AHDH's Mission Report: Winter 2022

Dear Members, Volunteers & Friends of AHDH & Haiti:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of AHDH, Inc., we take, once more, an immense pleasure to share with you our latest mission report, AHDH’s Winter 2022 Medical & Educational Mission Report, our 79th since 1986, which took place from February 25, 2022 to March 9, 2022.

It was a difficult decision to implement, but after almost a year of being paralyzed by unimaginable odds, we managed, but with quite some frustrations, of which the forced reality we could not bring our usual crowd of multiple specialties to provide the most diverse services for our less fortunate brethren.

We were a team of only 12 volunteers, 12 valiant servants: (photographer, Carl V. not shown)
The bulk of the services were in the ophthalmology division, and you can recognize, on the photo above, the untiring leader of our program, Anika M.MD (orange top), no less untiring colleague, on her right, Ritza E., MD, with their full support team, Shakepspeare S, MD (second from left), and currently interning with us from Fonds des Blancs, two Ophthalmic Technicians (brown bottom and rainbow top), besides Yvrose V. (1st from left) and Nicole V.M.,MD, (brown top),

A total of 47 surgeries (Vs. our usual more than hundred) were performed (44 cataracts, 3 pterygiums), besides 400 + were examined with 275 glasses dispensed.

The crowd, as usual, will not miss the rendez-vous:

In the background, please, note the Outpatients Clinics we are getting closer and closer to complete, the landscape is slowly but surely changing, thanks to all for your support.
So were our team and Operating Room staff:

Dr. Anika M.\textit{(above, left)} assisted by Mrs. Francine N., RN, \textit{(one of our 14 graduates from Université Notre Dame, Jacmel Campus, thanks to all of you again who supported our scholarship program for the cadres of the future)} and Ritza E MD \textit{(below, operating)}

While our Ophthalmic Technicians were busy correcting vision and recruiting cases \textit{for next June (God willing)}:

Shakespeare P., MD, currently doing a fellowship, above left; and above right: Fonds des Blancs’ Ophthalmic Technicians, Makendy, left and Cedoine, on right
With the support team managing the flow: Yvrose V. (below, left, top white, left), and Nicole V.M., MD. (below right, first from right)

Ob-Gyn Clinic, Imaging (ultrasound), NST etc

It was a thrill to, once more, provide care for our patients in the spacious brand new Outpatient Clinics of Hopital St Joseph / Cliniques Externes de l’Hopital St. Joseph, as we had finally adequate space for both consultations, imaging and treatment handy.

We offered consultations to about 30 Ob-Gyn patients (Pregnancies, follow up for Pelvic Organs Prolapse/pessary, fibroids/anemia, hermaphroditism, congenital vaginal septum…etc.) assisted by 3 of our 14 Graduated RNs, while Pelvic & Abdominal ultrasound were right there.

For those familiar with our missions, it will be no surprise that I will mention the presence of Archangel-Volunteer, Mike B., (see photo page 1, 2nd row, behind Dr. Anika M., and page 6 below at the Homage to AHDH function), and his long standing contribution to our missions over the last 20 plus years.

While we also assisted the two Interns doing their one-year-long Social Services, in the use of EKG, ultrasonography etc. Which was quite far from meeting our objectives.
**Power/Electricity:** We can’t go too far without it: Our untiring, **Georges L., Mech. Eng.** *(below and page 1, 2nd from right)* over the last 15 years, never misses a day in HIS field, shedding his light on our mission.

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**EXTRAORDINARY HOMAGE/SURPRISE TO AHDH FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNE (COUNTY) OF LA VALLEE**

Now we would like to share with you an extraordinary, unbelievably grandiose surprise organized by the 2 main Community Organizations AHDH has had the privilege to bring its untiring support to, over the last 35 years, in our efforts to assume our responsibilities to our mother land: Up to 5 minutes before this photo, we **had no clue:**

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Left, Mrs. Vanite B-L, President(CODEM), on the right, Prof. Benoit P., President(CODEVA)
CODEVA (Coude A Coude pour le Développement Valléen):
The first organization we were referred to in June 1987, and we met, what we come to call the 7 giants of La Vallée, who against all adversities, from the dictator of then, built independently their Dispensaire-Hopital and public high school, in 1975: Sis. Josepha (a nun, as president, a lesser threat in the eyes of a dictator), “Prof.” Aubies and Leon Frank (brothers), “Prof.” Arthur and Anicet Laroche (brothers), Mr. Prosper Duré and Mr. Phillipe Jules, a “dynamo”, which we didn’t have a chance to meet at that time, as he was very busy, as a chosen representative of the Community Organization Movements for the whole country, with the preparations of our very first attempt to have free and fair elections in the history of Haiti, which was bloodily disrupted by the army (as usual at the order of foreign interests), which forced him to go in hiding and then to leave the country, where he will die not too long afterward, from surgical complications. (The La Vallée Public high school is named after him),
We had time to enjoy their guidance, their wisdom, as one by one, most of them in their late 90’s and early 100’s, returned to their original home, to that other corner of the majestic universe; except one, “Prof” Leon F., (below, first on right). Honneur et Respect, Prof. Léon!

Thanks God, the AHDH faithful team was present, to survive such a surprise: Left to right: Nicole V.M, MD, Pediatrics; Charles R.; Sandra B-R, RN, Head of OR; Anika M. MD, Director of Ophthalmic program; Michael B. Prof. of Ultrasound, Baton Rouge, LA
Then on behalf of AHDH, we had the honor of receiving the expressions of their gratitude from the CODEVA: Lt to rt: V.P., Mr. Ivrance J.; Mrs. Marie Rose P., Secretary; Mr. Joseph P., Treasurer, Charles R., AHDH’s Tres., Mr. Jean-Baptiste G., MC, Pres. Benoit P. and Mr. Gilbert B.

Then, from CODEM (Comité de Developpemt de Muzac), well-structured group we have more recently joining forces with in their extraordinary efforts to dig 2 dozens of water wells and reservoirs: left, Founder Mrs. Vanite B-L; Mr. Geteau J-B, Pres. Mr. Ange L.; Frantzo L., MD.

Then both, CODEM and CODEVA, got together to acclaim one of the main pillars of AHDH mission, Mme. Sandra B-R, RN, for her 30 yeas of servces to our beloved La Vallée:
Then, as we thought we were at the end of our surprises, another big one was **unveiled**.

(Above, a very touching presence: Dear friend from high school (**60 years ago**), Knox P., (**2nd from right**)

So was the Clergy: Monsignor Content, above, **1st from right**, so instrumental in assisting AHDH, when we embarked on sending to Université Notre Dame Nursing, the best **14 students** from the Lycée P. Jules.
Then a most elegant surprise: Our youth more than ready to fly high with art.

**Outpatient Clinics (OPC) current status:**

For the second time, as our missions have been very problematic with the socio-political unending crisis, we were able to use the new facilities, still incomplete due to the above mentioned, unending crisis whereby commerce is blocked between Port-Au-Prince and the South-East, besides many other departments.

We pursued setting up the supplies and equipment shipped via **container last December.** The final touch… electricity, plumber… still under way and we pray the circumstances will encourage us to bring a near full team, 15-20 volunteers (Vs. 25-30, usually) for our Summer 2022 mission.

**Mission Support Angels (MSA):**

Some of our MSA’s who can’t make it for the mission but dedicate so much effort to its success…medical supplies and equipment, financial support for our meal voucher program, CRNA’s (nurse anesthetist) stipends. We take great pleasure (and pride) for your friendship. A few to mention:

1- **Blessings International** who supports us with special discount for our medicines
2- Nicole V-M., MD
3- Anika M., MD
4- **AND** so many more, for their donations, **prayers and good wishes.**

And to ALL of you, **praiseworthy volunteers**, thank you for your extraordinary accomplishments.

We know you had to sacrifice a lot to be with us –vacation, family obligations, financial resources, you name it - but it is so heartwarming to see that you chose the **Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable** - enhancing a little bit more solidarity across our little fragile blue planet.

There are no words to thank you.
And I am sure you all know HE/SHE is taking ample note of your acts (James 2:20 and Mat. 25:14 on) and His /HER blessings will be visiting you – but most of the time in very subtle ways.

Un grand merci encore à tous !!

Très Cordialement,

Charles
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P.S: Summer 2022 Medical Mission, # 80th: June 24 → July 9, 2022

Please, send us a note ASAP. We have already some solicitations but we will try to accommodate as many as possible, under the current circumstances.
Some preliminary info we obtained:
There will be no flight to take us to PAP from Miami (AA) at an accommodating time, for our charter PAP-JML (Jacmel), except from FLL (Fort Lauderdale, by Jet Blue), where we will have to spend the night of 6/23/202; while there will be no problem to fly back by AA to Miami.
See some of you soon.

GALLERY OF PHOTOS
Courtesy of Carl V. “AHDH’s special photographer”

Jeanne D., RN, one of our graduates from Université Notre Dame, Jacmel Campus, showing a lot of interest in Ophthalmology specialty

Below, 2 pillars of our mission, for decades: from lft: Ritza E., MD, ophthalmo, Luxo P., surgeon
The La Vallee community at large, where each one has pitched in one way or another:

Front row, from left, Theodore P., Engineer, in charge of the construction, his wife (Antonica, behind him); 2nd row: 2nd from right: Gerard P. whom we haven’t even met yet, he was still residing in Maryland, before starting using his retirement home for our mission, with wife, Anne-Marie P., on his right etc etc.
More community pillars: Babite B. (from right, Medical records for years), behind him Roger B., past CODEVA’s President and center white top: Marie-Paule B-G, RN

Lfv, Illfrance T., irreplaceable Orderly for decades and Jeannot D., Archives and Ultrasonography trainee

Former expat. back home, Yolande P.B. and Leon B., so indispensable for translation with our English-only volunteers, for decades.

An Immemorable moment in AHDH’s annals !!!