

GREETINGS FROM HAITI

Dear Friends,

As I write this note from Haiti, I'm happy to report that MATH's Projects, both in Dame-Marie and Port-au-Prince, are thriving as we strive in our mission to *Help Haitians Heal Haitians*. Anne D'Orvilliers, MATH's Chair, and I were here to meet with Dr. Wilkens Gilbert, our Haitian Medical Director, for an annual review and assessment of our projects.

Shortly after arriving in Haiti, I was joined by a MATH team led by Dr. Michael R. Bourque that was returning from a surgical mission in Dame-Marie and heading back to the US the following morning. We had a chance to have dinner together and I was fortunate to witness their mission de-brief. As is always the case with MATH teams, I was moved by their mutual respect, camaraderie and compassion. These volunteers pay their own travel expenses, use personal vacation time and are subject to tough conditions and a grueling schedule. They are amazing people and they are saving lives in Haiti!

We have exciting news on the Port-au-Prince front – Dr. Wilkens Gilbert has begun construction of a medical-surgical clinic in the hills of Marlique, south of the city. This fall, the current Marlique mobile clinic site will move to this location. Eventually, a permanent clinic will be established and we hope to grow this site into a full-fledged hospital with surgical and trauma capabilities.

As MATH continues to grow and evolve, I make the plea once again for volunteers to help us make a difference in the lives of some of the most desperate people on earth. We need volunteers with Marketing, Development, and Grant Writing experience to join us at the Board and Committee level.

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers, and to those giving consideration to joining our organization.

Rick Thibadeau, President & Founder of MATH

IN MY OWN WORDS

Nancy Cocchiola | Marketing-Development

A favorite saying of my grandmother was, "You can't put an old head on young shoulders." However, it seems that is not always true. Following the 2010 devastation in Haiti, my young granddaughters made and sold refrigerator magnets to aid Haiti and raised \$1,500!



Learning from them, and after hearing Dr. Michael R. Bourque speak at the *Rochelle Bard and Friends* concert to benefit Haiti, I knew I wanted to become involved with MATH.

MATH sends US-based medical teams to Haiti several times a year, and funds a full-time neighborhood clinic that also serves five mobile clinic sites around Port-au-Prince and a full-time Haitian OB-GYN and anesthesiologist in Dame-Marie, with a population of 40,000 that previously did not have access to these services. These teams and clinics also employ Haitians, which in turn helps them to provide an overall better quality of life for their communities.

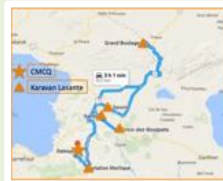
I hope you will join us at MATH in *Helping Haitians Heal Haitians*, so that like me, you will experience a sense of purpose, joy and commitment. When we put our hands, heads and hearts together, we make it easier for others to shoulder their burden.

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CMCQ Moving Forward



While many Haitian medical professionals are leaving Haiti, Dr. Wilkens Gilbert, Medical Director and Surgeon, and the staff of Centre Medico-Chirurgical du Quartier (Neighborhood Medical-Surgical Clinic) (CMCQ) are dedicated to staying in Haiti to provide health care to the some of the most vulnerable of the population.



CMCQ resides in Port-au-Prince at 60 Delmas with Karavan Lasante mobile clinic visiting five villages around Port-au-Prince – Grand Boulage, Marlique, Croix-des-Bouquets, Lilavois and Santo.

Patient visits have increased to 17,000 annually with laboratory / ultrasound / medication services provided. A long-term goal is to add much-needed surgical services here, which will also more fully utilize Dr. Wilkens' skills and talents.

Towards this goal in August 2017, Dr. Wilkens started construction of a new clinic on land belonging to his family in Marlique, a community of ~70,000. The property overlooks Pétionville and the airport. The design is envisioned to be 5-levels built into the mountainside with examination rooms for OB-GYN, pediatrics and primary care, surgical units, laboratory and pharmacy.

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2018 Volunteer Appreciation



Do you buy on Amazon?

Do you know the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice?
Go to smile.amazon.com for your shopping and please choose Medical Aid to Haiti Inc. (West Hartford).

...continued from front side



View from site in Marlique



5-level design

The first and most essential construction phase, the building of a reservoir to capture and supply the clinic with rainwater, has been completed. Local villagers manually dug two 10 cubic-meter holes and poured the cement walls. These reservoirs under the 4th level hold approximately 10,000 liters of water each.



10 cubic-meter reservoir in progress

Two buildings have been constructed for storing of materials and construction of the back wall for each level is underway. The 1st level building is planned to open in September for the mobile clinic.



Initial construction of levels 1-2-3-4 into mountainside



Construction and outfitting will move forward as funds become available. If you are interested in finding out more about the plans or can help, please contact us.

Good Nutrition Supports Good Health



In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew devastated Dame-Marie. The lush foliage and food crops were destroyed and the main animal proteins of chickens, goats, pigs, fish and seafood disappeared, leaving the population dependent on international and national food distribution.

To assist in the regeneration of crops, over 6,000 packets of seeds have been donated through the charitable program of the Chas. C. Hart Seed Co. in Wethersfield, CT, and hand-carried by the mission teams to Dame-Marie in May 2017, and February and May 2018*.

A variety of assorted vegetables, ranging from beans to Swiss chard, eggplant to onions, tomatoes to watermelon, as well as herbs and flowers, have been distributed to the communities of Dame-Marie and *Port-au-Prince. Many of the seeds are on the list of crops that grow best in the climate of Haiti (<http://gardeningww.org/haiti-gardens.html>).



During the February 2018 mission trip to Dame-Marie, Pierre Antoine, our main contact, escorted Anne D'Orvilliers to the community of Montagnac, for distribution of the latest donation of seed packs. This Dame-Marie community on the highest mountain in Haiti grows a majority of the crops for the surrounding area and it was heartening to see fields of cabbage under cultivation.



Post-Hurricane Matthew 2016



Cabbage crop early February 2018



Gathering of Montagnac Community Leaders for distribution of seeds



Sadly during the May mission trip, we learned there was a drought from the end of February to the beginning of May 2018 and several crops were once again lost. We hope Mother Nature will be kind in the coming months and the latest donation of seeds will aid the villagers in replenishing food and moving forward.

Calendar

2018 Mission Trips

Dame-Marie

February 3 – 11
May 19 – 26
September 8 – 15
November 3 – 10

Port-au-Prince

February 11 – 18
May 26 – June 2
September 15 – 22
November 10 – 17

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

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