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**SPRING/
 SUMMER
 2016**

POWER of Partnership

The last six months have been very difficult ones for the Lamp but, with the power of partnership, we have come through the storm! The end of 2015 saw a dramatic increase in politically related violence in Cité Soleil. And, for the first time since the Lamp was founded in 2006, the disturbance was specific to Bwa Nèf, the community that surrounds the Lamp health center. The local gang became embroiled in a battle with a group from a neighboring area. Very soon it became apparent that the safety of our staff was at risk, and we were forced to find an alternative way to provide services. To our great delight, Daniel Tillias of Sakala, our nearby partner agency, agreed to host our full clinic until the situation calmed down – and Daniel continued to agree as the months rolled by. In the end we stayed for four months! Only a powerful partnership could have made this a success! But it was indeed a success. Our staff were able to provide care to a large new group of under-served people, while avoiding the tension and security concerns that made normal service impossible in Bwa Nèf.



Dr. Barrère Hyppolite works from a makeshift desk at Sakala

It has now been two months since we have returned to our clinic in Bwa Nèf. The people welcomed us back with tremendous warmth. The fact that the clinic was not damaged in any way gave further evidence of another partnership that is critical for the Lamp, that with the community itself. We stand together.

Sakala is a community organization located in an area called Cité Lumière, City of Light. The Lamp has provided mobile clinics at Sakala in the past.

The blessing of the city of light in Cité Soleil was to host the Lamp clinic for a few months.

When I received the call that it was too challenging for Lamp to continue operations in Bwa Nèf, I was in shock. I knew that Cité Soleil could not bear to lose one of its last remaining opportunities for health.

I suggested: "What if we host the clinic in the meantime so that Lamp can continue to be in proximity to Bwa Nèf, to those who need it the most?"

I was not expecting a yes, but when I got the yes it was a dream come true as the neighbors have been pushing me hard to convince Lamp to provide

Why Not, Why Yes

— By Daniel Tillias, Director of Sakala

a new mobile clinic. My staff was very excited too, because it was the plus that was needed to complete the list of services that we provide in this community, a community that needs many supports, but who see health care as a top priority.

The day the clinic opened was a dream come true for Sakala. People behaved so well. As we say here in Haiti, they were as dry soil waiting for rain. Many more came than could be served, but they knew that, because the clinic would stay, they could have their chance the next day. Around this time I could easily have run for office with the smiles I was getting from these pregnant women, these elderly people who received not only health care but dignity and respect from the very qualified service and staff.

(continued inside)

LAMP for HAITI

NEWS

OUR SPRING CAMPAIGN this year focused on the Community Health Worker program that we are very eager to put into place.



CHWs will provide health education and home visits in the surrounding community and this outreach is certain to have very significant health outcomes. It will also enable a much closer relationship with the community as a whole and we are looking

forward to this as well. Our campaign goal was \$25,000. As of today, with one day left in the campaign, we have received \$25,660! Thanks to everyone for that marvelous support!

THE LAMP has received a grant for an education program in which teacher training is provided for local schools and health education is integrated into each school's curriculum.

Our goal is to be a force for positive change in this community and – as with the CHW program – to celebrate local talent, enhance local skills, and inspire local success. Health education is critical for the long term health of this community and the program will be a great new step for us.



MAY 21 SAW an amazing fundraiser for the Lamp: Hoops for Haiti. Toby Baer, a 6th grade student, organized a 3 on 3 basketball tournament for the Lamp, raising

over \$4,000 dollars! See the website for the details. Serious, inspired, fun! Toby is to the left in the basketball photo.

SAVE THE DATE:

This year's annual fundraiser and art show will be on November 11th celebrating the Lamp's Ten Year Anniversary!

Letter from Haiti

Dear Friends,

I write this from my apartment in Port-au-Prince, following an arduous but gratifying week. As is typical I am struck by the courage and dedication of Lamp staff, as well as local residents who meet incredible adversity each day and still persevere, and make progress.

In Cité Soleil, where our Lamp clinic is located, there was, until about five weeks ago, a gang war between two neighborhoods. Bwa Nèf, our section of Cité Soleil, was one of them. Many were killed. The gangs have dispersed following a truce, and it has calmed down a lot since those skirmishes. Local residents who had moved away because of the violence are coming back, and the regular rate and rhythm of each day is now beginning to return.

On Tuesday morning our vehicle, which safely transports our staff each day to work, and which can also double as an ambulance, turned down Impasse Chavanne, a narrow dead-end street. Past the water station where an old woman was filling up her five gallon bucket I noted three relatively new graffiti messages. They were clearly written, on three different buildings, in three different "spraypaintmanships". They messaged "Adieu Jackson", "Adieu Sandra" "Adieu Proc". They are a final good bye to friends, someone's sons, someone's daughter.

I read them with a mixture of sorrow, and I must admit, a bit of fear. They are a stark reminder of the tenuous grip residents here have on life. My own grip is a lot stronger in part because of dumb luck, as my father told me more than once. We pulled into our usual spot on the sloppy, semi-flooded mud (it's the rainy season), and after about 25 *bonjours* to the cheerful staff and hopeful patients — hopeful that their maladies would be treated, as is the rule, with respect, and with quality care — and with further *bonjours* to the maintenance staff and their children, the x-ray tech, the lab tech, we were finally inside the walls of our center seeing patients.

When we are seeing lots of patients, and they are moving through efficiently, getting the medications and testing and care that they deserve, I feel complete. I feel like Ron Guidry, a Yankees baseball pitcher from my youth, must have felt in the middle of a game, his arm still strong and his delivery crisp, in some sort of ethereal groove

that no scientist or guru yet seems able to explain, as he was mowing down batters, with a 90+ mile an hour fastball, a pitch he rocketed low and inside. At these moments I feel like I am in the exact place that I am meant to be.

But of course such moments tend to not last.

After a few hours, the pace changed on a dime as a woman came in holding her son, 3 years old. He was lethargic, looking quite ill with his arms splayed outward. In the tropics, of course, there's a whole lot longer list of infectious and other problems that one is susceptible to compared to North America. Poverty seems to exponentially lengthen that list. After deciding it was not cholera, I sent him to our lab, where he had some blood testing done, and we found him to have malaria. I was happy to have a firm diagnosis, and happier still that we have the medication to treat it quickly.

I asked the boy's mother if she had any other children. No just him, she told me. His brother died at age five from a fever. She told me that God is protecting her, and her son, which she reasoned was why she had come to meet me today. She also said that she remained sad about the loss of her other boy, but takes solace in the belief that he is with Bondye.

Later in the day Claudy, a young man who had been in a motorcycle accident about six months ago, asked me if I wanted to visit his mother's house again. I'd been there once, when he told me that his mother and sister were both ill and couldn't make it to clinic. A major reason that Lamp has been successful in such a tough area is our willingness to insert ourselves into the community, and so I said yes, and off we went through the serpentine and marshy alleyways of Cité Soleil. He still walks with a crutch to steady his gait due to a fracture that healed imperfectly, but he's walking and will soon be able to work again. I entered the wooden and rusted tin home where his mother greeted me with a bright smile. Her pneumonia that we diagnosed accurately on that initial house-call last Fall, with a good physical exam followed by a chest x-ray, and which we treated with quality medication, was fortunately behind her. It was heartwarming, almost embarrassing, as she quickly put a fancy white dress on one of the youngest children because I had arrived. I became conscious of how I would feel if my own son showed up at my front door unexpectedly with my doctor, the kids not yet bathed, and the place not ready for guests. But Claudy's mother handled it



Registration at
Sakala's facility

with a grace that would have made the Duchess of York proud. Claudy showed me the bed where five of his siblings sleep. His sister, whom I had seen last year for a fracture, from that same accident, slept with her mother until very

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Why Not, Why Yes

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first page)

This community was spoiled. People were praying that the clinic never leave. What about if we keep them forever in Sakala someone said. My answer was why not, but why? Because I know that the Lamp's purpose is not only to serve the poorest but the poorest of the poorest. Sakala is poor, but it is just 5 minutes from the



Daniel in the community garden at Sakala

main road and it makes it less difficult for us to struggle ahead when there is no other choice than to pray for healing.

The day arrived when I got there and there was no clinic. It was a terrible blow but I know that the Lamp staff were very excited to go back to serving the area that needs the help the most.

Fair enough, Lamp is still in Cité Soleil. I need to have full confidence that the mission will remain, that this clinic continues to serve those who would not have healthcare if it were not for the brave ones who dare go where many stop going or decide to never try going. As the elderly person who cannot walk too far a distance said, "Fine, yes they can go, but nothing should stop them from stopping in Sakala once in a while because there will always be a smile of satisfaction for the one who cares about making us feel better." 🙌

Note: The Lamp will certainly continue to provide mobile clinics at Sakala! We are working to establish a regular schedule for these visits.



SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

P.O. Box 39703, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Email: admin@lampforhaiti.org

Telephone: 267-499-0516

Website: www.lampforhaiti.org

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Letter from Haiti

recently, when she left the family for a job in one of the provinces quite far away. Claudy pointed to the holes in the roof, and the buckets they use to catch the water and prevent the bed from getting too wet. I felt the bed and suggested they find more buckets.

I asked Claudy's mother how she was holding up, with her son, the breadwinner, out of work due to an injury. She pointed to the heavens and said "Bondye pwotege nou" (Good God protects us).

Regardless of whether one believes in God or not, the challenge for us is stark. But the impact of our efforts are even more dramatic. That young boy with malaria is alive today because of collective efforts – yours and mine. That's dramatic. Claudy is walking today in no small part because of Lamp facilities – digital X-ray – and staff. His sister is able to send money home because she improved with treatment from Lamp for Haiti. His mother survived bacterial pneumonia because of Lamp for Haiti.

As ever, it's good to write this to let you know that Lamp for Haiti remains a positive *process*. It's a process that's simple really. It's people from different walks of life working with and for each other to make the world a better place. It's time to pat yourself on the back. It's working! 🙌

**Best wishes to you
and your family,**

– Jim

**Dr. Morgan found time to provide
check-ups at Edeyo, a partner agency
with a school in Port-au-Prince.**

