New Orléans, LA

May 11, 2019

Dear Members, Volunteers & Friends of AHDH & Haiti:

By HIS Grace, we are getting:

Closer… and Closer

And Closer … Closer

To The Finish Line

(Les Cliniques Externes de l’Hôpital St. Joseph, in Ridoré, La Vallée de Jacmel)

This is the overwhelming feeling experienced and expressed by the 43 volunteers and local, last month, who marveled at the perspective of such a challenge closer to the finish line. And understandingly so:
A challenging but passionate history: January 12, 2010, a horrible earthquake hit our beloved Haiti. The week after, AHDH was on the scene, by way of the Dominican Republic: Go to www.AHDHhaiti.org, click on Mission Reports, choose “Spring 2010”. Instead of allowing ourselves to be overwhelmed by the magnitude of such disaster, followed shortly after by the first in centuries epidemic of cholera, we started looking at improving and expanding our commitment to this lofty, strong community of La Vallee de Jacmel, AHDH has committed to partner with 24 years earlier. Our attention was caught right away by the empty lot next to the hospital (below, with the tents we had set up for the arriving cholera patients)

It was not going to be an empty lot for long: By HIS Grace, the acquisition of the land was expedited thanks to: TMCT, Crowley La, Crowley Rotary Club and SFH, Fribourg, Switzerland, who were familiar with our efforts and had before volunteered with us. Then the pro bono expertise of the engineers/architects, children and grandchildren of that community, was mobilized. Some $ figures were

By the time we put ourselves together 1/5 of that amount for the construction, a very generous donator (ED&F, below, white top with AHDH’s Exec. Com) joined AHDH with another 1/5.

(All, names to be inscribed in golden letter in the edifice of Hopital St Joseph…)

By then, we had “le vent en poupe”(energized), and, more effort brought in another 1/5, and by the Spring 2015, we became convinced it can and must happen, as more and more demands of medical services from a whole county of 60,000 without anyone else to count on, we launched:
Slowly, oftentimes painfully, we persevered. The rest is *(almost)* history, as we getting closer to the finish line.
But by HIS Grace, this **spring 2019**, as respecting fully the **more costly anti-seismic** new building norms, the rez-de-chaussée (first floor), is almost completed, and about ready for our Summer 2019 Mission (**#75 since 6/1986**): Ophthalmology, Ob-Gyn, Imaging will get a big relief, and provide dignified healthcare; the second floor, a lot less expensive piece will come if our efforts **continue to enjoy your support. Please, join AHDH.**
Below, the west wing to be completed before our next June mission to be ready for Imaging and Pediatrics

![Image of a west wing]

Please, join AHDH. Be part of real changes for the less fortunate. Bring your support…
http://www.ahdhhaiti.org/donation/(As all the pieces are falling in place: See below, page 18: 10 of our 14 RN graduates from Université Notre Dame/Jacmel, just obtained their State license and ready to roll. Thanks again to sponsors)

After this most important update, please follow us for our:

**AHDH's Mission Report: Winter 2019**

(Version française, après l’anglaise)

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 2019 Medical & Educational Mission Report*, our 74th since 1986, which took place from March 15 thru April 2, 2019

As usual, a real challenge to reflect fully such an infusion of blessings along our humble 32 year old AHDH, as each mission keeps on expanding, by ITS grace, with more and more solidly motivated souls.

This trip, a total of 43 volunteers, spread in Team-1, Team-2, was on the ground to share their blessings with less fortunate than them *(Mat. 25: 15 on...)*

So many talents, so many gifted, generous colleagues and friends of AHDH, how privileged to be in such company!

As usual, we will try to mix a chronological order with specialties activities.

Arrived on Friday March 15, the next evening we were welcomed by the Mayor of the Commune (County) of La Vallée de Jacmel, Mrs. Marie Yolaine D. Scutt *(center, red stripes top)* and staff, as before, offered their help if any need during our mission. Very heartening.
And the CODEVA, AHDH’s partner of the last 32 years, followed suite: With their President, Mr. Benoit Payen, (below, 2nd from left) offering a toast for such a long standing relationship; and staff, VP: Former Mayor Mr. Ivrance Joseph (1st from left), Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Payen, (2nd from right), and Coordinator, Mr. Wilner Boyer, (1st from right)

By Monday, the large, expected crowd was at the rendez-vous, so were we!
Eyes (Ophthalmology):
A great milestone was recorded in AHDH’s Annals: Under the leadership, and extraordinary fund raising efforts, of Dr. Anika M. (below red scrub), the Eye OR was doubled, during our Fall 2018 Mission, allowing now 3-4 surgeries to take place concomitantly, vs. 2. And a brand new generator, to power all our delicate machinery and a second AC unit were acquired.
In just one week, **672 patients** were seen at the clinics, **89 surgery (mostly cataract) cases** performed **400 pairs** of **new reading glasses** and **brand new distance glasses**, dispensed; Extraordinary team effort, with visiting local colleague, Dr. Ritza E.Cadet, (**first row, 1st from left**) and 3 residents; volunteer MDs: Ninita B. and Salman A. (**2nd row, 2nd and 3rd from left**), and Optometrist Monica T. (**1st from right**), and visiting support team: Nancy M.; Paola S.M, Yvrose V. Michelle I.G, MD, (**1st row, from left, 3rd to 6th**), and Peter V. Pharmacy, (**2nd row, 1st from left**), and residents from UEH.
And expectedly, the results: Quite a few visions happily restored:

Few highlights: Salman A. MD, and “Senior Angel”, Yvrose V., screening patient for surgery

And surgery is just downstairs:
And many “satisfied “customers”: (below)

While Residents from UEH, are getting trained: Under the leadership of Dr. Ritza E. C. (below left)

And our graduated RN, Narline F, (below flower top), being trained in eye exam by Optometrist. Monica T.

Yet, we had to postpone several critical patients because of our technical limitations. But, help was on the way, another milestone in our efforts: After years of frustrations, after losing a rare opportunity in 2004 with University of Tennessee to have a solid Biomed engineering presence in our system, a native son of La Vallée, met during our Fall 2018 Mission, with expertise in Bio-Med, has promised and kept his word to join us this mission trip: In a matter of hours our 4 Operative Microscopes were back in action (see photo above, pg. 6): Eng. Leonard Valentin (below, left) rushed to the scene and
made it possible to secure at last 89 eye surgeries mentioned above (pg. 7) accompanied with his colleagues, from ServiMed, Elysee V. and Pierre S.,

Merci anpil encore Leonard. Grand maître la ap béli nou.

Satellite Clinics: As usual we shared our blessings: Our ophthalmo, dental and internal medicine services were dispatched to the communities of Cayes-Jacmel (below right, our “Junior Angel, Dr. Allena W. K, DDS)

And La Montagne, under the leadership of our colleague (classmate), Dr. Michelle I.G. reaching out to her good friend’s community, Olga L.J. (red top), with 2 “Junior Angels”, Paola (2nd row, red bottom) and Monica T: optometrist, on right.
Back to our main campus, Hopital St Joseph, Ridoré, a lot of angles were to be covered:

**Main OR:** General surgeries 24, Gynecologic surgeries: 1

Once more we were blessed with a strong staff of surgeons, CRNs and RNs, all “Senior Angels”: Marie M. LF, MD *(below left)*, Djhon S.C, MD, *(below right, center)*, Victor K. MD, *(2nd row left)*, and Louis P., MD, and our “Junior Angel”, Michele E. A. MD, Anesthesio, *(below, 2nd row, right)*
Our “Senior angels” dedicated Scrub RN, Diane L-C, *(above left)* and Circulating RN, Sandra B.R. *(below left)* on her 52(?) mission, the mother of all volunteers, were at the rendez-vous. Our beloved, “old reliable” CRNAs were once more on board: *(below right)*: Nadeige D., *(on left)* and Stehanie P. *(on right)*

**Below:** How to free a farmer from an incapacitating hydrocele.

*Remember, little miracles go a long way also...in the national production.*

**Pre-op & Recovery Room:** It was particularly rewarding to finally harvest the fruit of AHDH’s investment in our RN education project at Université Notre Dame d’Haiti (Jacmel). It was pure delight to see them fitting in the plan. They are very professional and above all eager to continue to learn: We can’t wait for the time when the Outpatient Building with its educational component will be implemented: **Thanks again all of you who sponsored those youngsters.**
Cristella J., (below left), Soline N. (below, right, red top), and Scrub Tech Francoise D (1st from left)

See more about them on page 17

PHARMACY:

With Team-1: It was a delight to have back “Senior Angels”, Susan V., Pharma, (below left) with Med. Studend Jessica W.) and husband, Peter V., (below right) which you have a better chance to find in Eye OR, who organized the medicines obtained once more thanks to the support from Blessings International, MAP, Patio’s Drugs and many others

With Team-2, we were blessed once more by the presence of Sharonjit S., Pharma, who picked up where Susan had left and helped us have a complete inventory toward our Summer 2019 Mission (see pg.19).

DENTISTRY:  Even though her stay with us was of short duration, but a dynamo “Junior Angel”, Allena K. covered a lot of ground, including symbolically with her tee-shirt of the Haitian flag: Below left, on left, at Cayes-Jacmel, with returning expatriate, translator par excellence, Yoland P.B., on her right, and also (below right) with Jessica W., Med Student, we have praised many times before
…and bonding in no time with everyone: Here, below left with Nun Bertha, Principal of the Nuns Catholic school, and colleague Dentist, Dr. Patrick St.G, (below right).

Translators: And as we are at it with our translators, we would like to lower our hat down to a “Junior Angel” of our mission, who made it from snowy Boston: Marly M., (below, left center), assisting ophthalmo, Dr. Ninita B.
**PEDIATRICS, Internal Medicine/Family Practice:**

Once more, we were blessed to welcome the Ohio group, in the person of Co-Coordinator of the trip, Angela A.H., MD, what we have to call the initiators of the **Ohio Frontiers**. She was accompanied with Hwang, Jessica H.M., Med. student (*mentionned above, pg.14*), and Paola S.M, also mentioned (*above, pg.10*)

We missed our first Ohian, **Anisa S., MD**, but we understand she has to take a brake and she send us some strong replacements:

Who knows how to keep her little patient smiling. Despite the large crowd:

Dr. Angela, now “Senior Angel”, has been investing every minute of herself to see the children, the future of La Vallée and Haiti. Thanks Angela you are definitely leaving a strong legacy in HIS fields.

While “Senior Angel”, Ped. Dr. Nicole V.M., quietly acting in the background
With Team-2, under the leadership of Dr. Paul-douard T., an unrelenting supporter of AHDH’s mission for a good decade now, while in practice at HAS (hopital Albert Schweizer) in the Artibonite region. (See below, pg. 19, with Team-2)

OB_GYN: Team-1 and Team-2:
Tens of patients were seen (with 52 Pap; EMB, colpo-biopsies), 1 surgical case
As the crowd was also at the rendez-vous (below, left), we had nothing to worry about, as we were once more blessed with help:

With Team-1, we were particularly blessed to have our former resident (Tulane University) Emily C.MD., (below left, 1st from left) adulated by our recent RN graduates, and licensed since our return: From left, Jeanne D., Head Nurse, Francine N, and Rosena N.
But keeping her in the OB-Gyn area was not easy, as her surgical curiosity soon took her to the Main OR, (below left) where she enjoyed assisting Dr. Victor K., General Surgeon, (below right ) relieving the many cases of hernia, hydrocele. Great job, Dr. Emily C. Welcome back anytime.

With Team-2, we will be blessed also to have back Barbara M., NP/Ob-GYN, who brought this time daughter Amelia, a strong aficionada of nature protection and friend Carole also a PA.

ENGINEERS: (see BioMed engineers, pg. 11 above also).
Georges L., Mechanical Engineer, is familiar to the regular readers of our mission reports. We need to go above “Senior Angel” now; we should give him the title of “Archangel”, for having fought all the battles with us over this past decade and half. We don’t move without his electric orders, so do our generators.

AHDH’s RN Education Program update:
We take an immense pleasure to share with you, of our 14 RN Graduates from Université Notre Dame d’Haiti/Jacmel campus, by the time of our last mission, 5 more had been successful with the reputedly tough Haitian State Nursing Licensing Exam, which brings them now to 10 now ready for employment. Those of you dear supporters of that program, you will be forever blessed, as you open the best avenue a youngster can ever dream of, having a proud profession and that they have dreamed of. They were all along working along our visiting medical professionals: Below: Narline F. with Monica T., Opto. As all along our RN graduates are well present and well engaged on serving their community.
Jeanne D. (below red top), Victoire P. on the right, with Carole H, PA, below right, Cristella J, green top

Again: *Remember there is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates ripple effect with no logical end.*

**Team-2:**
We have touched above on many contributions of Team-2 volunteers to the success of our 75th mission, but it is necessary to go to a special section as their contributions, despite their small number,, (10) were most varied and with a lot of community impact.

Surrounding the last surviving elder of the village, “Professor Leon” white cap, we met back in 1987: 1st row rom left: Bernel D. (environmentalist), “Professor” Leon,2nd row: from left: Sharonjit S. Pharm., Fritzia D., RN, on Clinical Rotation from Les Cayes, Anastasia L. EMT/PA, Barbara M. PA, Amelia M. Environment; Carole H., PA, and Paul Edouard T., MD, below right
After sending off Team-1, we readily embarked on the 2nd week activities of #75. 
And ready were they. So were our RN graduates, shadowing them for English and medical proficiency:

At the **Ob-Gyn Clinic**, Carole H. and Anastasia L., supported by our RNs (Victoire P., on left, and Jeanne D., red top), and visiting RN, Fritizia D., we pursued our Cervical Dysplasia/Cancer detection and follow up program, as we screened with ultrasonography all the Ob patients, some of them requiring surgery, but referred to Jacmel as we had no more anesthesia coverage.

On the **Internal Medicine** and **Pediatrics** front, Barbara M., NF-F (*below, left, evaluating our Elder*) teamed up with Dr. Paul E. T. (*below right*) to handle the challenges. One case in particular is a 2 months old baby with shutting down kidneys, then diagnosed with a posterior urethral valve and sent to a specialist in PAP, underwent since corrective surgery, as AHDH didn’t hesitate a minute to shoulder some of the fee (we thank again those of you who supported us with your **Mission Support** donations).
It was also an opportunity for Barbara to receive the visit of friends from the Cap-Haitian area (North, of Haiti) she had worked with in past years (below left) while developing new ones, (below right) with our RN from les Cayes en Clinical Rotation.

As mentioned above, 2 volunteers of Team-2 have a special sensibility/expertise for the environment, Amelia M. (center left) and Bernel D. (center, right).

AHDH had therefore made arrangements with local agronomists, two of which are pictured below: Hypolite on left and Stevenson M., on right. They visited quite a few sites,
…in relation to beehives (apiculture) project (below, left), artificial lake (lacs collinaires) for pisciculture, where the potentials are above the current reality: A cooperative of the young generation for honey and animal(fish) protein production, and exportation to other areas of Haiti.

While the rest of the team had time to keep up with their Yoga pratice or just relaxing

AHDH & CODEVA, Meeting: "Then it was time, beyond the toasts, to move to our formal business meeting with our privileged partners over the last 32 years. We reviewed the challenges and implementations regarding Outpatient Clinics progress: President (7 o’clock), VP (5 o’clock), Treasurer (1 o’clock); Secretary (11 o’clock); Elder Adviser (9 o’clock), Moderator (8 o’clock)
We went thru an assessment of the progress of the system since a new Executive Committee was elected almost a year ago, and the evolution of the constructions. We are by and large satisfied with their determination to have the hospital providing more services and raised some reasonable funds and become less and less dependent on external support, but the constructions need quite some help. (See pg.4)

**AHDH & HEARTGIFT: New Orleans**

Since 2012, AHDH has entered into an extraordinary relationship with the US organization based in Austin, TX, HearGift.

It occurred almost by accident, or so do we, very limited human beings, believe: During our routine Summer 2011 medical mission at Hopital St Joseph, we came across a 7 years old girl with a heart murmur, diagnosed shortly afterward with Tetralogy of Fallot, then one of our volunteers (Dr. Suzan J., Ob-Gyn), suggested she will talk to her neighbor in New Orleans, a cardiac surgeon and, as they say, the rest is history…

Since, we have sponsored 4 children, the latest this past month, from Gonaives, Keller R. P, who left us yesterday morning with his Tetralogy of Fallot corrected.

And, hold your breath, an interesting twist took place: The participation of AHDH and the rest of the Haitian New Orleans community to that program was put to the test when a 15 months old girl from Burkina Faso, Boushra K., needed a sponsoring home. It was not that difficult: For the 4th time, a home was waiting for them at AHDH’s Past-President’s, Drs. Yvelyne G. and Henry Mc.C., (below left) and yesterday (below 2nd row) she had her heart surgery and is doing fine.
Back to Haiti: Colonial Jacmel:
As both teams had a chance to do some sightseeing together, we decided this year to visit colonial Jacmel. And have lunch with an expat, Georges B., Chef, who just opened Auberge du Vieux Port. Congrats Georges, see you in June.
And being spoiled by Ange and Vanitte L. for dinner.

You are no more just ordinary people, when you are doing such extraordinary things!!

**Mission Support Angels: MSA:** Another category of “Angels”, those 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 etc. We take great pleasure (and pride) for your friendship. A few to mention:

1-Alcon: Our ophthalmology performance (hundreds of cataract surgeries) would not have been possible without you. Thank you so much.
2-Patio’s Drugs who offered us special discounts
3-Blessings International who offered us a special discount; and
4- MAP International
5- Nicole V.M., MD.
6- Jackie L.
7- Angela A-H, MD
8- AND so many more, for their 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 is taking ample note of your acts (James 2:20 and Mat. 25:14 on) and His blessings will be visiting you – but most of the time in very subtle ways.

**Un gros merci encore à tous !!**

Très Cordialement,

Charles
(Charles René, M.D., F.A.C.O.G
Co-Founder, Treasurer, Director of Projects in Haiti
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**P.S: Summer 2019 Medical Mission, # 75:**

Team-1: June 21 – June 29 OR 30, and 
Team-2: June 29 thru July 6

Please, HURRY, call or send a note AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you intend to join, as we have Team-1 about full, before this report is even out: 28 already have registered, but we can accommodate some for Team-2
Please, help us get better and better organized by registering early.

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Version française

La Nouvelle-Orléans,

Le 11 mai 2019

Chers Membres, Volontaires et Amis de l'AHDH et d’Haïti :

Un gros Bonjour !


Remplie de défis, mais, sous la protection du Tout-Puissant, réussie.

Difficile de trouver un mot qui puisse englober l’entièreté de cette dernière tournée médicale: Tant de talents, de bienfaits, d’humanisme, tout a contribué à en faire une autre mission très mémorable.

A partir de ce paragraphe, vu les difficultés techniques à insérer toutes les photos déjà présentées ci-dessus, on va compter sur l’indulgence des rares lecteurs qui ont des difficultés avec l’anglais, de nous faire signe pour la traduction française.

Cordialement,

Charles

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Gallery of Photos:
Thanks a million Carl, Gaele, Carole, Weber, Nicole, Carole

But Gaele was not just behind her camera (she is working a video to come out soon)
In Eye OR.

PELE-MELE

Newly happily licenced

Ceux de demain: The future
Ceux encore avec nous: Elder Leon, hanging with us and Claude V. a strong supporter of our missions

RN graduates with visitors at La Montagne Clinic
Ninita did so much: A pearl of “Junior Angel”,

Happy with her new glasses
On the road to La Montagne clinic seeking health
Silent support, but very valuable

Untiring “Senior Angel”, Yvrose,

Auberge du Mont St. Jean

Room with a view!

Swimming...
On the road, the healthy old fashion way

Enjoying the view of Jacmel Bay
anxious but caring dad

Eyes full of life (deserving to be preserved)

Bonding by all ages.
Bonding with older sister

Future of Haitian music in the making
Colonial Jacmel, the beautiful lady awaiting a revitalized tomorrow
Ridoré open market