

TO DONATE:

Send a check to:

Lamp for Haiti

P.O. Box 187

Montclair, NJ 07042

Or click on the
donate button
at the websitewww.lampforhaiti.org

SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

SPRING

2022

Family Health *Says It All!*

Lamp's fundraising focus for this year is family health, because "Family Health" says it all!

The Lamp for Haiti Health Center is snuggled into the heart of the Bwa Nèf section of the huge Cité Soleil shantytown. The reputation of this shantytown, to people elsewhere in Haiti, is of a kind of criminal



CHW Evens Damas reads out the list of appointments. 70% of Lamp patients are female!

fortress, a place to be avoided at all costs. When you are inside, however, the feeling is very different. There are kids everywhere! The local schools are full, kids in colorful school uniforms trudge down the narrow streets and lanes every morning and afternoon. The local water "chateaux" – where every family gets its water – are full of women doing washing, kids playing, people filling their buckets to carry home, and people taking baths in whatever degree of privacy they can manage. The houses are tiny but they are homes to entire families – entire extended families that is. Micro-scale

entrepreneurship

is also everywhere.

From behind the Lamp Center comes the

banging and tapping of a man that makes

stoves out of flattened tin cans; at the entrance to the

area are the food stalls with their big steaming pots;

across the road is the workshop of a man that has made

his own freezer with coils of copper tubing and now

uses it to sell ice and cold drinks. People move in and

out of the shantytown more often than in a rural

community but it remains a family affair!

These families are our clients. Health care costs are an ever present drag on the ability of a family to support itself, to move ahead. If any member of the family is ill, the resources of the family shrink correspondingly.

We want to remove that burden. That is why we have

taken the first opportunity we've had to return the women's health program to its pre-pandemic strength.

Women deserve a program that is as strong as they are.

Then, when that is done,

with our pediatric program,

our general clinic, our

community health workers,

and our women's health

program, we will be able

to smile, *because family health*

is what Lamp is all about!

A happy mother has her child assessed at the Child Nutrition Program



Family Health



A Brand New Child Nutrition Center is Opening its Doors

It's not quite open yet, but within weeks Lamp will officially open a brand new Child Nutrition Center. An area of our "campus" that once held two small store rooms has been completely rebuilt and now features two large rooms and a roofed seating area. The rooms will serve as the examination room of our Pediatrician, Dr. Vilpigue, and as the operational center of our child nutrition program. The physical proximity of Dr. Vilpigue to the nutrition program – managed by Nurse Ruth Alissage – will allow closer collaboration between the two – something much to be desired due to the complex ailments that malnourished children are often susceptible to. The child nutrition program is, in any case, a hive of activity within the Lamp Health Center and it is high time that a suitable space was created for it.



Work continues on the new Child Nutrition Center

The funds for the construction, and initial operating expenses, were generously provided by St. Cassian's Church in Montclair, NJ. The timing of the gift could not have been better. The current political chaos in the country has led to a severe economic downturn, with devastating



Nurse Alissage currently operates the Child Nutrition Program from the partly finished Laboratory building

effect on the poorest, our clients. Enrollment in the child nutrition program is therefore the highest it has ever been. In previous years, we rarely treated more than 150 children in a year. Currently, we have over 130 children enrolled. Given that the treatment regimen lasts for 3 to 4 months, we anticipate that we will treat approximately 500 children this year.

We sincerely hope that Haiti's economic fortunes will improve, and quickly, but until that time we will stay the course. ***The Nutrition Center, built in the midst of chaos, is a symbol of that resolve.***

UPDATES

15th Anniversary Gala Success!

The Lamp for Haiti 15th Anniversary Gala held November 12, 2021, was a success! Not only did we meet our financial goal, but a nice evening seemed to be had by all. Thank you to all who came out. Special thanks to Mesa 46 whose cuisine was delicious, volunteers from Academy of the Holy Angels, and to ALL our AMAZING volunteers! **This event was a success in large part because of you all!!!**



Lamp for Haiti is the recipient of a major in-kind donation of hand sanitizer, surgical goggles and gowns. This donation comes from **Leonard Lee Sr.** of Dorchester, MA, who learned of Lamp for Haiti when he submitted an online bid during November's

gala. During the pandemic, Lee, his friends, and fraternity members of Omega Psi Phi handed out hundreds of masks to people in the Boston area. Lee received so much in donations that he decided to give away what he couldn't use. He reached out to several nonprofits and the Lamp is lucky enough to be a recipient!

iGive.com is an Internet company whose goal is to enable the economic power of individuals to benefit their chosen communities. When



you make a purchase through iGive up to 26% of each purchase can benefit the Lamp. iGive features nearly 1800 stores including Walmart, Gap, Staples, and many, many more! **Join iGive and list the Lamp Foundation as your cause. www.iGive.com/joinLink**



SAVE THE DATE
For the Next Gala!
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022

HOOPS FOR HAITI with Toby Baer

Six years ago, after a Sunday Mass service, Toby Baer stopped by a Lamp for Haiti table set up in the lower level of his church. He was less interested in the lamps for sale and more intrigued by what he read in the Lamp for Haiti pamphlets and other information made available. He sought out Dr. James Morgan for more information. After a long conversation about Lamp and what was happening in Cité Soleil, Toby left that day without purchasing a candle, but with a personal commitment to do what he could to help Lamp for Haiti and the residents of Cité Soleil. Toby says he felt, "immediately called to contribute in some way." He adds, "It was pretty transformative. I'd never felt such a call to help in the way I did for Lamp for Haiti." He was at that time in the sixth grade.

Toby made good on his commitment to himself and to the Lamp, organizing in 2016 the first Hoops for Haiti basketball fundraiser. Toby wanted to involve the community in something that transcended donating money. As a cub scout and later boy scout, he was familiar with fundraising, but this time he wanted to spread the word about Lamp for Haiti. He wanted community involvement. So, he went door-to-door advocating for Lamp for Haiti and seeking sponsorship for Hoops for Haiti. That first year, the event raised over \$5,000. For the next three years, Toby would continue to lead the Lamp for Haiti Hoops for Haiti fundraiser. Unfortunately, in 2020 COVID prevented Hoops for Haiti from being held

**Toby Baer
and Jim Morgan
at an earlier
Hoops for Haiti**

but instead, Toby held a very successful virtual Family Feud, raising once again almost \$5,000.



As the state and the world releases COVID mandates, Toby is excited to lead, once again, the Hoops for Haiti Basketball Fundraiser this year July 9, 2022, at St. Cassian's Church in Upper Montclair. As a senior in high school with plans to attend Colgate University in the fall, Toby may not be able to lead future Hoops for Haiti fundraisers, but Lamp for Haiti will always have a place in his heart. He says he is "grateful for and inspired by Dr. Morgan, the other volunteers, and most importantly the doctors and staff that do the work and change lives in Haiti".

We thank Toby for all his hard work and dedication to Lamp for Haiti and we congratulate him as he graduates this year, *wishing him the best of luck in the Fall and beyond!*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Wine Tasting



Join Us May 25, 2022, at 7PM for the Lamp for Haiti Spring Appeal Virtual Wine Tasting. Your purchase includes wine samples delivered directly to your home prior to the event, online wine tutorial, and brief presentation and update of the Lamp for Haiti Women's Center.

For additional information and to purchase tickets please visit www.lampforhaiti.org or give us a call at 973.619.3302.

Hoops for Haiti

We are so excited to announce that **Hoops for Haiti is back!!** Start practicing those drills, get your team together, and mark your calendars for **July 9, 2022** at St. Cassians. **Please check our website for more information and updates.**



SPRING APPEAL 2022

**HELP US RAISE \$50,000 BY MAY 6TH TO
IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF WOMEN,
MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES IN CITÉ SOLEIL.**

Women make up over 70% of the number of patients seen for general healthcare. Before the pandemic, the Lamp for Haiti Women's Health Center provided prenatal care for over 1,200 women a year. This number does not include the number of women who visited the center for other medical treatments or those who benefited from health education provided by our Community Health Workers (CHW). The Women's Center, along with CHWs, has helped:

- Improve the treatment outcomes for women and infants; to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Increase emotional support for pregnant patients and to avoid health crises related to pregnancy through the provision of regular check-ups and counselling.
- Increase ability to diagnose and treat specific conditions
- Increase health education to women helping them better manage their own health and the health of their families.

P.O. Box 187, Montclair, NJ 07042

Email: admin@lampforhaiti.org

Telephone: 973-866-0060

Website: www.lampforhaiti.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Georgette Delinois

Teaneck, NJ

Robert Duval

Sarthe, Haiti

Richard Evans

Montclair, NJ

Dianne Jean-François M.D.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Dulaurier Jaques, M.D.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

James Morgan, M.D.

Cedar Grove, NJ

Patrick O'Neill

Montclair, NJ

Daniel Tillias

Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti

The Right Tools Making a Difference in Life-Threatening Emergencies

Benitha Rene, lives in Bwa Nef with her husband, five children, and five grandchildren. Despite the country's level of insecurity, Benitha has braved her way through the capital to collect supplies to sell at the market. Benitha's husband recently suffered a financial setback, making Benitha her family's sole caregiver. In addition to the potential for violence and harm moving in and about the city, Benitha also suffers from asthma. For more than 14 years Benitha has struggled to breathe. This simple action that so many take for granted forces Benitha to slow her activities including her primary role providing for her family selling goods in the Cité Soleil market.

Earlier this year, Benitha suffered a life-threatening asthma attack. She was unable to breathe, gasping for air, suffocating, fighting to simply take a breath. Benitha's family quickly rushed her to the Lamp for Haiti Medical Center where the Lamp staff immediately placed Benitha on a nebulizer. The nebulizer sent the necessary medication full speed to Benitha's lungs, opening the bronchi and allowing her to breathe normally. Benitha's condition rapidly improved, but she still required several sessions. Lamp physicians insisted Benitha return daily to continue with her nebulizer treatments as well as other essential asthma treatments. The nebulizer can only work with electricity, and for more than five months Cité Soleil

has faced a huge problem with inconsistent electricity. Fortunately, the Lamp provides two additional sources of electricity allowing the clinic to continue to offer life-saving and preventive care for its patients.

Benitha has received three of her treatments and is breathing normally for the first time in many years. She has a new smile on her face that is infectious making everyone around her smile as well, particularly the Lamp staff who are energized and proud to know that they are making a difference in the lives of so many like Benitha. Lamp services remain even more essential as the Lamp Health Center is the only medical facility open in Cité Soleil.

Benitha is forever grateful to the Lamp staff, noting "Tout moun ka mouri wi menm grannèg ka mouri nan jan nap viv kounye a nan peyi a men malere tankou nou yo pi afekte e yon lopital tankou lamp se sovè nou ". (Anyone can die, yes, even important, rich people can die because of the situation in this country but the poor like us are more affected and a health center like Lamp is our savior.)

Again, it was a good day at LAMP!

Benitha Rene receives life-saving treatment at Lamp for Haiti Medical Center

