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SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

WINTER  
2019

# ***Dedicated, professional staff are the backbone of Lamp***

2019 was a year of immense political and civil unrest in Haiti. Despite that, thanks to our extremely dedicated clinic staff and our In-Country Manager, Benoit Florestal, the Lamp Health Center remains a source of reliable and vital health care in Cité Soleil. Despite forced closures for security reasons that accumulated to over 55 lost service days, the Lamp staff persevered and cared for over 12,000 patients.

As you know, at the Lamp Health Center we employ an all-Haitian staff on principle, utilizing the tremendous skills that are available in country while augmenting these skills and empowering the Haitian health system as a whole. Our all-Haitian staff has expanded to 21 members this year. We now employ four doctors along with licensed nurses and administrative staff. The doctors serve the areas of Medical Director (Dr. Hyppolite), Pediatrics (Dr. Vilpigue), Women's Health (Dr. Philippeaux), and Informatics/OpenMRS- EMR (Dr. Nathaelf).

**We invite you to get to know them a little better, and learn more about our work.**



## **Barrere Hyppolite, M.D.**

Dr. Hyppolite is the Medical Director at the Lamp Health Center. He recently reflected on his 8 years at Lamp. "I have always felt that everyone in a society deserves a chance to grow normally, both mentally and physically, in order to become a helpful person in his society. Food, health, and education are the powerful tools to make this growth possible. I believe they are fundamental rights. Seeing their absence is like somewhere the society has not respected their children and their adults; it's nearly treason. Doing this work in Cité Soleil has been hard but also joyful and inspiring because we have learned a lot about the people of Cité Soleil: their innocence, their resilience, their determination to fight daily, their openness to life and to people like me who want to help them. My 8 year adventure has been also due to my profound respect for and friendship with Dr. James Morgan, who is an inspiring and humanitarian person. It's the first time I have experienced a direct and close partnership with someone from another country like the United States. It's an experience that has helped me professionally and also personally."



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Thinking about the changes he has overseen through the last 8 years of his tenure, Dr. Hyppolite remembers the expansion of the clinic to 5 days a week, the building construction to allow for expanded services, the addition of diagnostic equipment such as EKG, x-ray and ultrasound, the additional of specialized care for women and children, the addition of community health workers, and more. "The amazing thing we have seen as a healthcare center in this community is the trust and deep connection we have established with not only the community of Bwa Nèf, but also with all the neighborhoods in Cité Soleil. We are a true community organization making a difference to those we serve. For me, the most rewarding part of my job is to see that my patients understand the diagnosis and the treatment. Once we have the attention of the patient on these two parts, we see the result and the recovery. I know we will continue to do even more in 2020."



**Dr. Hyppolite and Dr. Morgan**  
discuss a patient's case.

## Dr. Yolanda Vilpigue



Dr. Vilpigue is Lamp's pediatrician. Dr. Vilpigue, a few years out of her residency at a state run hospital in Port-au-Prince, recently celebrated the anniversary of her first year at the Lamp Health Center. She was hired to help us launch and oversee our dedicated pediatric program and we are pleased with our initial results. "I came to work at Lamp for Haiti in order to put my medical knowledge into practice and serve this vulnerable population, especially children who have so many health problems."

This year Lamp saw approximately 4500 children at the clinic, including almost 500 in the 2-month, nurse supervised child nutrition program. Malnutrition and anemia remain widespread. Scabies and fungal infections are the top skin condition problems. Genitourinary tract infections are commonly treated.

"The most rewarding part of my job is the satisfaction of seeing my little patients get healthier. The most challenging part is when, because of various social and political problems, I can't go to the clinic to see the children. Also, when I make a diagnosis and give direction for the appropriate treatment and the child returns by appointment with the same problem because they can't find the medicines (free of charge) at the clinic's pharmacy and they don't have the means to buy them. My goal for 2020 is to redouble my efforts to be always available and attentive to the sufferings of my little patients and give more results than last year. I would like to see Lamp increase its stock of essential medicines and continue to expand the nutrition program."



## Dr. Nathaelf Hyppolite

Dr. Nathaelf, Lamp's health informatics specialist, joined during the spring of 2019.

"I first learned about Lamp for Haiti via Facebook.

Seeing the impact on the local community of Cité Soleil showed me that our interests were aligned because giving back

is also a part of my personal philosophy. You can imagine how excited I was to find they had a job opening in my skill set! I joined and feel happy that my technical skills are valued here and also my personal philosophy."

Dr. Nathaelf is a Haitian professional with a Masters in Health Informatics from the University of Missouri and a Medical degree from the State University in Haiti with a specialty in Family Practice. He works part-time at Lamp on key projects. "This year my proudest contribution has been to set up a new and improved Open MRS system (the electronic medical record system) and upgrade the digital x-ray system by linking it to the electronic patient health records. Additionally, I trained all the staff at the clinic to use the new Open MRS system. In the coming year, my goal is to add more reports for decision-making and to link the laboratory operations to the system."



## Dr. L. C. Poncia Philippeaux

Dr. Philippeaux joined Lamp this summer and has responsibility for the Women's Health Clinic program. Her prior experience includes working as an independent physician, working as a physician in the First Lady's office organizing mobile clinics in different parts of the country, and even as a professor of nutrition at the Universite Episcopale D'Haiti. "I was excited to join Lamp for Haiti as a physician because I know it is helping the poorest of the poor in Haiti and they need care. I overcame my fear of this dangerous area in order to give my medical service there it is needed. I see that we can save a lot of pregnant women from complications and dangerous situations."

The Lamp Women's Clinic sees 250 pregnant women each month, on average. These pregnant patients are provided a full battery of lab tests on their first visit including tests for sexually transmitted diseases, which are prevalent and dangerous for both mother and child. Expectant mothers are provided with prenatal vitamins and additional supplements as needed.

Dr. Philippeaux says "The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the satisfaction of the residents in our neighborhood. They get good care and good health results and so they trust and protect us." She goes on to add that "The most challenging part is the sheer volume of patients in need. I hope we can expand in 2020 to continue to offer even more services or increase the number of patients we can serve."



Prenatal care is a key aspect of the Women's Health Clinic

## Lamp's "Celebration of Health & Hope" Gala was a success!

Thank you to all who participated in Lamp's annual gala on November 2nd at the Women's Club of Glen Ridge in New Jersey. Together we raised over \$100,000 to support quality medical care in Haiti! Bravo! The meaningful evening included inspiring speeches, talented musical performers, visiting staff members from Haiti, an award presentation to the Haiti Solidarity Network of the North East, and a video about our work in Cité Soleil. Thank you to all the silent auction item donors and all the winning bidders; the energizing room-wide participation in the paddle raiser led by Eugene Flinn; and to the raffle winner who donated it all back to the cause! Everything came together for a successful event and now it goes to Haiti to provide for meaningful medical care. We are grateful to the sponsors, donors and volunteers that made the evening a success!



## THANK YOU!



*Special thanks to our volunteer event committee whose efforts make such a gorgeous night come to life:*

Jill Bacha	Madison Cox	Patrick and Christina O'Neill
Tom Burleigh	Suzanne Evans	Alan Smith
Noreen Connolly	John Jerbasi	Walter Springer
Ellen Cunningham	Stacy Kilkenny	Marianne Sweeney
Jeannine Cox	Thomas Mullane	

*And thanks to the Board and Staff of Lamp who also support our efforts!*

Interested in joining our fun event committee and helping us plan next year's gala? Contact Cheryl Marshall-Petricoff at [cheryl@lampforhaiti.org](mailto:cheryl@lampforhaiti.org).

Did you miss the 2019 Gala video? You can see it on our website, visit [www.lampforhaiti.org](http://www.lampforhaiti.org).

**THANK YOU to our full staff! And thank you to our supporters who support the mission with generous donations!**  
*We wish everyone a happy and healthy start to the new year!*

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## Additional Organizational Accomplishments of 2019:

### Commitment to Education

- 44 children were sponsored in local schools in the 2018-2019 school year, a 42% increase.
- Five sponsored children passed the mandatory state exam to advance to secondary school - an exciting milestone!

### Community Health

- Over 80 public health presentations were conducted at the Lamp Health Center to better educate the community.
- 3 water towers in the community were completely rebuilt with new plumbing.

### Facility Improvements

- Ramps were built to accommodate patients with disabilities.
- The x-ray building was refurbished.
- Increased clinic water reservoir capacity.
- On-going maintenance included new floor tiles.

**Dr. Morgan and Nose Poliard meet with the head of École Mixte Enfant Jésus, the school near to the Lamp Health Center where many of our sponsored children attend.**

