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SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

WINTER/
SPRING
2018

NUTRITION PROGRAM EXPANDS

2017 was the year in which the child nutrition program blossomed

into a full-featured force-for-good at the Lamp Health Center. The number of children in the program quadrupled, from 35 in 2016 to more than 150 in 2017. The key factor behind this dramatic growth is not hard to find: 2017 was the first year in which the Lamp employed Community Health Workers to visit each home in the surrounding community. The CHWs conduct body-mass assessments and if malnutrition is evident they tell the parents "There is a program for you, go to the Health Center right away!" This simple encouragement breaks down so many barriers! People in Bwa Nèf remain wary of health facilities – it is assumed that nothing is given free of charge. To have someone come to the house who can explain exactly how the Health Center functions, who can reassure them that they will not be turned away, that they will not be shamed for their lack of resources, is exactly what was needed. Now, on any given day, there may be 25 to 35 children gaining force, reclaiming their right to a healthy childhood. It is certain that both the child nutrition program and the CHW program will retain their new-found prominence in years to come. They are a potent, lifesaving combination. Both of these programs were made possible by the generous donations made during the spring appeals of the last two years. *Thanks to all!*



Richanda: On entering the program, and six months later

Any description of the program would be incomplete, though, without mentioning the marvelous work of **Nurse Ruth Alissage**, who joined the Lamp in 2017. The growth of the program has



Ms. Ruth Alissage

meant a very significant increase in clinical tasks and Ms. Alissage has been more than up to the challenge. She is the stern and loving manager of the program, giving health advice to each client, cajoling them to follow instructions, assessing the children, referring them to the doctors as necessary, and making sure that the program is not abused - that the food packets are used, not sold. Ms. Alissage grew up herself in Bwa Nèf and she is herself a force to be reckoned with, a force for good.

The program is in very good hands.

BASIC FACTS:

- Severely malnourished children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years are enrolled in the two-month nutrition program, free of charge.
- Our nurse supervises the program. Child and guardian must come to the clinic for weekly check-ups, nutritional counseling and to receive food packets for the following week.
- They receive packets of therapeutic food called Medika Mamba ("peanut butter medicine"), which is made from Haitian-grown peanuts, powdered milk, vitamins and minerals.
- Health problems that exist due to the child's weak state are treated along with the malnutrition.
- Aside from simple survival, the nutritional treatment allows children to thrive, avoiding lasting physical and cognitive deficiencies.

LAMP for HAITI

NEWS

Cocktails for a Cause, our October 2017 fundraiser at the Montclair Art Museum in NJ, was our most successful event to date, and tremendously fun too! Thank you to all who attended and generously supported our silent auction, live fund-a-wish and cash raffle. Thank you to our friends at Egan & Sons for the delicious food, Gencarelli's for the delicious desserts, Klaus Schnitzer for a beautiful photography exhibit that brought the Lamp Health Center to life for us, our volunteers from Montclair High School, and to the planning committee who produced the event. The event committee is now forming to plan our Fall 2018 Gala, so please reach out to Cheryl Marshall-Petricoff at cheryl@lampforhaiti.org if you are interested in getting involved.

We'd love to have you!



Investing in fundraising to ensure our growth. Lamp now has a Director of Development 4 days a week. Cheryl is always interested to hear your fundraising ideas and happy to help support any events you might want to host on your own to benefit the Lamp. **Contact her at cheryl@lampforhaiti.org.**

We hosted our first big Philadelphia Dinner for Haiti on December 2, 2017 at Union Taco in Manayunk. Board member Pam Hawes did an incredible job spearheading this special evening that included an authentic Haitian meal, live music, an artwork sale, and a presentation from Dr. Morgan. We enjoyed meeting many new supporters, sharing information about our mission and our work in Haiti.

Dr. Morgan and Dr. Hyppolite with award recipients Ellie Gustavsen and Corinna Davis at the Montclair Art Museum.

..... Patient Survey

Late last year a physician, Dr. Isemonde Joseph, volunteered her services to the Lamp for two full months. In addition to clinical work she also agreed to complete a survey with 100 patients – focusing on patient satisfaction and patient needs. Below are a few highlights of her fine work.

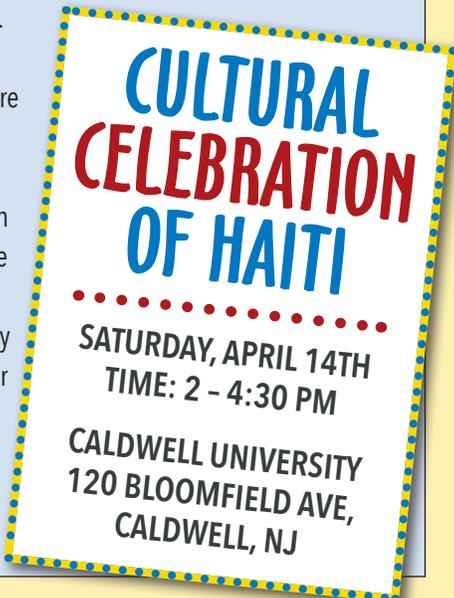


Dr. Joseph at the women's clinic

The survey respondents included 40 women – 20 of whom were pregnant – 40 children and 20 men – approximately the normal patient mix at the Lamp Health Center.

There were many gratifying results but also some that we are already working to improve. Respondents were asked to list three things they appreciate about the clinic, and three things they do not appreciate. It is clear that the quality of our services has not gone unnoticed, with virtually every respondent remarking on the "good quality care", and a full 73% commenting specifically on the excellence of the staff. Other positives, not counting the omnipresent "free medicine" and "free lab testing", were the cleanliness of the clinic, the education sessions in the morning, the quality of the medicine that is given, and peacefulness of the clinic itself. Twelve people specifically praised the staff for their respectful treatment of patients.

Looking ahead: If you live in NJ, please join us for a **Cultural Celebration of Haiti, on Saturday, April 14th at Caldwell University in Caldwell, NJ.** We are joining forces with our friends at the Haiti Solidarity Network of the North East and we will present Haitian singers and musicians, dancers, a slideshow, and a tasting of delicious Haitian specialties. Stop by and enjoy the beautiful culture of Haiti and learn more about this country also known as the "Jewel of the Antilles." This is a free, family-friendly event so bring your friends and join Dr. Morgan there.



A Story in Two Photos

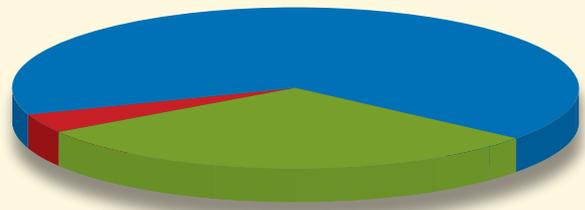


Community Health Worker Evens Damas spies this boy during his rounds. His mother says that he has had his terrible skin condition for years. Damas tells her "bring him tomorrow!"



The next day at the Lamp clinic! The condition is fully treatable.

Respondents' #1 reason for choosing the Lamp Health Center



■ Low Cost 66% ■ Good Quality Care 30% ■ Near My Home 4%

On the other side of the ledger one issue stood far above the rest: 27 people mentioned that they did not appreciate coming so early in the morning to get their ticket to see the doctor. We operate – barring emergency needs – on a first-come first-served basis. Given the intense demand for our services this is a difficult problem to solve, but we are working to reduce the stress on our patients as much as possible.

With regards to the women's health questions, it may interest you to know that 71% of respondents said that the last child in

the family was born at home. Of these births, only one (1) was attended by a trained birth assistant. We have already embarked on a birth assistant training program, but this data makes it clear that we must not fail.

The survey has many other interesting results – please do visit our blog (at the bottom of the main website page – www.lampforhaiti.org) for more details.



At the clinic, Manager Benoit and assistant Denis plan renovations to the Lamp's public toilet



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School Sponsorship Program: *A Student's Progress*

Clebert Toussaint has been supported in the Lamp's school sponsorship program since 2013, when he was in grade 3. Clebert is now in grade 8 so we took the opportunity to talk to him and his mother, Nadine, about the value of the program and to inquire about his life in general.

Clebert has been an excellent student but it has not been easy for him. His parents are separated, each of them struggling to make a living. Clebert and his mother do not currently have a home, and are living in the courtyard of L'Enfant Jésus school, thanks

to the generosity of Ms. Samson, the school owner.

Clebert attended L'Enfant Jésus until the end of

grade 6, like many other Lamp-supported children, so he is very familiar with that location! His father tries to make a living as a tap-tap driver (the colorful truck-taxis of Haiti) but his vehicle is almost beyond repair. No doubt due to this constant worry, Clebert's mother Nadine says that Clebert has wanted to be a mechanic from his earliest boyhood. Clebert has many siblings who have not been able to attend school and although he is only a young teen it is clear that his mother places high hopes on his ability to help the family in the future. She is terribly proud of her son's achievements in school and deeply grateful to Clebert's loyal sponsors for giving him, and the family, this chance for a better life. It will continue to be a difficult road but Clebert has been given some tools to forge ahead.



Clebert and his mother



Clebert in 2015