

# MATH News

Winter 2018  
Issue 6

M E D I C A L A I D T O H A I T I

Helping Haitians Heal Haitians

## DISHPAN HANDS...

I hate washing dishes, but I spent the past two days doing just that as one of many volunteers at the 2018 Craft Festival and Marketplace, in West Hartford, CT - where over \$15,000 was raised for MATH!



This wonderful event, in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, is organized by MATH boosters extraordinaire Audrey Byrnett and Lorri Chapman and graciously hosted and supported by the St. Peter Claver Church community. This year's crowd was the largest yet and it was heartening to hear – from exhibitors and attendees alike – that they love to participate because it helps MATH to fulfill its mission to *help Haitians heal Haitians*.

A very special thank you to the many volunteers, donors and patrons, who helped to make this, and all MATH events, successful. And thank you to my wife, Eileen, and daughter, Caroline, for helping me do the dishes.

*Rick Thibadeau, President & Founder of MATH*

## One Boy's Journey



As the November 2017 mission team was awaiting departure at the airport in Port-au-Prince for the return flight home, a mission team from Calvary Chapel in Brighton, Colorado,

approached us to discuss the plight of a young Haitian boy, John Olivier, who for past 2 years has endured the pain and disfigurement caused by a large tumor on his jaw.



Calvary inquired if MATH could assist in finding medical / surgical support back in the US. Miraculously, Dr. Stuart Lieblich, DMD, Clinical Professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University of Connecticut and Avon Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, was a first-time team member on this particular medical mission trip.

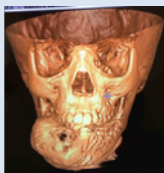
Since that chance meeting at the airport a year ago, Dr. Lieblich has worked with Calvary and Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) to devise a plan of treatment for John Olivier and their efforts are coming to fruition.

- Mr. Barclay Stuart of Calvary coordinated the passports/visas and obtained funding for travel, food, and lodging expenses for John Olivier and his father, Jean Olivier, to come to CT. They arrived safely in Connecticut on Sunday, 18 Nov 2018.
- Marjana Avidiaj, is providing housing for 2 week and Maggie Levasseur has provided warm clothing.
- CCMC will cover the costs of anesthesia, radiology, pathology, etc. and the use of the hospital for surgery.
- Dr. Lieblich will perform the surgery *pro bono*.



Dr. Stu Lieblich and John Olivier

As this newsletter goes to print, Dr. Stu Lieblich has completed pre-op procedures and surgery is scheduled for Wednesday, 21 Nov 2018. As you read this newsletter, we hope the surgery is over, recovery is quick and that this is the best Christmas gift for John Olivier and his family.



3-D Scan

## IN MY OWN WORDS

Victor Dowling | BOD Member



Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, but when I travelled there with a group of Haitian and US medical professionals led by Dr. Michael Bourque, I saw the optimism of these most resilient people. After a daunting 12-hour bus ride from the airport in Port-au-Prince, our team arrived in the fishing village of Dame Marie. The enthusiastic and dedicated MATH volunteers represent hope and healing to this isolated community. Indeed, the locals, some of whom have never seen a doctor, line up seeking help even before we unload and set up the operating rooms with the supplies needed for a week of surgeries. Since my background is non-medical, I was given the role as helper and doing whatever was necessary.

Work commences with the collaboration of surgeons, anesthesiologists, surgical technicians, nurses and helpers. The MATH motto, "Helping Haitians to Heal Haitians" is on full display here at Hôpital de la Communaute Dame-Marienne (Community Hospital of Dame-Marie), and a spirit of camaraderie pervades the pre-op, operating rooms and post-op areas.

On this, my first mission trip, I witnessed the life-changing work performed by a MATH medical team in Haiti. Operating, collaborating, giving and caring – all provide a ray of hope here for the poorest of the poor. Your support, both financially and spiritually, are greatly appreciated and are the foundation of the care MATH provides. I am forever grateful to Dr. Bourque for his commitment and leadership to such a meaningful cause.

*Thank you to Bouvier Insurance, Joyce Lagnese and Family and our GoFundMe donors for continuing support of Saving Mothers in Dame-Marie*

**668 Natural Deliveries**

**82 Emergency Cesarean Deliveries**

**5,239 Prenatal Visits**

*Thank you to all our donors for their continuing support of our Dame-Marie and Port-au-Prince projects to provide improved and sustainable care to over*

**25,000**

**Save the Dates**

**Sunday, 03 February 2019 – Winter White Party**

**Saturday, April 27, 2019 – CT Walks for Haiti ([www.ctwalksforhaiti.org](http://www.ctwalksforhaiti.org))**

## More Power to HCDM



2018 has seen Hôpital de la Communaute Dame-Marienne (Community Hospital of Dame-Marie) continue to upgrade and improve the building and utilities.

In May 2018, the mission team was surprised and pleased to find that Monsieur Pierre Antoine found funds to implement suggested changes to the Pre-Op and Post-Op rooms for patient privacy. Patient comfort has been improved as well with the installation of air conditioning units.



In November 2018, thanks to the generosity of Joyce Lagnese and family, new solar panels and a more powerful generator were installed improving the reliability of the power supply.



We also learned that USAID would be funding additional building improvements, including a new water well. This grant was based in part on the support of MATH in helping to create an environment for sustainable health care.

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### Medical Capital Equipment Wish List (New or Refurbished)

- Digital Radiography System
- Dental Operatory Package
- Dental Digital Radiography

**Please remember to choose  
Medical Aid to Haiti Inc. (West Hartford)  
when purchasing on Amazon Smile**

### Calendar

#### 2019 Upcoming Events

Winter White Party – Sunday, 03 February  
CT Walks for Haiti – Saturday, 27 April

#### 2019 Mission Trips

##### **Dame-Marie**

February 23 – March 02  
May 11 – 18  
September 14 – 21  
November 09 – 16

##### **Port-au-Prince**

March 02 – 09  
May 18 – 25  
September 21 – 28  
November 16 – 23

## Notes from the Field



As we go into year 5 of our partnership with Centre Medico-Chirurgical du Quartier (CMCQ - Neighborhood Medical-Surgical Center), the reputation of quality health care is spreading and patient visits have increased to 20,000.

In March, a team of medical professionals from Trinity Health Of New England – St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center visited CMCQ to work with their counterparts. The following excerpts are from their trip report.



L-R: Jean-Bernard Pierre (Translator), Angele Chagnon, Dr. Emerson Cantave



L-R: Suzanne Almada, Karen Grouten, Stephanie Macius, Joel Exavier (Translator)

#### *Angelique Chagnon, Ultrasound Technician*

- Dr. Gilbert Wilken's clinic serves many of the people within the neighborhood, the town and also from afar. He is a man with much honor and passion for his country of Haiti and also has much compassion helping to heal his fellow people.
- Dr. Emerson Cantave is very knowledgeable and each patient receives a high quality of care. He is skilled in obstetrical ultrasound and taught me various scanning techniques and protocols with the OB patients.
- This experience was wonderful, enlightening and exposed me to Haiti's culture and medical practice. It was interesting to learn of our similarities and differences.

#### *Karen Grouten, Laboratory Technician*

- Dr. Wilkens and staff work very hard for the people of Haiti and improving their health care. His passion and enthusiasm for growing the services offered to his patients is commendable.
- Suzanne Almada and Stephanie Macius are competent and reliable lab technicians who work together and I have the utmost respect for their technical work.
- This experience offered the opportunity to observe and assess the laboratory practices and it was extraordinary to find out that even though we come from different backgrounds and different cultures, our goal in the medical laboratory is to provide valuable information to the MD, so that they may be able to better treat the patient at hand.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Development** – Fundraising for a charitable organization takes a special kind of person, and we desperately need that person. If you have Development experience – especially at the Board level – we'd love to have you on our team.

**Grant Writer** – Grants are one of the most abundant and potential sources of funds for MATH, yet we're only scratching the surface. We're looking for an experienced grant writer to solicit grant-making organizations on behalf of MATH.

**Marketing** – Brochures, newsletters and social media updates convey our mission to prospective donors. If you are creative and have experience in desktop publishing, copy writing, web design and social media savvy, we need your skill.

### **TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER, ADVOCATE OR FOLLOW US:**



Medical Aid to Haiti, Inc.  
80 South Main Street | West Hartford, CT 06107  
To donate or for more information, please call 860-760-7009  
or visit us at [www.medicalaidtohaiti.org](http://www.medicalaidtohaiti.org)



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