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LAMP HAITI

SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

SPRING

2023

A Letter from Dr. Morgan

Dear Friends –

I'm writing our Annual Spring Appeal letter from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a place of 3 million people, most of whom are quite poor by any international standard. In Cité Soleil, where



Dr. Vilpigue at work

Lamp for Haiti has its health center, a sprawling and dangerous ghetto, absent reliable clean water or electricity, the situation is even more stressed. Consider some of these staggering facts: In the arena of healthcare, Haiti spends about 57 dollars per capita annually. In all the Americas the next lowest spending country, Nicaragua, commits over three times that amount per person, while the US rate is about \$13,000 (data. worldbank.org – 2019). There are about 25 physicians per 100,000 persons in Haiti, compared to 278 in the US. Infant mortality in Haiti is 59 per 100,000 live births, compared to the US rate of 5 per 100,000.

Gangs today control large swaths of the capital, and surrounding areas too. There were over 1,200 reported kidnappings in Haiti last year alone, more than twice that of the previous year.

Given these hard to fathom numbers, aren't further efforts in Haiti just pouring the proverbial water on sand? Isn't that country too far gone? Oughtn't we work in another place? It's helpful to answer with a bit more data. In the past twenty years in Haiti...

- Adolescent fertility rates are down over 30%, a cause for optimism since delayed childbearing beyond adolescence is associated with more years in school, higher future earnings, and more stable households.
- Life expectancy has risen by almost five years, to 63. Still low, but progress nevertheless.
- The infant mortality rate mentioned above has actually decreased by over 25%, as numbers of "attended" births by skilled personnel increased from about 25% to nearly 68% of all births in Haiti.
- Overall age adjusted mortality rate in Haiti is down by over 20%.

I have no doubt that this progress has regressed in the past two years, given the overall state of affairs in Haiti. But progress can and has been made, even in places of extreme poverty. And while I personally believe that prayer helps, even St Augustine said that God will provide the wind, but we must raise the sails. In this case, the sails are an organized and integrated health system, with well trained committed staff, outfitted with the right equipment and medications.

To answer my own question, then, a resounding NO, we oughtn't give up. Life is harsh, at times brutally challenging, in Haiti right now, most especially in Cité Soleil. But for 17 years Lamp for Haiti has not wavered. We remain



Young girl seen at clinic for skin ailment

(continues inside)

Introducing ... Dr. Stanley Metellus

Despite a challenging environment in Haiti, Lamp has many reasons to be optimistic. The most compelling of these is the recent hire of Dr. Metellus as the in-country Medical Director. Dr. Metellus (may-tay-loose) started his career, in 2008, by obtaining certification as a pharmacist. He then worked for 13 years at several pharmacies, including five years at the State University Hospital. He then returned to medical school, graduating from the State University (L'Université d'Etat d'Haiti) in 2017, as a generalist, and completed his specialization in internal medicine in 2022. Both his pharmacy background and his internal medicine specialization are very valuable for the Lamp for Haiti Health Center. Even more so, however, is his natural bent to evaluate and improve the services that we provide. He is a natural leader, with a marvelously collaborative style, a genuine concern for the underprivileged, and a (necessary!) ability to be flexible. These qualities are certain to pay substantial dividends both to Lamp and – more importantly – to the population we serve. We look forward to a long partnership. *Welcome, Dr. Metellus!*

We would like to thank Dr Yolanda Vilpigue, very much, for acting as our interim Medical Director from October to February. Dr. Vilpigue remains with Lamp, in charge of the Lamp's pediatric program, as before.



Dr. Metellus

After my specialization, I had the chance to work at various hospitals, in particular the Bethesda Hospital as head of the internal medicine department and at St. Luke's Hospital in Port-au-Prince, in the intensive care unit.

A few months later I was recruited at Lamp as Medical Director. Lamp works in the commune of Cité Soleil, serving a considerable population. It offers them quality care because Lamp is recruiting competent and qualified personnel who also have a certain level of experience. Lamp promotes impartiality and sympathy towards patients and I support this. The Lamp has done exceptional, high quality work in Cité Soleil and this population always testifies to its satisfaction.

This experience is helping me to improve every day because, as a Medical Director, I am confronted with many different challenges that must be faced. Lamp also allows me to optimize my care because it provides a wide range of services, which allow for better patient care.

Lamp also allows me to highlight my expertise in the pharmaceutical field, to ensure that our medicines are always in stock and to make

A NOTE FROM DR. METELLUS

Hello Everyone,

Please let me tell you something about myself. I am Haitian, married, and father of a two year old boy. I received my license in pharmacy in 2008, which allowed me to work as a hospital pharmacist and manager of a retail pharmacy for many years. My love for medical sciences pushed me to seek an equivalent expertise in medicine, so I returned to university and received my license as a general practitioner in 2017, and a title as an internist in September of 2022.

UPDATES

Our Second Annual Lamp for Haiti 5K Race took place May 6, 2023, in Branch Brook Park. Thank you to everyone who came out in support and thank you to all our donors!

**2ND
ANNUAL
5K
RUN/
WALK**



Next year, we hope the race will be even more successful!

Big shout out and thank you to our 5K Committee

Members without whom the race would not be possible.

If you are interested in joining our Annual 5K Race Committee,

please give us a call at 973.619.3302 or email kelli@lampforhaiti.org.

The Montclair Charity Ball!

On March 4, 2023, the who's who of Montclair donned their finest and danced the night away at the first annual Montclair Charity Ball. Thanks to this year's event, the Lamp was able to raise funds to purchase a number of items on the Lamp Wish Board. **Thank you to Declan and his family and to everyone who supported the event.**



pharmaceutical inputs available so that the various providers can find the necessary drugs to ensure good care for this population.

Working at Lamp is very important to me because I appreciate, being a Haitian, the ability to support this population whose health condition is already weakened. Working in Bwa Nèf increases my pride as a Haitian, and motivates me, so that I can contribute my share in improving the lives of my brothers and sisters in Cité Soleil. (Travay nan Lamp vreman enpòtan pou mwen paske kom haitien sa pemet ede haitien parey mwen ki gen difikilte nan nivo sante.)

I'd like to conclude by thanking Lamp for giving me this opportunity to provide care to the population of Bwa Nèf. I know that Lamp has partners and supporters that are very interested in the work in Haiti. I want to reassure you that I will work to ensure



that your objectives are being achieved, namely to provide quality care with respect and compassion. With the support of Lamp leaders and donors, I am committed to serving this population thirsty for health care, despite the constraints we are currently facing.

Dr. Metellus at recent mobile clinic

A Letter from Dr. Morgan

(continued from cover)

committed to our mission to provide quality, well-discerned community development, based on the cornerstone of our work – effective healthcare. We will continue to treat the sick, to mend wounds, to feed the malnourished. We will continue to do so not just with kindness but with organized systems.

I hope that you'll consider supporting our Spring drive this year. Working together, we're saving lives. On behalf of our Board, staff, and of course our patients, thanks for choosing to stay a part of Lamp for Haiti.

My best to you and your family at this beautiful time of year.

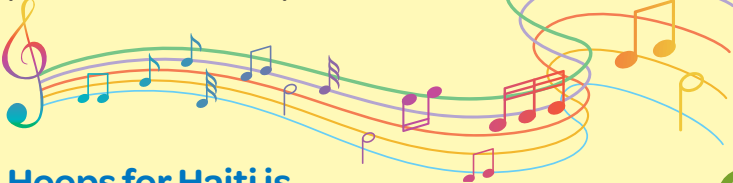


Vaccination clinic near Cité Soleil

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Summit Avenue Concert Series has returned!

Hosted this year by the Shapiro Family, the Summit Avenue Concert is set for Saturday, June 3 from 3PM to 7PM at 96 Summit Avenue. Don't miss this Lamp tradition, put on hiatus due to COVID, but destined to be better than ever! **For more information and updates, please visit www.lampforhaiti.com**



Hoops for Haiti is BACK for its 7th year!

Saturday, June 17 at St. Cassian's School at 190 Lorraine Avenue, Upper Montclair. Hoops for Haiti is a 3-on-3 basketball tournament started 7 years ago by Toby Baer – 12 years old at the time. This event has

raised thousands of dollars for the Lamp.

Tournament divisions include 3rd to 4th grade, 5th to 6th grade, 7th to 8th grade, high school (9-12), and adults. So, kids bring your parents and parents bring your kids for a day filled with fun, excitement, and friendly competition. Teams must consist of three players; you may also have additional players to substitute for if you wish. **Admission is \$75 per team. Donations are also welcome! Food, music, games & FUN!**



The Annual Lamp for Haiti Silent Auction and Gala!
6PM to 11PM, November 10, 2023, at the Womens Club of Upper Montclair!



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SPRING APPEAL 2023

This year our Spring Appeal focuses on the three tenets upon which Lamp for Haiti was founded – Community, Partnership, Healthcare.

These principles are key to who we are and the work we do. It is this core that has made it possible to continue for 17 years,



Mother shows off her now-healthy girl

providing urgent, lifesaving care to thousands of residents of Cité Soleil and nearby communities. As Haiti continues to experience

an extreme humanitarian crisis, Lamp has responded by doubling down on its services, offering mobile clinics, hiring additional staff and preparing to expand (*read more inside*). We are fortunate to have the generous support of our Lamp family here in the US. With this year's Spring Appeal, we ask that you continue to lend your support and help us reach our fundraising goal of \$50,000.

