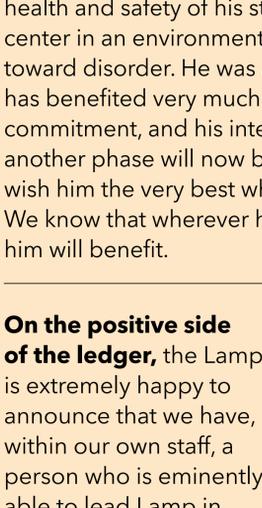


FALL | 2022

A Tribute to Dr. Hyppolite and Welcome to Dr. Vilpigue!

It is with great sadness that we announce the departure of Dr. Barrère Hyppolite. Dr. Hyppolite directed the Lamp for Haiti Health Center with peerless passion for almost eleven years. He will be deeply missed. He is an extraordinarily skilled doctor with a tremendous appetite for learning, constantly seeking to improve his skills and his knowledge. He is hugely respected within the community of Bwa Nèf, a man that could be trusted by all to have their interests at heart. In addition to his skills as a doctor, he was also called upon to be a negotiator with local gang members, to protect the health and safety of his staff, to organize a health center in an environment that constantly tended toward disorder. He was a true leader, and the Lamp has benefited very much from his presence, his commitment, and his intelligence. As with the Lamp, another phase will now begin for Dr. Hyppolite. We wish him the very best wherever life will take him. We know that wherever he goes, people around him will benefit.

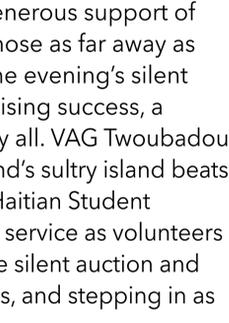


On the positive side of the ledger, the Lamp is extremely happy to announce that we have, within our own staff, a person who is eminently able to lead Lamp in this next phase of its evolution. Dr. Yolanda Vilpigue has been Lamp's pediatrician for four years, a role she will continue to fill, while taking on the responsibilities of the In-Country Medical Director. Dr. Vilpigue has a tremendous heart for all of the people we serve – not only the children! She has a marvelously collegial spirit and we are very confident that she can continue to elevate the Lamp, continuing upon the path that Dr. Hyppolite so selflessly pioneered.

Thank you, Dr. Vilpigue, for taking on this responsibility!



Fall Gala 2022



On November 4, Lamp for Haiti Family Health held its annual Fall Gala and Silent Auction, marking over 17 years of the Lamp providing quality healthcare to individuals and families in Cité Soleil. Held at the Montclair State University Conference Center overlooking the New York City Skyline, the event made it possible for Lamp to reach its gala fundraising goal through the generous support of its donors, ticket holders, and those as far away as Las Vegas who placed bids in the evening's silent auction. Besides being a fundraising success, a good time seemed to be had by all. VAG Twoubadou energized the room with the band's sultry island beats and vocals. Members of MSU's Haitian Student Association provided invaluable service as volunteers greeting guests, helping with the silent auction and 50/50 raffle, answering questions, and stepping in as

needed throughout the evening. The MSU Haitian Student Association is comprised of a group of students who have a passion for Haitian culture and a desire and willingness to share that passion with other MSU students. HSA promotes awareness and understanding of Haiti, and its culture, history, and traditions.

The evening Lamplighter Award was given post-humously to Jeannine Cox and received by her husband Jack Cox and daughter Madison Cox. The Lamplighter Award is given each year to the person who embodies the spirit of Lamp for Haiti. Jeannine

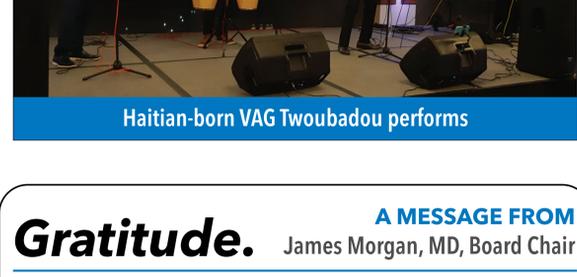


Haitian Student Association of Montclair State University

was a constant presence before, during and after Lamp events. She consistently availed herself, never seeking praise or affirmation. She understood that community is much better expressed as an idea, not a place; it is not limited by geography, but instead defined by our interdependence upon one another. We miss her but are fortunate to have been touched by her warm and generous ways.

The Annual Fall Gala and Silent Auction is the Lamp's largest fundraiser and has been critical in the continuation of services and programs to the people of Cité Soleil. This year we celebrated family and family health as our gala theme. The evening goal was \$100,000 and we raised just over \$130,000.

Thank you everyone for your support and for being part of our Lamp family here in the states.



Haitian-born VAG Twoubadou performs

Gratitude. A MESSAGE FROM James Morgan, MD, Board Chair

Sometimes I struggle with the idea of thankfulness, given the strife that exists in our world today. As one issue winds down another more unreal event seems to take over the next day's headline. Poverty, malnutrition, sicknesses like cholera, poor access to education and healthcare, these are all realities in our world, and my taking a posture that "I'm thankful it's not me" seems to miss the greater mark.

Is there a way, then, to thread the needle, to find a "middle way", one that allows us to assume a deeper sense of gratitude amidst all the problems facing our world today, and Haiti in particular? I think there is.

We recently held our annual gala fundraiser at Montclair State University. Among the speakers that night was our newly elevated medical director, Dr Yolanda Vilpigue. Dr Vilpigue, Lincolnesque in her impactful and concise message, spoke of real gratitude of the Lamp staff, and of the patients and families towards you, the greater Lamp family.

I have spoken with Dr Vilpigue about this topic before, and she routinely comes back to a genuine sense of not just wonder, but gratitude that persons living in a different place, with a different culture and language – people like you – would want to help her country.

In Buddhist dharma, the "Middle Way" is necessary for one to reach enlightenment. Such a way avoids extremes and instead sticks to a forward-looking path. The Middle Way invokes the Eightfold Path, which suggests how one ought conduct oneself, not seeking perfection but instead pressing on through life's hurdles, using tools of discipline and reason and hard work.

On the gateway to the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, where Socrates visited, is carved: Nothing in Excess. The admonition is both pragmatic and aspirational.

The great Irish poet, Seamus Heaney used to tell the story of how his wife, Marie, suggested that he ought take a compliment. "Breathe it in", she advised "but don't inhale" lest he become a bit too cocksure. He took that advice, and it helped him navigate his own Nobel prize winning career.

Common in all these traditions is the constancy of the journey. The Buddha, ever the meditator, preached forward motion down the Eightfold path. Neither the oracle at Delphi, nor Socrates himself, ever said "stop if you get stuck." Marie Heaney didn't recommend inaction or deflection. In all these traditions, the path of not just balanced movement, but one of a disciplined, organized and forward direction is the preferred one.

And so it is with gratitude. We live in difficult times, as all humanity has lived in difficult times. Our task is not to travel the perfect way, but rather to keep up this process, this journey in communion with one another, building on past works. So let us be grateful for one another's friendship - it is one life's greatest gifts. Let's us be thankful for the progress we've made thus far. Let us be determined to press on despite the ever new hurdles, knowing that, as Dr Vilpigue reminds us, our efforts are directly saving the lives of some of the most vulnerable. **Indeed, it's something to be grateful for!**

COUNTRY UPDATES

There can be no sugar-coating it, 2022 has been one of the most distressing periods in the last 30 years of Haitian history. Since the assassination of President Moïse in July of 2021, the economic life of Haiti has ground to a standstill. Gangs have multiplied and taken control of much of the capital city, including the critical fuel terminal at the docks. These gangs are typically supported by unidentified political actors. From mid-September to early November, the gangs refused to release any of the fuel, causing a national crisis. The impact on ordinary people was extreme, as neither food nor water could be transported. The cessation of economic activity has, of course, hit the poorest the hardest. The Lamp for Haiti Health Center was also forced to close for this period. In November, with threats of military action escalating, the gangs provided access to the fuel. It was a welcome relief. But the gangs were not removed; the underlying political machinations remain. It is a dangerous and frustrating time for Lamp but we know that we are best-placed to bring relief to those who have suffered the most. We will continue to find ways to assist, taking due care to ensure the safety of our own staff, no matter what the circumstances are.

ANNOUNCING The Torch Bearers!

Monthly giving is as wonderful way to support the Lamp and we would like to honor our monthly donors by naming them Torch Bearers!

If you have given monthly for a year you will soon be receiving a Torch Bearer pin in the mail as a token of our gratitude.

To become a Torch Bearer, use the Donate button on our website and check the box that says "make this a monthly donation."

TIP: You will be asked to set up a PayPal account (the site will assist you to do so). You will be able to change or cancel your recurrent giving at any time.

Thank You!

TO DONATE: Send a check to:
Lamp for Haiti, P.O. Box 187
Montclair, NJ 07042

Or click on the donate button at the website
www.lampforhaiti.org