less than 8 hours!) So we are often forced to use our generator, noisy and polluting though it is. For high powered equipment such as our x-ray, we must **always** use the generator.

Solar power, then, promises not only green, quiet, low-maintenance energy, but also reliable, strong, 24 hour power that can handle all of the clinic's electrical needs.

Bwa Nèf is a neighborhood within the

larger slum of Cité Soleil. Cité Soleil means Sun City – and this is not a misnomer! Average daily maximums range from 90°F in January to 95°F in August. The sun is a force to be reckoned with here. What could be better than to capture that force for good!?



A new cement roof on our pharmacy will allow placement of solar panels

If you do not wish to receive these newsletters, please let us know at admin@lampforhaiti.org