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SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

SPRING

2025

**When we think of the word courage**

and what it means, the answers can vary greatly, depending on whom you ask. For a young mother watching her child take his/her first steps, courage is standing on two feet and putting one foot in front of the other. As we enter the graduation months, courage can be seen in our high school graduates as they begin new chapters in their lives. It is also seen in those parents who trepidatiously “let go”, letting their children navigate life on their own.

Our Spring Appeal Theme, and Theme for 2025, is **COURAGE!**

For the Lamp, we see courage every day. We see it in our staff as they travel each day under uncertain conditions to work at a clinic to help others in need. As every news outlet has reported, travel in the main city of Port-au-Prince and neighboring areas can be life-threatening. Yet our staff step up to this challenge daily to get the job done and to continue the work Lamp Founder Dr. Morgan started almost 20 years ago.



We also see courage in the men and women who face dangerous and seemingly insurmountable obstacles as they make every attempt to continue in a semblance of normalcy in heightened and unpredictable chaos. Theirs is a courage of wanting more than survival. It is the courage to want to *live*.

For our team here in the States, courage is believing in change and believing our work here enables our Haitian staff and therefore our patients to become part of the positive change that will take place one day in Haiti. It is courage that relies on the resilience and tenacity of the people of Haiti. A resilience that has in the past allowed the people of Haiti to overcome many challenges.

At Lamp for Haiti, we also see courage in you, our supporters here in the United States. It is your courage in giving and your belief in the work we do that makes it possible for us to continue. **It is your courage in believing in change, and in believing that your support makes a difference, because it does.**



Dr. Vincent Comments on a Case of Severe Malnutrition

Dr. Nivenson Vincent is Lamp's pediatrician. Here he asks a patient a few questions (translated from Kreyol):

What is the name of your girl?

Well, doctor, she is called Chavanne Modeline.

Why did you come to the clinic the first time?

Because she was coughing a lot, she had a fever, and she was very thin. Her hair was red.

What were we able to do for you?

The first time we came you examined Chavanne. I received mamba (therapeutic food) and medicine. In the beginning I came every week because she was too thin, but later I came every two weeks.

Are you satisfied with Lamp's program?

Now Chavanne weighs 9kg and I am very, very happy. I want to say, as Chavanne's mom, a great thank you to everyone for the help you are giving to the Haitian people.

Dr. Vincent comments that it would be almost impossible to do his job without the existence of the Child Nutrition program. Despite the length of the crisis in Haiti, there is nowhere – excepting rare hand-outs by nonprofits – that people can go to receive food, even if they have a

severely malnourished child. The emotional toll of seeing malnourished children and having nothing to offer would be too great.



2014 ARCHIVE PHOTO: EMR Training

our needs have changed. Lamp provides medical services from two service sites. That means we must have an internet based system that can synchronize data between at least those two sites. Also, we have long felt the need for additional features, features that would be specifically helpful for our Women's Health Program and our Child Nutrition Program.

We have contracted with a small IT business that has specialized and even local expertise in exactly this area. The group has already designed EMR systems for a hospital in the north of Haiti, as well as a Haitian medical nonprofit that is similar in size to Lamp. We are now well along in the design phase and are very happy with the responsiveness and capabilities of the programmers. The system will use open source coding (called Open MRS) so that we will have full control of the final product.

Electronic Medical Record systems are priceless for patient care, and of course hugely valuable for such things as impact assessment and reporting. When our new EMR system is completed, later this year, we will have a fully modern, expandable system that can serve us for the next 10 years.

UPDATE: Electronic Medical Records

Lamp refuses to step back, to accept a wait-and-see attitude, no matter what the situation is in Haiti. There are always, we feel, things that can be done to move the organization forward. This year a major project we are undertaking is the complete overhaul of our electronic medical record (EMR) system. As a small struggling nonprofit, Lamp took the unprecedented step of using an EMR way back in 2012. The initial system was simple, designed by a medical student (!), but was a tremendous leap forward in terms of patient care. The system was subsequently upgraded twice. Now, however,

UPDATES!

Lamp for Haiti Annual 5K Run Walk

On April 27, approximately 300 people came out to run, walk, volunteer, or cheer on others at the 4th Annual Lamp for Haiti 5K Run/Walk. The morning was chilly, but that



didn't stop our brave runners and walkers from hitting the pavement for a brisk 3.2 miles starting at the Cherry Blossom Welcome Center. Thank you to all who participated. Special thanks to our DJs, DJ Chinua Unites and DJ Potassium for keeping the music upbeat and lively. Thanks to Whole Foods, Newark for donating water and snacks, and a huge thanks to our



volunteers from Seton Hall's Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE) and volunteers from Montclair High School. We are already planning next year's 5th Annual 5K. **We hope to see you there!**

Summit Avenue Concert

On June 7 the Summit Avenue Concert will again be hosted by Montclair High School Senior Rebecca Shapiro and her family.

Thanks to the Shapiros for all of their efforts!



Hoops for Haiti

Hoops for Haiti is back for its 8th year! Colgate Sophomore Toby Baer who started Hoops when he was just 12 years-old, will once again host the event along with his family at Buzz Aldrin Middle School in Montclair. The 3 on 3 games begin at 9AM and end around 3PM. Gather your teammates and join us for an exciting afternoon of spirited basketball. To register or donate visit www.lampforhaiti.org/Events/Hoops.



Lamp for Haiti Annual Gala and Silent Auction

Tickets go on sale July 1, 2025, for the Lamp for Haiti Annual Gala and Silent Auction. This year's gala is 6PM to 11PM Saturday, November 1 at the Glenridge Women's Club. Sponsorship, table purchase, and tickets will be available. Visit www.lampforhaiti.org for updates and information.



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Staff Highlight: Anglanès Veillard

—BY PROGRAM MANAGER BENOIT FLORESTAL

The theme of Lamp for 2025 is Courage. For myself, I think that Courage could have been Lamp's theme in any year since 2006, when Lamp was formed! Working in Cité Soleil is never easy and often challenging. But it is true that these last five years have been especially difficult, and the situation now, in 2025, is especially challenging. I would like to identify our driver, Mr Anglanès Veillard, as a staff member that has shown exceptional courage. Anglanès has been with Lamp for 14 years. He is an excellent driver and looks after Lamp vehicles with great care. He is also, as the driver,



the person that must talk with gang members every time there is a blockade, the person who must find new routes if the usual ones are blocked, who is most exposed to possible violence because he drives all over town, transporting staff, picking up supplies, visiting schools, and doing the day-to-day work of the organization. He was willing, when his neighborhood was overrun by gangs, to move closer to the Lamp depot and has been available every day to keep Lamp moving forward.

Kenbe fèm, Anglanès! as we say in Kreyol. Stay strong!

