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SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

FALL
2024

The Lamp is Lit!

Since our last newsletter, we've accomplished a lot!

As you are aware, the security situation in Port-au-Prince has been a major concern for a long time now. Gangs control large areas of the city, and inter-gang conflicts constantly disrupt normal business and domestic activities. Currently, there is a force of Kenyan soldiers in the city, stationed at the airport, but so far their mandate has been to simply protect themselves and the interim government. No effort has been made to reduce the activities of gangs.

Despite this tense situation, Lamp has moved forward in three very significant ways. Firstly, we have completed extensive renovations to our main health center in Bwa Nèf, Cité Soleil. Most of Cité Soleil faced unprecedented flooding late last year because a dysfunctional government failed to dredge the canals that take rainwater from the higher parts of Port-au-Prince to the sea. The Lamp for Haiti Health Center was inundated. We have repaired the damage and also renovated, so that rising water can no longer enter the clinic. The rainy season is about to begin and the canals remain blocked, but we are prepared!

Part of the renovation project had an additional goal: to prepare for the replacement of our old and now inadequate solar energy system. This, including a new cement roof on our main building, has been accomplished! We are now working with a very experienced solar energy contractor who is providing, gratis, his design skills and his

relationships with solar energy companies in Port-au-Prince to ensure a high quality and low cost result.

A second way in which Lamp has pushed forward is reflected in the theme statement of our gala this year: Extending our Reach, Expanding our Family. Late last year we took an ambitious step and opened a second health care location. The first six months saw many disruptions in service, and in March a full scale conflict broke out in the area (near



The child nutrition program has exploded due to the desperate conditions in Port-au-Prince



The shanty town of Cité Soleil (yellow). Lamp's traditional service community (green). The green dot is the Lamp for Haiti Health Center. Our new population (blue). The blue dot is our partner, Sakala.

the international airport) as gangs tried, successfully, to keep President Ariel Henry from returning to the country. When we re-opened in early May, we made another momentous decision: to accept patients from a large new area within Cité Soleil. In partnership with youth organization Sakala, which is located there, we are now accepting patients from neighborhoods called Twa Bebe (Three Babies), Limyè (Light), and De Site (Two Cities) (See Map).

Finally, our child nutrition program has expanded dramatically. This was not due to any decision on our part but simply a response to overwhelming need. In times like these, food is often the most relevant medicine. In previous times we treated around 250 malnourished children per year. This year we expect to treat a minimum of 650. If resources are available, this number could easily surpass 1,000. The impact of this program really can't be understated: it is preventing the death, or physical and intellectual stunting, of these children. They are at a very vulnerable stage of their development and desperately need this intervention.

We – all of us at Lamp – are privileged to be able to take these steps, in solidarity with you, our supporters, and with the rest of our extended family, the people of Cité Soleil.

A Fond Farewell to Dr. Vilpigue and a Hearty Welcome to Dr. Vincent!

Pediatrician Dr. Yolanda Vilpigue spent an event-filled, hard-working, and hugely effective six years with Lamp, including four months as interim Medical Director. She will be missed! Thousands of families in Bwa Nèf will remember her with affection. Her standard of care, for every child that entered her office, was exemplary. Dr. Vilpigue was much affected by the stresses of work in Cité Soleil and we wish for her an equally productive, but calmer future. Dr. Vilpigue, you have given health and peace-of-mind to so many for six years – you deserve the same!



Dr. Nivenson Vincent joined Lamp in May. Although he looks young (!) he is a well-seasoned pharmacist and doctor. He graduated as a Pharmacist in 2007. In 2010, the awful year of the earthquake, he worked for several non-governmental organizations including Sean Penn's J/P Haitian Relief Organization (now called CORE). He then took his Doctor of Medicine degree and completed his (second!)(required!) year of social service (that is, working at a medical facility in an underprivileged community). Finally, he selected Pediatrics as his specialization and completed 3 years of residency at the Hôpital de L'Université D'État D'Haiti, the primary state hospital of Port-au-Prince, in February of this year. Dr. Vincent worked at many Lamp mobile clinics before joining as a full time staff member.

Dr. Vincent has lived all of his life in Port-au-Prince. He is married and has one child, who is now 6 years old. With regards to his personal life, he says, "I love to spend time with my family – my wife and girl – go to church, to a restaurant, to a swimming pool, or go swimming in the ocean."



Heartfelt Thanks for Your Generous Donations!

Your support and commitment are what allow Lamp for Haiti to continue! Each donation you make is not just a gift; it is a spark that lights up hope and change. The lives we affect are many, and the ripples of your generosity spread wide, touching lives in ways that have immediate impact and in ways we may never see.

other years, we can fully fund both of our sites, and the expanded child nutrition program as well. We extend special thanks to those who have made larger commitments, but every donation matters! Your kindness and support inspire hope and fosters connection. Let's keep this momentum going, one generous act at a time!



This year, your benevolence, no matter how small, has made a difference in the lives of the people we serve. We not only reached our Spring Appeal goal, but with your support, we surpassed that goal and then some. If the Gala and year-end giving are similar to

You Can Continue Making a Difference

We are grateful too for those who make a difference volunteering and spreading the word about Lamp. If you would like to be part of the Lamp Fundraising Committee, please let us know. We are always looking for new members to join our fundraising committee, and seeking volunteers for our upcoming gala, November 8, 2024. Consider volunteering for our 4th annual 5K Race on May 4, 2025. Or simply spread the word about Lamp and our events. Even small actions, like sharing a post on social media, can mobilize others to join us, helping to "extend our reach and expand our Lamp family".



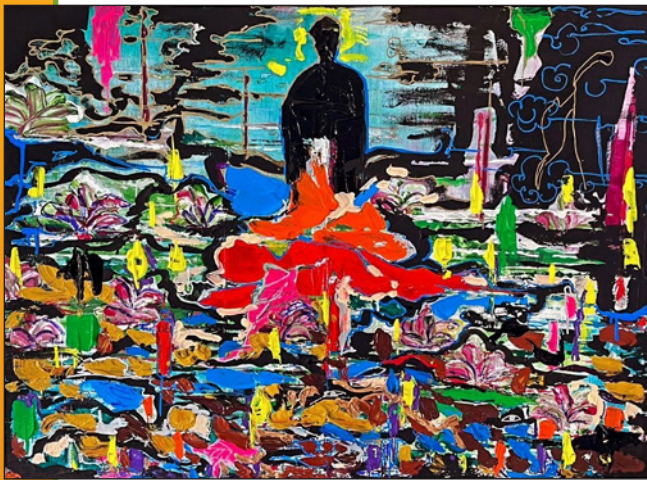
Lamp Updates



Lamp for Haiti Annual Gala

Mark your calendars for the Lamp for Haiti Annual Fall Gala and Silent Auction

5:30PM to 11PM, Friday, November 8 at the Women's Club of Glen Ridge. Join us for an evening of music, information, great food, and fun! Our special guest speaker is Prize-winning Journalist and Producer with the Associated Press, Trenton Daniel. The evening's entertainment is Haitian American Performer Riva Nyri Précil. Artwork presentation by Port-au-Prince-based artist Harry Abilhomme. You do not want to miss it! For more information, to sponsor the event, and to purchase tickets, please visit www.lampforhaiti.org/events or email Kelli Herd at kelli@lampforhaiti.org.



Silent Auction

Our silent auction includes a wide assortment of unique and entertaining items just in time for the holidays. There are Giants tickets, tickets to a Broadway Show of your choice, a weekend stay in West Palm Beach, a special painting by Harry Abilhomme, Christmas baskets, dinner for four at Faubourg Restaurant, handbags, jewelry, and so much more!!! Place your bids at <https://www.biddingforgood.com/lampforhaiti>. The silent auction runs from October 1 through 9PM November 8, 2024.

The 4th Annual Lamp for Haiti 5K Run/Walk

Put your sneakers on and join us at Branch Brook Park for our 4th annual 5K Run/Walk on May 4, 2025. Last year's race was a great success with over 250 registered runners and walkers! It is our goal to double that number this year. If you're running, walking, volunteering, or just cheering others on, come join us. All in support of Lamp for Haiti, it's sure to be a fun day.



Nonprofit Night Out

On December 8, Barclay's Center will honor Lamp for Haiti in the Brooklyn Nets Nonprofit Night Out. Get up close to the Nets, just a few rows from the floor, as they take on the Milwaukee Bucks. Tickets are \$200 each. All proceeds directly benefit Lamp for Haiti its programs and initiatives. To purchase tickets and for more information, please contact Kelli at kelli@lampforhaiti.org.





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Education Program Remains Active!

BY HENRY REIMER, Executive Director

The school year in Port-au-Prince is set to begin on October 1st. A good time, I feel, to give you a short report on our education program. The education program is, very emphatically, still in operation! There are currently 31 children in the program. The overall goal of the program is to sponsor children from the Bwa Nèf area who would not otherwise be able to attend school. There are two low-cost private schools in the Bwa Nèf area, approved by the Ministry of Education, and this is where, in the past, we placed almost all of the sponsored children. But Bwa Nèf has faced a lot of disruption due to gang conflicts. Many parents of sponsored children have transferred their children to other schools. Thus far, our decision has been to continue the sponsorship at the new schools, so that we now have children at 12 (!) different schools. In future, when it becomes possible, we will ask sponsored children to again attend one of four "core schools" but for now the work involved is very considerable! Parents meet at the Lamp office to receive school materials and so on, but getting report cards,

photos, and other information from the various schools is difficult, to say the least. This year three children took their state exams (which are required to enter grade 10, and to graduate): Sanette Berger, Mylove Exantus (pictured), and Ismylove Bélair (beautiful names!) The government has not yet released the results but if Mylove succeeds we will have 30 children in our program, and one more successful, female, graduate! Currently, many of these children do not have sponsors. We have continued to support them – it is a terrible time – but I would like to ask for your consideration. If assisting one of these children sounds rewarding, we would dearly love your sponsorship! Current cost per year per child is \$450. There is a page for the program on the website (under Our Work), but feel very free to contact me at henryreimer@lampforhaiti.org!

