

Happy New Year

Dear Friends,

I've never before been excited for a year to end, but I know many of us look forward to better times in the not too distant future. Prophetically, I heard this same sentiment during my first visit to Haiti while conversing with a remarkable elderly Haitian woman; I wish I could remember her name. I was one of a team of volunteers conducting mobile medical clinics in and around Port-au-Prince (the genesis of MATH), and she was a respected matriarch in her community. I was amazed by her optimism and grace. Clearly, she had lived a life of hardship and material poverty, but her message to me (through an interpreter) was that with perseverance and faith, we will get through our difficulties and the future will be better than today.

Health care is fundamental to a better future in Haiti. This issue of our newsletter brings good news of the expanding medical staffs and services at our clinics and hospitals. The photos and statistics show concrete progress in achieving MATH's mission: *Helping Haitians Heal Haitians*.

Charitable donations to MATH have decreased significantly since most of us are, justifiably, focused on the domestic health crisis. Will you please help us reverse this? Your continued partnership through donations ensures that tomorrow will be better than today for the Haitians we serve. Thank you for your consideration.

Happy New Year to us all.

Rick Thibadeau, President & Founder of MATH



IN MY OWN WORDS

Ken Messier | Mission Team / Medical Committee Volunteer



The island of Haiti has been part of my life since delivering 125 donated wheelchairs to St. Vincent's Children's Hospital and Orphanage in Santo 17, Port-au-Prince, in 1998. On that trip with a West Hartford mission group, I was introduced to the resilience and courage of the Haitian people. In 2010, Dr. Michael Bourque, a longtime friend (and fellow Eagle Scout back in the 60's) invited my wife, Kathy, a pharmacist, to join a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, and I accompanied her to the informational meeting at St. Francis Hospital. There Dr. Mike and I discussed our mutual interests in mission efforts and Haiti, and he invited me to join the trip as a "general helper".

In 2011, Dr. Mike's group began the search for a permanent destination for mission trips and selected Hôpital de la Communauté Dame-Marienne (HCDM) in Dame-Marie. The people of this fishing village on the southwestern tip of Haiti had minimal medical care and no surgical services. With a background in Health Care Management and mission experience, I was then asked to be part of the reconnaissance team to Dame-Marie where the goal was to restore the hospital in preparation for restarting surgical services. There was also a need to set up housing for the visiting mission teams.

The first surgical team members stayed in the vacant family home of Pierre Antoine, Dame-Marie administrator. Since then the house has been improved to better shelter mission teams with conveniences such as a generator, new mattresses, fresh paint, window screens, running water and showers. The hospital, too, has had dramatic improvements with upgraded surgical suites, pre- and post-op rooms, labor & delivery areas, and clinic areas that can see over 100 patients daily.

Most mission members are medical professionals, but as a "general helper" I had various tasks from repairs to construction. In time, I was able to triage clinic patients. My role on these trips is concluding, but the mission teams can almost always use a "general helper". It is a unique, non-medical means of supporting mission teams and caring for the Haitian people. If this might interest you, please contact me at medicalaidtohaiti@gmail.com or leave a message at 860-760-7009.

Thank you, Ken and Kathy, for your years of volunteering in support of those in need.

2021 Calendar

Events

Virtual events are under consideration.

If you have skills in this area and would like to help, please contact MATH at medicalaidtohaiti@gmail.com

Mission Trips

Resumption of trips is unknown at this time.



Maternal Health Care (MHC)

2020 Monthly Average

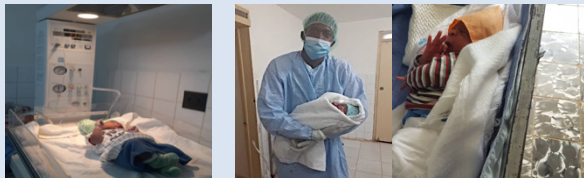
200 OB/GYN Consultations
12 Medically-Attended Childbirths
6 Emergency Cesarean Sections

In 2020, Hôpital de la Communauté Dame-Marienne (HCDM) welcomed Adler Bonange, MD (OB/GYN), Jean Louis Judson, MD (OB/GYN), and Love Génie Jean-Baptiste, CRNA, to the MHC team. Services and plans for expansion continue with the oversight of Jean-Claude Beneche, MD (OB/GYN and consultant) and veteran team member Esther Antoine-Dardignac, MD (anesthesiologist).

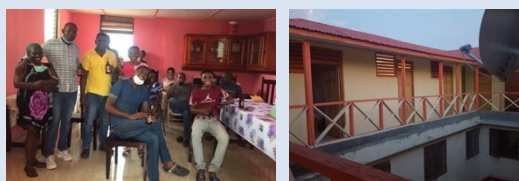


- *GYN Surgical Services* – limited only by the availability of blood.
- *Infant Warming Station* – now functional.
- *Pediatrician* – limited only by lack of funding.
- *Cervical Cancer Screening* – on-site service under discussion.

- *ICU with Neonatal Services* – to be completed in successive stages over the next 1-2 years.
- *Staff Training* – ongoing; recent topics included CPR, newborn resuscitation and pre-operative preparation.
- *Community Awareness* – radio programs announcing available services, and educating on signs of high-risk pregnancies; advantages of medical support; family planning, etc.



HCDM is growing into a center of excellence for the people they serve, thanks to Pierre Antoine, our partner in Haiti, and Dr. Dasny Mackenson, HCDM Medical Director, who, with the administrative and technical staff, find solutions to the external environmental limitations (inconsistent fuel supply, unpredictable blood supply, road blockages, delayed receipt of supplies).



HCDM Staff in Gathering Room on the New Staff Residence Floor

40' Container of Supplies Supports Projects

Donated anesthesia / medical / surgical supplies and equipment were packed for shipment in September. Thank you to Barbara Bourque RN, Anne D'Orvilliers, Maggie Levasseur RN, Toby McPherson-Belanger CRNA, Jeani O'Neill RN, and Valerie Rossetti MD. Thank you also to MoveAll / Navis Pack & Ship for their assistance; and the teams in Haiti who unloaded and transported items to the hospitals and clinics.



Please remember to choose
Medical Aid to Haiti Inc. (West Hartford)
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4757226>



**Consider boosting your giving power by 15%
 by donating to MATH in 2021 through
 Birdies for Charities --
 Opening in early 2021 until 27 July 2021**

Surgery and MHC Progress



2020 Monthly Average
 500 Patient Visits
 300 OB / GYN Consultations
 12 Medically-Attended Childbirths
 4 Emergency Cesarean Sections
 20 General Surgery



MATH is proud of the staff at Centre Medico-Chirurgical du Quartier (CMCQ) who early on instituted a COVID-19 protocol and remained open to safely serve those in need in the areas of Delmas 60, Marlique, Croix-des-Bouquets, Lilavois and Santo.

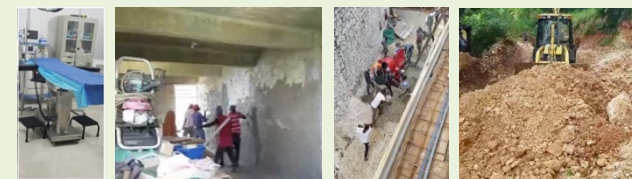


Our Haitian partner, Dr. Wilkens Gilbert, has devoted his career to improving medical care for those in need in his country. Through his devoted efforts, and with MATH, his family, and community support, Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne (HBLM) now provides general surgical services two days a week in the "Kathy Aries" operating rooms, greatly improving the health of patients, and emergency Cesarean Sections for maternal and infant survival and well-being.



CMCQ welcomed Dr. Daniel Jean as the new OB /GYN, and Josee Ladouceur CRNA and OR nurses from Bon Repos as part of the surgical team. In time, staff nurses, Hermeline Charles RN (HBLM) and Karina Desir RN (CMCQ Delmas 60) will complete OR training.

At HBLM, construction and equipping the hospital continues. The Labor & Delivery ward on Level 3 is almost complete, improvements to road and parking lot access are in progress, and dental and ophthalmology areas are set to open in 2021. Progress is limited only by available funding



OR Tables Labor & Delivery Ward

Parking Access

**WALL OF
GRATITUDE**



**Lagnese
Family Fund**

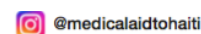


*All MATH
donors and
volunteers*

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 or visit us at <https://medicalaidtohaiti.org/>



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