



Putting Down Roots

The last six months have seen a whirlwind of activity at the Lamp, as many of the articles in this missive will make clear. The most visible of these activities has been a series of construction projects ~ the completion of a two room building (women's clinic and x-ray facility), the construction of a roofed seating area for patients, the removal of walls between buildings and then the extension of walls around the outside of the area to create one unified, open, campus. The new configuration is much more secure and gives us the space to expand our capabilities as we need to. Two rooms that were previously used as waiting rooms can now ~ with the construction of the seating area ~ be used for other purposes. We will soon be moving our pharmacy to a larger space, and inaugurating a new, more private, triage station.

Most importantly, the clinic has an inviting atmosphere ~ promising professional care, critical services, and peace of mind in a safe and friendly environment. The re-casting of the clinic has sent an unmistakable message to the community that we are committed to their welfare for the long term. We were always committed to this end, but now we have clearly put down roots.



Top left: Walls are removed to make way for the seating area;

Middle: The same view two months later;

Bottom: The "campus" now has an open plan ~ all the buildings of the Lamp clinic are visible in this picture;

Above: The new women's clinic and x-ray building

The process that is Lamp for Haiti by James Morgan MD

On Friday, November 7th Lamp held its 2nd annual reception. Subtitled "an evening of art, culture and fun" the event was all that and more.

Organizers for the event had several stated goals. First, to raise awareness of the plight of persons living in extreme poverty in the urban shantytown of Cité Soleil. Second, to raise funds to support the work of Lamp and its mission of providing quality cost-effective care to some of the most marginalized persons on the planet. Third, the event was an opportunity for attendees to delve into Haitian culture.

Haitian culture was on display at the event in all its beauty, in the form of metal art, paintings, sculpture, and woodwork. Also, guests were treated to the energizing songs and dance of Haitian American artist Julio Jean of Verona, N.J., and members of his Brooklyn dance troupe. Many of those in attendance commented that the event showed an aspect of Haiti – beautiful art – that they had not previously considered.

By highlighting professional art being created today in many parts of Haiti, the event underscored the notion that Lamp is at its core, about a process that reinforces positives and works to fill deficits where they exist. Lamp is organized. Lamp is about quality. Lamp is about people reaching out to lend a hand up.

Board member Daniel Tillias, who grew up in Cité Soleil and who would eventually attend law school in Haiti was the keynote speaker of the night. Tillias spoke of the importance of Lamp for that community, providing as it does important healthcare and education initiatives. He told of how his own life was saved as a young boy when he was diagnosed and treated for pneumonia by a

nongovernmental health agency "...and so I know, personally the importance of this type of work." He also spoke of the notion that Lamp contributes to the growing pride that residents have in their own neighborhood. As that pride grows, of course, positive things ensue, like the local community garden at the nearby SAKALA youth center, started by Tillias six years ago.

And so *mèsi anpil* (thank you!) to all who came to the event, and to the many who supported the event with financial and in-kind donations. It was a great success because of your involvement. These types of activities enrich our own lives as we work toward addressing extreme poverty. Thanks for being a part of the process that is Lamp for Haiti!



Here, Dr. Morgan addresses the attendees of the Lamp's Second Annual Reception at the Commonwealth Club, Montclair, N.J.

In October, Lamp founder Dr. Jim Morgan spoke about his passion for Haiti on public radio Chicago (WBEZ). Go to the website at www.lampforhaiti.org and click on *Lamp in the News* to hear the broadcast.

To donate to the Lamp go to www.lampforhaiti.org or send a check to: Lamp for Haiti, PO Box 39703, Philadelphia PA 19106
Thank You!

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



The minor surgery facilitation team (Nurse Saillant on the left, and Driver Anglanès) with a young patient and his grandmother. Anglanès had to leave his home at 4:00 a.m. on days when patients had to be transported to the hospital. 42 patients, mostly children, received surgery free of charge.

Celebrating the minor surgery program

October was a watershed month for the Lamp. We took our first x-ray, launched the new women's clinic, and completed the patient seating area. Sadly enough, October also witnessed the end, for the present at least, of our minor surgery program. The program was the result of our marvelous and ongoing partnership with AmeriCares in Haiti. Each month we were given vouchers to receive free minor surgeries at one of the best hospitals in Port-au-Prince. And, although the program has now ended, we can only celebrate the terrific impact that program has had on the lives of the families involved.

Over the last two years, 42 patients from Bwa Nèf were able to receive minor surgery, the large majority being children, whose conditions ~ facing such ailments as hernias and hydroceles (a build-up of fluids in body cavities such as the scrotum) ~ would have greatly worsened over time. We are actively searching for ways to continue this type of program but we can also rest assured that 42 families have had their lives unexpectedly altered for the good in a way that would be impossible to measure.

Women's health clinic launch

In response to a huge gap in local services, the Lamp initiated a women's health clinic several years ago. It was evident from the beginning that the demand for this type of specialized care was enormous; it has only risen over time. Even from the start, however, it was also clear that our existing facilities were not satisfactory for this critical service. So it has been enormously satisfying to see our new building taking shape, to plan for the move to the new location, and finally to hold a public launch on October 16th of this year.

Dr. Ophnie Sévere will continue on as the director of the women's health clinic. In October, just before the launch, Dr. Severe moved from a part-time to a full-time position with the Lamp. We are delighted that she accepted this expansion of her role. We are therefore considering extending the women's clinic from two to three days per week. On the remaining days she will support Dr. Hyppolite, the In-Country Medical Director, with the regular patient load of the clinic.

The new location will provide better facilities and much greater privacy for patients. The additional space means that the nurse midwife will be able to work side by side with Dr Sévere, with better care as the inevitable result. The fact that the women's clinic is located in a separate building will both advertise our expertise in this area and create confidence in the continued availability of these services. It is not daring to say that we will soon be known throughout Cité Soleil for this service. We shall do what we can to meet that demand!



Dr. Severe in the new women's clinic location

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A history-making X-ray!

October 1, 2014: our first x-ray!

A momentous day in the history of the Lamp!

Putting this unit together required the support of so many individuals and



partner agencies -- from the selection of the equipment, its purchase, shipping and passage through customs, training of our x-ray technician, and installation of the unit-- that we can only celebrate the generosity of the human heart. It has been an uplifting experience, to say the least!

The unit will greatly increase our ability to diagnose a range of serious conditions. Respiratory diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, and asthma, for example, are very common, their severity complicated by malnutrition, HIV and other factors.

We diagnosed our first serious TB case in the first full day of x-ray use.

The young man pictured, by the way, is Dénold Joseph, a resident of Bwa Néf itself -- the community in which our clinic is located. Prior to the installation he took hands-on radiography training at the St. Luke's Foundation for Haiti

hospital for five months in preparation for this day. He has now taken on the role of primary x-ray technician for the Lamp and it is great to have him at the clinic on a daily basis.

And, speaking of our staff, it is very satisfying to realize that our excellent physicians will have one more tool in their kit -- allowing them to more fully use their existing skills, allowing their skills and knowledge to blossom. The people of Bwa Néf can only benefit!

