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SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

WINTER
2018

Delivering Healthcare IN THE ZONE

► BY DR. JAMES MORGAN

The cornerstone of Lamp for Haiti's work is healthcare. In 2005 we were invited to a community meeting where we floated an idea to establish a community center in the Bwa Nèf section of Cité Soleil. The leaders had heard such promises before. Sometimes outside groups would appear, and some even built things, like a school building or latrine. But, after varied periods of time, they would pack up and go home to the US or Europe, leaving behind no resources or so much as a roadmap of how to grow or maintain the project. Lacking such resources the not-so-new construction would be abandoned and fall into disrepair.

And yet despite their skepticism, residents also spoke of real needs, chief among them the lack of access to any type of health care for residents living "nan zon nan" (in the zone).



**Dr. Morgan speaks with patients
in the community**

A "zone" refers to a geographic region that you can look at on a map. Zones are neighborhoods, whose residents share in the joys and pains of life as you and I do with our own neighbors. If we are living in the same zone, we share common history and a common culture. Local residents have told us time and again

of the importance of Lamp to their community, and have embraced Lamp as an intrinsic part of the identity of the Bwa Nèf zone.

At that 2005 meeting, we made a limited commitment to a group of about 10 locals, a commitment that we would work to try to make their lives better. Collectively we decided that healthcare was the best starting point.

This past Fall we officially launched our new pediatrics program, fulfilling a vision that includes provision of quality, cost-effective care for patients through all their stages of life. From prenatal care to pediatrics, from women's health to adolescent and adult healthcare, Lamp has delivered on its 12 year old promise.



Dr. Vilpigue

Our latest hire is Dr. Vilpigue, a well-trained young, enthusiastic pediatrician, a few years out of her residency at a state run hospital in Port-au-Prince, who has what I look for when I hire doctors: she's Caring, Competent, and Keen to work hard. Dr. Vilpigue has worked with us in the past, when we have run mobile clinics at one of our partner sites, SAKALA.

(SAKALA is a community-based organization, also located in Cité Soleil. Its founder is Daniel Tillias, a Lamp Board member.) The addition of pediatrics completes the classic triad of primary care services which also includes women's health and internal medicine. All three arms are supported by laboratory, pharmacy and radiology services. Advancing access to quality healthcare across the age spectrum is a huge step forward for us as an organization, and certainly for residents living in the zone.



**Lamp Health Center physicians:
Dr. Vilpigue, Dr. Hyppolite, Dr. Sévere**

LAMP'S DINNER BENEFIT & AUCTION WAS A SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who participated in Lamp's annual gala on October 12th in New Jersey. It was a beautiful evening full of inspirational speeches, talented youth performers, an energizing fund-the-mission paddle raiser where nearly everyone in the room collectively donated \$30K in 15 minutes, a Shining Bright award presentation to the Comey-Fitzgerald Family Fund, an art mural colored by guests live during the event, a fabulous silent auction, and more. Most of all, it was fun to come together as a Lamp family dedicated to raising funds that move our mission of care forward. *We are so grateful for the sponsors, donors and volunteers that helped to make the evening a success.*



Georgette Delinios, board member, and John Heffernan, auctioneer, inspire during the Fund-the-Mission paddle raiser.



Guests enjoy a local cappella group performance.



Dr. Morgan presents the Shining Bright Award to the Comey-Fitzgerald Family Fund.

Other recent Fall events raised awareness and funds, including:

- A fundraising afternoon of great music in September thanks to Alan Smith and Tierney's Tavern
- A presence at the Upper Montclair Sidewalk Sale – thanks to Montclair Orthodontics and The Episcopal Church of St. James
- A beneficiary of the Little Daisy Bake Shop's Pie Eating contest, with thanks to Jennifer Synder and The Episcopal Church of St. James
- A presence at an Alternative Gift Fair in Warwick, NY thanks to Carolyn Swayze's introduction

Do you have an idea for a fundraiser or are you interested in hosting an event?

Contact Cheryl Marshall-Petricoff at cheryl@lampforhaiti.org

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS ➤ EXPANDING HEALTH CARE!

In 2018, The Lamp Health Center Treated 16,000 Patients, a 14% Increase

- Our on-site lab conducted over 14,000 tests and provided over 200 x-rays, 600 EKGs, and 160 ultrasounds.
- Our on-site pharmacy provided over \$1.3 million in medicines, free of charge, to patients in need. We have distributed approximately 285,000 doses of high quality medicine, including 95,000 doses of needed antibiotics.



Nurse Astrude in our on-site pharmacy.

- A large range of illnesses were diagnosed and treated, including cases of pneumonia, malaria, heart conditions, gastric infection, internal parasites, anemia, asthma, ear infections and infectious skin conditions.
- The Women's Health Clinic delivered over 1480 patient visits to approximately 500 women, including 30 pregnant women a week on average.
- 150 children were saved from malnutrition through the 2-month Child Nutrition treatment program

This is Jean-Louis Petion, who along with his family have all been patients at Lamp. He says, "It is a pleasure to have Lamp in this community. A lot of people in this area don't have an opportunity to get any medical care. If Lamp were not here, I don't know what I would do personally. Sadly, we would count a lot of dead people. But fortunately people come to Lamp for care and they receive it. It makes me feel very proud to have Lamp in my community."

Jean-Louis Petion is part of Lamp's latest video celebrating our 12th year – the video is on our website, www.lampforhaiti.org (see it on the homepage, half way down).



A Growing Staff and Clinical Services:

- Our all-Haitian staff increased to 19 full-time and part-time members.
- We welcomed Dr. Vilpigue – a pediatrician – launching our Pediatrics Program.
- Expansion of the lab and a new EKG machine

Dedication to Community Health:

- Physical improvement of water outlets in the community, leading to chlorination of the public water supply.
- Renovation of Lamp's neighborhood public toilet and shower facility.
- Daily public health presentations at the clinic and at each mobile clinic.
- The Community Health Worker program continues to grow in scope and influence.

Commitment to Education in the Community:

- 31 children were sponsored during the 2017-18 school year, which represented an increase of 10 children from the year before. This continues to grow thanks to the addition of new sponsors – now 40 children have been enrolled for the current 2018-2019 school year.

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Why Support Lamp?

► BY DR. RICHARD EVANS, *Board Member*

Thanks to you the Lamp is on track to provide world-class healthcare to 16,000 patients this year, and with the addition of a third physician, 20,000 patients next year – that's enough patients to fill Madison Square Garden!

Perhaps most importantly, Lamp serves a population that lacks any other practical option for healthcare – meaning that if we weren't there, most of these patients would have nowhere else to go. And, the care we provide is world-class – with on-site x-ray, ultrasound, EKG, pharmacy and diagnostic testing.

Unique to Lamp is that we're not a place that sits apart from the community; rather, Lamp is closely integrated into the community we serve. All of our physicians, nurses, and in-country staff are Haitian, as is most of our Board; and, many of the Lamp's employees come from the Bwa Nèf neighborhood where our clinic is located. We not only provide world-class primary healthcare where there otherwise would be none, we create jobs in a country where unemployment currently exceeds 40 percent.



**The Lamp Health Center staff
thanks you for your support!**

There are very real operating challenges associated with Haiti, and these often prevent donors from supporting organizations like Lamp for fear their dollars won't make it to patients. Despite these undeniable challenges,

we're able to deliver care to an individual patient for about \$20 in 'cash' operating costs, and our costs rise to a bit less than \$25 per patient when you factor in wear and tear on facilities and equipment. All in, that's less than the co-pays most of us in the US pay to see a doctor. And, we're also efficient in the sense that we pass 95 cents of every dollar donated directly to programs and patients, earning us gold status with GuideStar, a charity rating service.

Your support is greatly appreciated by Lamp, and by the community we serve. With your continued support, our hope is to expand Lamp's footprint into even more Haitian communities whose medical needs are today going unmet.