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CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

FALL
2021

TO BE ONE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Dr. Barrère Hyppolite, Lamp Medical Director

Lamp is celebrating its 15th year of existence as a vital partner of Haiti, and of the people in Bwa Nèf, Projet Drouillard, Ti Ayiti, Cité Lumière and many other parts of Cité Soleil. I will soon celebrate my own anniversary – ten years as the In-Country Medical Director of this organization! Every time I take the time to reflect on these years, some stormier than others, I always come to the same conclusion. The most important thing that keeps us fighting and moving forward is the ability to work as



**Dr. Vilpigue, Dr. Hyppolite
and Ms. Blaise**

one. A unity coming from the collaboration of two nations with their specificities and their culture, another resulting from the gathering of different talents. ***Congratulations to Lamp for creating this unity!***

HAITI IN CRISIS: Health Center Continues

Haiti has been in the news often of late, so that it is not a secret that the country is in crisis. The following is a kind of “field report,”



People with chronic ill health find daily respite, like this elderly gentleman with multiple, serious, health concerns

a taste of what it has been like, these past few months, to move forward in a very difficult time. The Lamp for Haiti Health Center is not in chaos itself, but it IS operating in a highly chaotic environment.

This week I watched a video of a gang leader leading a procession thorough the city, surrounded by heavily armed gang members, laying flowers

at a monument and then giving a lengthy speech. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of the country cancelled his own plans to visit the same monument. It was a telling moment. Activities of armed groups have multiplied in the city. They are beyond the control of the government and there are no obvious solutions.

For the Lamp, the decrease in law and order had an immediate effect. Violence between groups in the vicinity of the Health Center increased so that the Lamp closed for a time to protect the safety of the staff. However, staff were willing to re-open the Health Center as soon as the situation calmed. At this writing, Lamp is the only medical facility in the vast shantytown of Cité Soleil that is operating. It has been the only facility open for more than two months. The fact that our staff are not themselves targeted or harassed is a great testament to the value that they bring to the whole community.

But things have not been easy. Gang control of the port area has meant that gasoline is often extremely scarce. This chokehold was released in the immediate aftermath of the August 14 earthquake but has again been applied. Electricity is a rare commodity outside of generators, which demand fuel. The price of all goods has risen

(continues inside)

HAITI IN CRISIS:

(continued from front page)

Health Center, our van must stay with the staff all day, in case a quick exit is necessary. Professionals and technicians have been unwilling to enter the area so that physical improvements, such as our nearly finished Nutrition Center and Laboratory, have been delayed.

Despite it all, thousands of men, women and children have been seen and treated. People that have no other options for care. The Lamp has chosen to work with the "poorest of the poor", no matter their circumstance, and this commitment will continue.



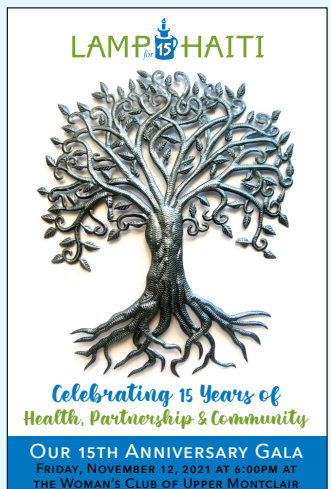
DR. VILPIGUE:

"this vulnerable population remains in serious need"



— IN THE NEWS —

- **The earthquake that took place** on August 14th in the south of the country did not affect Port-au-Prince directly. After much deliberation, the Lamp chose to focus on the ever-present needs in Cité Soleil. However, many people from the earthquake-affected region, their homes destroyed, have now come to Cité Soleil to find shelter. The Lamp clinic has had a role to play in that tragedy after all.
- **Dr. Vilpigue** is currently on maternity leave and a temporary replacement has been hired. We are wishing you good health and a joyful time with your family, Dr. Vilpigue!
- **Due to the pandemic**, the Lamp's Annual Gala will have restricted attendance, BUT please join online! The entire evening will be made available including the silent auction and paddle raiser!!! Look for an email from us with a Zoom registration and instructions. If you don't have Zoom on your computer or device, you will be asked if you want to download Zoom. Say yes! (Delete it later if you wish.) Feel free to send us messages once you are connected!
- **Silent auction items** are available for bidding! For more information, visit lampforhaiti.org and click on the silent auction button or picture of any of the items available.
- **You can also** participate - please do! - in the paddle raiser at the end of the evening. Again, on the Gala page of the Lamp website, find the Paddle Raiser button. Thanks in advance for your participation!! and See you at the Gala!!!



VOLUNTEERS

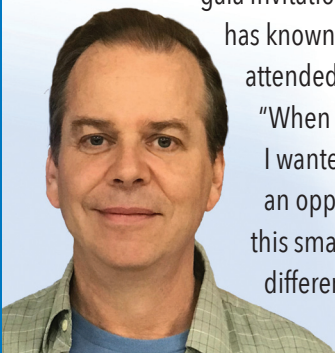
KEEPING THE LAMP LIT!

In Celebration of Lamp's 15 years in Haiti, reflecting on the past, considering the present, and looking to the future, no celebration would be complete if it did not recognize that Lamp's growth and accomplishments would not have been possible without Lamp's dedicated team of volunteers, past and current.

In the United States, a stunning 30% of the population volunteer nearly two billion hours every year. From serving as board members to delivering critical services in the community, volunteers keep nonprofit organizations in motion. Volunteering is not always easy, and it often calls for working long hours, going above and beyond, taking the lead on major projects. It definitely requires commitment and dedication to the mission. Luckily for Lamp, its volunteers embody these requirements.

Each year, Lamp hosts a number of volunteer-led events and activities that help fund the Lamp for Haiti health center and various other programs and initiatives in Haiti. Lamp volunteers don't just give their time, but they also reach out to their friends, family, and colleagues to garner support. Specifically, volunteers spearhead the annual gala, help create the newsletter, and host other fundraising events throughout the year. **Marianne Sweeney** and **Stacy Kilkenny** demonstrate their dedication and commitment to Lamp each year taking the lead for the silent auction held at the Lamp for Haiti annual gala. Together, this dynamic duo secures a variety of goods and services from local businesses, friends, and others for auction. This initiative raises thousands of dollars each year.

Most of our volunteers have come to Lamp because of their relationship with Dr. Morgan, either as friends or acquaintances – often as former patients! **Tom Burleigh**, who joined Lamp six years ago, and is instrumental in producing the Lamp newsletter, gala invitations, and other literature for Lamp, has known Jim since third grade when they attended St. Cassian's together. Tom says, "When I saw what Jim had accomplished, I wanted to be a part of that! It seemed an opportunity lend my experience to this small group of people making a big difference in the lives of so many others."



Still, it is Lamp's work that keeps the volunteers devoted to the mission and keeps them continuing to give their all. **Alan Smith**, who volunteers for the events committee, provides entertainment, sound equipment and support at Lamp events, was also a patient of Jim's. Alan became involved after reading Lamp for Haiti pamphlets in Dr. Morgan's waiting room. In 2018, Alan accompanied Jim to Haiti, where he saw first-hand the impact Lamp has on the Cité Soleil community. Alan says his experience in Cité Soleil was amazing. He expected skepticism of American motives from the community but this did not seem to exist. Instead, Alan says what he witnessed was a respect and admiration for Jim. "What Lamp is doing is incredibly valuable and important to the people in Cité Soleil". Alan hopes that Lamp can continue being "the rock" it is for the people in Cité Soleil, and he plans to continue to devote his time and expertise to Lamp for Haiti whenever needed.



From high-school student **Toby Baer** who initiated a yearly Hoops for Haiti at his school, to **Grace Harrison** who every year converted her parent's backyard into concert space for music fundraisers, to the stalwart gala committee who each year spends countless hours putting together a phenomenal affair, to the Lamp for Haiti Board of Directors who

give generously monetarily and otherwise, it would take a few years of newsletters to list each volunteer and his/her impact on Lamp's overall and continued success. So many have given their time, energies, and loyal support to help build Lamp for Haiti – in Cité Soleil, and as the family it has become in the US.

We celebrate ALL the volunteers that have and continue to support Lamp!



Grace visited Cité Soleil in 2015

We look forward to working with you for many years to come. We also welcome new volunteers interested in supporting Lamp for Haiti and our mission to save lives and increase health; empowering the residents of Cité Soleil to improve, for themselves, all other aspects of their lives.

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PROFILE:

Sherley Marie Heurta Blaise, Laboratory Manager

The Lamp has been blessed with a long succession of talented, dedicated and wholly admirable staff. For more than ten years the laboratory was managed with flawless professionalism by Ms Aline Succès. In 2018, Ms Blaise took on that role and has quickly become an integral, foundational, part of the Lamp team.

Sherley was born in nearby Carrefour, and grew up on Rue Honoré, in downtown Port-au-Prince. She is married and has one girl (just turned 3) named Ashley.

What pushed you to become a lab tech? Lab was not my first priority but as I continued to learn, I saw that it fit me very well. I like doing the work, taking blood samples, doing the pregnancy tests and so on.

How did you come to the Lamp? What do you think about the work environment? When Lamp was doing mobile clinics, Ms Aline always asked me to come along. At first, I said "No" many times because I was afraid of the area (Cité Soleil) but then I decided to put myself into the same position as the rest of the staff and people that live in the area, consider it a zone like all the



others, and so now I work and go home. Sometimes I lose my sense of humor but once I'm at the Health Center I know I must be gentle and calm with the patients. It can be a stressed environment knowing that there are people with guns who can come and ask for service, but otherwise I am happy with what I'm doing at Lamp.

In your opinion, what has allowed Lamp to continue for 15 years in Bwa Nèf? That's a great question. If the government knew all the work that Lamp is doing in Bwa Nèf for this vulnerable population they would be more supportive. Lamp is basically doing most of the essential primary care, care for pregnant women, nutrition, pediatric care and more. The population of Bwa Nèf really relies on us now because they see what we are doing for them, and they like the quality of service we are giving them. Most of all they see that we treat them with kindness, gently. Lamp is doing a noble work in Cité Soleil.