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SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

SUMMER
2022


Celebrating the Family

BY JIM MORGAN,
Founder and Chair

At Lamp for Haiti, we are marking 2022 as a year of celebrating and honoring the family by focusing on family health.

Last month, my family came down with COVID-19 for the second time in two years. While others in my home had a mild case, mine was a bit more severe with shortness of breath, fevers and cough. And while I am glad that I'm well again, it is hard not to think about other families who don't have such ready access to healthcare. It's often said that we should be grateful for our station in life as Americans; I don't dispute that. But I believe gratitude alone is not enough if I want to truly participate in the human family's condition. Instead, gratitude for my own place in the world (admittedly as much due to luck as anything else) can act to push me to seek to work with others to find creative solutions to the many problems our world currently faces.

The Dutch thinker, counselor, scholar, writer, theologian Henri Nouwen wrote aptly "We often live as if our happiness depended on having. But I don't know anyone who is really happy because of what he or she has. True joy, happiness, and inner peace come from the giving of ourselves to others. A happy life is a life for others." Nouwen of course is neither the first nor the last to articulate this concept, but his words indeed ring true.

Further, Nouwen and others have made it clear that in giving of ourselves and in participating in the lives of others, particularly in the lives of those living at society's edges (economically, psychologically, medically, socially), we avail ourselves of a wisdom that can be difficult to find elsewhere. Such survival

wisdom often presents a rather clear but profound response to the question of "who is in my family?". The answer is not just those who share my immediate bloodline.

Those living each day on the margins, and

who there struggle with and respond to life's hurdles, typically do so in a way that resolutely affirms the notion of our being one human family. I have witnessed this many times in Cité Soleil among the very poor, watching – at times in disbelief – as a small plate of food is passed around so that all can share. This is family, and this too is inspiration for why we are dedicating ourselves to supporting family health care this year at Lamp.



We've chosen to mark this entire year for a few reasons.

First, it's a part of Lamp's core values – we believe that we are one human family, and so our looking to help improve the health of persons living in Cité Soleil is in fact improving the lives of our brothers, our sisters. Next, family is community. Healthy families equate with healthy communities, allowing other aspects (like education) to flourish, and Lamp's mission is about community. Finally, a healthy family, at times complex, is ultimately about relationships founded on trust, consistency, love. Our goal this year is to underscore these same values as we work with and for our extended Cité Soleil family, allowing the wisdom of those at the margins to impact our own families' journeys too.

Thanks for being a part of Lamp for Haiti. My very best to you, and to all your immediate and extended family!

School Sponsorship Program

BY HENRY REIMER,
Lamp ED

The 2021-2022 school year has come and gone. Across Haiti, kids celebrate their achievements and look forward to next year. For most, school is a blessing – a safe place where order reigns, where efforts are rewarded. Parents are ever-eager to have their children attend – these school-going children are the hope of the family, and the kids know it. The attractions of education are heightened by the fact that so many cannot attend. The result for many will be illiteracy – an inability



to read a newspaper, a government form, the instructions on a medicine bottle. An inability to determine the correct change for a purchase. The benefits are very real.

Ms. Samson is the indefatigable head of the Enfant Jesus school in Bwa Nèf. An educator with a heart of gold.



The Lamp began its school sponsorship program in 2010. Watching these successive groups of children navigate the challenges of school, their potential fully engaged, has been one of the great pleasures of my work at the Lamp. To date, the Lamp – through the very direct support of our education sponsors – has provided 57 children with a total of 208 years of schooling. Huge thanks to those sponsors! It is a small program but a very powerful one and we would like to make it grow.

Jeannine Cox, a great fellow Lamp volunteer, friend, and incredibly kind person, has recently passed away. Jeannine was a great help to us for many years, quietly working with others to help make our fundraisers the very best that they could be. She had a great smile, and a warm heart, and was always willing to pitch in to help. (She was also pretty good at roping in unwitting family members and friends too!) Jeannine believed deeply in our mantra that we are one human family. **She will be missed.**

UPDATES

Conditions continue to be extremely difficult in Port-au-Prince.

The government has not been able to control gang activity, making almost any travel in the city hazardous. The courage and dedication of our staff cannot be overemphasized.

Despite these conditions we have received a large shipment of donated medicine – three shipments combined, in fact. The medicines were provided by the Catholic Medical Mission Board – which is currently our primary in-kind donor – shipped to the northern city of Cap Haïtien, and trucked down to Port-au-Prince.

FINAL UPDATE ON THE SPRING APPEAL:

Thanks to last-minute donations by several donors, we were able to surpass our goal. Huge gratitude to all that contributed!

The basics of the program are this: children are selected from local families by our Community Health Workers and assigned to specific sponsors. Sponsors receive a brief bio with photo, updates on the child's progress, and occasional messages from the children. The children must succeed to continue but tutoring is provided for any that are falling behind. An annual sponsorship of \$415 pays for tuition, uniforms and shoes, textbooks and school supplies for one child. There is a standardized state exam at the end of grade 9 and success in this exam - which earns a formal certificate - is the primary goal of our program. Sponsors may continue to support their charges but generally speaking, the sponsorship ends and a new young person from Bwa Nèf is chosen to enter school.

The program has value beyond price for the children and their families; it is also critical for its support of local schools - institutions that are vital to positive communal life.

Please do consider a sponsorship!



Ciara Bazil,
Grade 3, Needs
a Sponsor!

HOOPS FOR HAITI

took place on July 9th at St. Cassian's School. The event was a lot



of fun! The gym was packed with teams, basketball fans, and Lamp supporters. Thanks, Toby, for all your hard work!

The event raised approximately \$5,000.

SAVE-THE-DATE!!! Lamp for Haiti Annual Gala - November 4, 2022, 6PM to 10PM at Montclair State University. Tickets and sponsorship packages available soon! Visit www.lampforhaiti.org for more information.



Dust off your running gear and end the summer with a 3.1-mile run/walk through Brookdale Park, all while supporting Lamp for Haiti!

Join us **Saturday, August 27th at 8AM** in **Brookdale Park** for the **First Annual Lamp for Haiti 5K Fun Run/Walk!** The race begins at the track & wraps twice around the inner circle of the park.

We Welcome Runners, Teams & Walkers of All Ages! Sports strollers, running chairs, handcycles, sports wheelchairs, prostheses, walkers & canes are allowed.

For the more competitive runners, age group awards will be scored by CompuScore using the Chronotrack disposable Btag timing chip attached to the back of each bib.

Awards will be given to the top overall fastest man and woman in each age group:

18-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70, 71-75 and over 75.

REGISTRATION IS \$35 FOR AGES 18 & ABOVE

Race-day-registration is \$40 and available 6:30AM to 7:30AM, Saturday, August 27. Children 13-17: \$20 & Children ages 1-12 get a free registration with a paid adult.

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/NJ/BLOOMFIELD/LAMPFORHAITI5K

Runners/walkers receive a Lamp for Haiti 5K Fun Run/Walk T-shirt

For sponsorship or to have your business part of the fun, please visit lampforhaiti.org/events or email us at runforhealth@lampforhaiti.org or give us a call at **973.619.3302**.

VOLUNTEERS - We welcome your help with the race! Volunteers are needed to help get the word out and on race day! Please contact Kelli at kelli@lampforhaiti.org or give us a call at **973.619.3302**

Updates and additional information can be found at www.lampforhaiti.org

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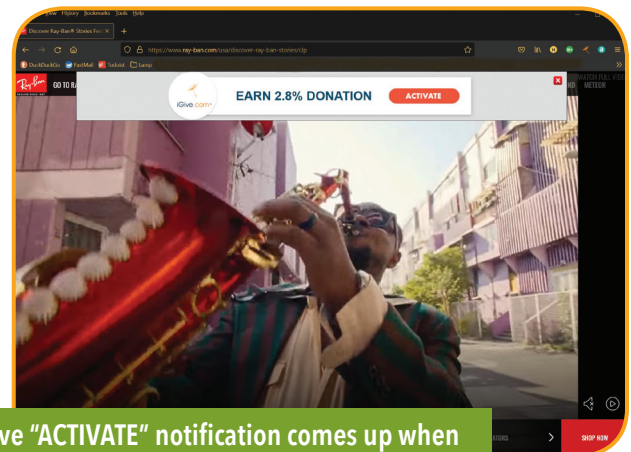
Give While You Shop (for free!)



How iGive Works: iGive assists businesses to donate a part of their profit to charities. If a business – for example Macy’s – joins iGive, they can specify the percentage they will donate to the charities of their customers. Macy’s, for example, gives 1.2% of any purchase to the chosen charity of the purchaser, as a donation. iGive includes over 2,000 stores, the majority of which give between 2% and 4% of sales. The shopper never pays more for using iGive.

It is a similar concept to Amazon Smile, but Amazon is a single business, and provides considerably less as a donation (0.5%) than most of the iGive list.

Lamp for Haiti is one of the registered charities on iGive. When a customer - you! - goes to www.igive.com and registers, you can choose Lamp as your designated



The iGive “ACTIVATE” notification comes up when you visit an iGive store (after you are signed up).

charity. From then on, every time you visit a store that is registered with iGive an icon will appear, asking if you wish to activate the iGive link and stating the percentage that the store is donating.

Some examples of the stores on iGive

Staples (1.6%) • Expedia/Orbitz (0.8%)
Fred Meyer Jewelers (6.0%) • Rockport (2.0%) DKNY (2.4%),
Elizabeth Arden (2.8%) • McAfee (14.0%) • Holiday Inn (1.6%),
Dun & Bradstreet (4.8%) • COACH (3.2%) • SeatGeek (1.6%),
Columbia Sportswear (3.2%) • Walgreens (1.6%) • Rite Aid (1.6%)

WHY NOT TRY IT OUT?