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SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

FALL  
2019

# Why We Do This Work

BY DR. JAMES MORGAN

I am just back from having spent several days with our staff and area residents in Cité Soleil. Lamp remains a vital connection for local residents to access healthcare.

I observed our staff tending to patients using an electronic health record. Our digital x-ray allowed us to diagnose two cases of tuberculosis, and refer them appropriately for cure, rather than certain death.

We have a few new faces at Lamp, including Dr. Philippeaux, who now runs our women's health program. Dr. Philippeaux comes to us with training in Family Medicine, and with a concentration in women's health issues. She is a great addition to our staff.

But these are some of the nuts and bolts. They are the *how*, and don't convey the *why*...why are we engaged in this project in the first place?

To me, the fuel for any improbable success story, including Lamp for Haiti, lies not just in the how, but in the why. It's the committed belief of the participants that a crazy idea like Lamp for Haiti can take root and demonstrate results.

For example, I had a lengthy discussion with Ms. Alissage, our nurse who directs the childhood



Dr. Morgan sees children in the nutrition program with Ms. Alissage

malnutrition program, and we spoke of the need for extended periods of support. She introduced me to a mother whose child was in her third month of treatment, and who would likely need a fourth. That mother spoke of the literally life-saving gift of the nutritious *Medika Mamba*. Ms. Alissage told me that she knew the guidelines called for 2 or 3 months of *Mamba*, but she reminded me that the guidelines are not the same as treating an individual person. For Ms. Alissage the *why* is clear – a child lives; spend five minutes with her and you're convinced that she'll figure out the how.

Dr. Philippeaux has been following a woman in her 7th month of pregnancy. (She's one of over 150 pregnant women that Lamp is currently managing.) Just two weeks ago the woman presented with intermittent, sharp pain in her side, and it wasn't clear if the pregnancy was becoming compromised. The patient was sent to Dr. Hyppolite for an ultrasound,

(continues inside)

# Lamp News from Cité Soleil

## EDUCATION

In August, Lamp hosted a wonderful event to celebrate the 44 students in the education program. Together with their parents, it was a good time to focus on the program, celebrate accomplishments, and review the needs for the upcoming school year. We had an extra reason to celebrate – five Lamp students successfully passed the state exam required at the end of 9th grade. All Haitian students must pass this exam in order to proceed to secondary school so this is a wonderful accomplishment that will strengthen their future. We are excited that now we have a total of six boys in secondary school since our first student passed last year. These accomplished boys are shown in the front row of this photo and they are actively working towards a brighter future! Thank you to all the sponsors in the U.S. whose generous donations make education possible for these 44 children!

*Contact [admin@lampforhaiti.org](mailto:admin@lampforhaiti.org) if you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this school year. We currently have one student in need of a new sponsor!*



## WATER SAFETY

Lamp's commitment to a healthier water supply continues as an important preventive health initiative in the community. Currently, we are rebuilding three key water towers used daily by the neighborhood. The masonry and painting work is clearly evident in these "before" and "after" photos, and in addition important new plumbing has been installed to support the chlorination effort to disinfect the water.

### BEFORE



### AFTER



Almost done with repairs and improvements.  
Soon the gates will be installed.

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and he realized it was a kidney stone; she was referred for appropriate care and is now doing well.

And there's Marie. I met Marie while walking to a local water station, or *chato*. Lamp is currently involved in its repair, in collaboration with a local pastor. On this day, as a relentless sun baked the ground (and me) below, we walked past Marie's home. Damas, one of Lamp's community health workers, introduced me, and explained that her son was in school because of our education program. Sitting in front of her rusted tin shack, with its dirt floor and sieve-like roof, Marie beamed with pride. Though he struggles with his academics, she told me that at least he now has a chance.

It's not hard to see why Marie's son struggles with his ABC's. But Lamp has made it clear that she walks not alone. My personal goal is to never forget *why* we do this work, and I suspect it's one of yours too. The *why* – that we are impacting lives here daily – will propel us.

It remains a great privilege to associate with you all, and with our staff and residents in the Lamp community.

***With my very best –***



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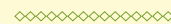
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## *Health & Hope*

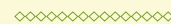
OUR 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GALA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019



COCKTAILS FROM 6:30PM

DINNER AT 7:30PM



THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GLEN RIDGE

219 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE

GLEN RIDGE, NJ

Tickets available online at [www.lampforhaiti.org/giving/gala2019/](http://www.lampforhaiti.org/giving/gala2019/)

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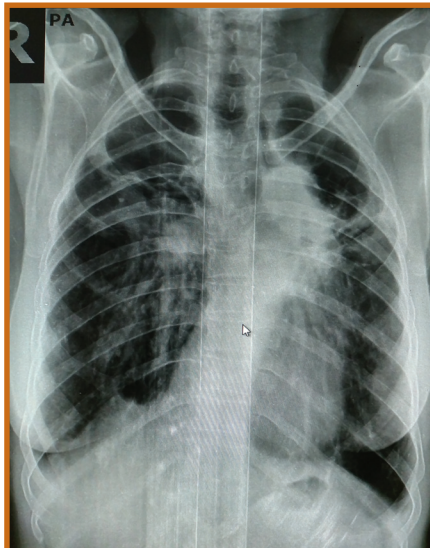
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## QUALITY EQUIPMENT DELIVERS QUALITY CARE

**This summer**, we upgraded our server and digital x-ray equipment, and we refurbished the x-ray building to increase safety. As a way to complement the clinical acumen of our medical staff, an x-ray can be invaluable in helping to make the correct diagnosis.

Take, for example, the patient whose clearly abnormal chest x-ray is shown here. This patient presented to the Lamp Health Center with cough and fever. Without lab or x-ray capability, clinicians might treat such a patient with broad spectrum antibiotics, and hope for the best. If the patient had undiagnosed tuberculosis (TB), they will worsen and die, and potentially infect others along the way. On the other hand,



with the right diagnostic tools available, the correct diagnosis is made and proper care is initiated. The patient was referred out to a State TB treatment center.

Tuberculosis is still a killer infection. According to the World Health Organization (WHO data, 2017),

TB is one of the top ten causes of death worldwide, and the leading cause of death among people living with a single infectious agent (HIV/AIDS). TB prevalence in Haiti is at least 90 times that of the United States, and so it's crucial for us to have well maintained quality equipment. **Yet another example of your generosity literally helping to save a life!**