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Lamp for Haiti

P.O. Box 187

Montclair, NJ 07042

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CELEBRATING OUR 15TH YEAR

SPRING

2021

Community Health Workers

RAISE THE LAMP HIGHER!

Lamp's first Spring Appeal in 2016 funded the start of our Community Health Worker program. We knew immediately that it was the right thing to do and that appreciation has only deepened with time. Five years later it is thriving. The great success of the Lamp's program is due in no small part to the excellence of our two CHWs, Salita Lexandre and Damas Evens. They are members of the community themselves, and wonderfully caring and perceptive agents of health. The program has also grown considerably in the last two years. The Haitian Ministry of Health has reinvigorated its own CHW program and has assigned six additional CHWs to the Lamp health center. These young people provide much wider coverage of the surrounding communities and help out in a

**Doing follow up, home by home**

myriad of ways at the clinic itself. They benefit greatly from the experience and leadership of the Lamp's own staff.

There are so many barriers to health access in a place like Bwa Nèf and our CHWs are the key to breaking them down. A major barrier is simply lack of education or information on health matters. Cultural perceptions of illness often mean that aid is not sought, even when a person's condition may be very treatable. The dire economic situation of every family in Bwa Nèf means that health facilities are generally avoided. It is assumed that unanticipated costs can arise at any stage. An unfamiliarity with medical treatment means that the clinic itself is viewed with fear by many.

The CHWs visit each home in the community. They provide health education and information about the Lamp health center. They ask about family health, provide basic first aid, and recommend visits to the clinic whenever it is indicated. They connect malnourished children to the nutrition program, encourage pregnant women to get prenatal care, and follow up with patients, checking on their improvement and ensuring that they are following the doctor's instructions. The CHWs have forged a bond with the community that is impossible to underestimate.

The mission of the Lamp has always been to improve the health of the *entire* community and the CHW program now plays a vital, central, role in that mission.



Damas and Salita continue to provide constant information and Covid updates to the community



Leading daily public health education sessions in pre-Covid times



HENRY REIMER RETURNS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello everyone. It's good to be back with the Lamp! The Lamp's work is something very special, as all of you know. A high quality health center in a dangerous shantytown is not a commonplace affair. It has always been challenging and it will continue to be. But the results – for people living in bitter poverty – are without price. Parents able to get care for their ailing children – care they could never afford otherwise. I'm very happy to be able to contribute to this once again. This is a job to celebrate!

I know that Nose Poliard achieved a great many positive results for the Lamp and I am very happy to build upon those accomplishments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason whatsoever! I remember with pleasure all the wonderful supporters of this organization, and am looking forward to renewing those conversations! My email address is henryreimer@lampforhaiti.org and I will also receive any messages left for me on the new Lamp number: **973-866-0060**.

– Henry Reimer

Here is a photo from a past Haiti trip, wearing my Lamp shirt that reads "We can do more," a great slogan for our team!

In-Country News

The COVID infection rate in Haiti, as in several other islands, has been remarkably low thus far. However, our doctors have recently diagnosed six probable cases at the Lamp clinic. Official statistics in Haiti indicate that there were 12,600 confirmed cases as of March 10, with 251 deaths. It may unfortunately be true that the impact of the virus is just beginning in Haiti.

Political news in Haiti has been dire for some time. Angry demonstrations against the government have disrupted life constantly over the last two years. Of late, the tensions have risen further. The area surrounding the Lamp health center is especially prone to disturbance. The risk to our staff has increased and we must watch the situation closely.

**Troubles come and go.
The community, and
the Lamp, continue on.**

Health Center News

It is very understandable, but the COVID pandemic has indeed caused a reduction in the Lamp's income. We have reduced our staffing in Haiti, but will continue to provide all of our services.



This Spring we are raising funds to strengthen our delivery of quality lab services at the Lamp Health Center. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by May 1st. Thank you to those who have already contributed to this effort. There's still time to help us ensure access to reliable lab testing, which is essential to proper diagnosis and effective care.

Lamp's on-site, government approved laboratory conducts approximately 8,500 tests each year, provided free of charge for patients as part of our delivery of quality health care. Accurate lab testing by trained professionals and subsequent physician interpretation of conclusive lab tests play a key role in proper treatment and recoveries for so many of our patients.



Here is Marcel in 2014 when the women's health clinic and radiology room was under construction.

Meet Marcel, aka "Bos Lamar" – a 48-year-old father of eight who works full time as a "bos", or mason. He has even worked on the construction of Lamp's health care campus over the years. He is well liked in our community because of his warm smile and seemingly endless energy.

SITUATION: Marcel came into Lamp because his usual smile and energy had disappeared. He was experiencing extreme fatigue, vertigo and shortness of breath. Following a medical history and physical exam, Dr. Hyppolite, our seasoned internist, was concerned about cardiac function, among other issues, and lab testing was ordered.

DIAGNOSIS: Dr. Hyppolite discovered, with the help of lab diagnostics, that Marcel was essentially in a "high output cardiac failure" state, resulting from severe anemia. He was found to have little more than half the normal hemoglobin level. His heart was racing, and nearing exhaustion. The cause of this was an intestinal infection. Parasites were detected in his stool, which had led to intestinal bleeding.

TREATMENT: Marcel was given the correct anti-parasite medication, and iron, and he is improving. Moreover, his family of eight remains intact, and he continues to contribute to his community because of our professional and talented staff, equipped with the proper tools, made possible by you.



HELP US RAISE \$50K BY MAY 1ST TO MEET OUR PATIENTS' NEEDS.

Lives are changed because you care!

Please give online at www.lampforhaiti.org or send your check to: **Lamp for Haiti, P.O. Box 187 Montclair, NJ 07042**

Careful stewardship of your donation dollars is paramount. We thank you for your support!



P.O. Box 187, Montclair, NJ 07042

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FROM CHERYL MARSHALL-PETRICOFF, DEPARTING DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

As I share the announcement that my time with the Lamp is coming to an end, I want to thank each of you. It's been an incredible four years. I've enjoyed working with the Board, the staff, our volunteers, and of course with all of you - the invaluable supporters that keep the flame of the Lamp shining bright! I am fortunate to know

FAREWELL,
with appreciation

firsthand that Lamp's supporters are some of the most kind-hearted, caring and generous people around. The mission is only possible because of you, so I want to thank you once again for your donations. What an honor it has been for me to assist in the meaningful mission work of Lamp for Haiti!

Even though I am moving

on to another nonprofit, ***Lamp will always have my heart!***

I am confident that Lamp will soon find a suitable new Director of Development to partner with Henry Reimer, so stay tuned for those details. Naturally, I'll hope to see you again at a future Lamp gala! Please note that during this time of personnel changes, emails and phone calls will be answered as always.



Lamp Has a New Telephone Number: 973-866-0060

Please note that it is a voice-mail-only number. But that doesn't mean that it will get lost in the shuffle!
Your audio message will be sent to the admin@lampforhaiti.org email address and we will answer right away!

The old number (267-499-0516) is no longer in use.