



HAITI FOUNDATION OF HOPE

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MISSION STATEMENT

Haiti Foundation of Hope is a Christian organization addressing the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people in the impoverished and underserved rural communities of northern Haiti.



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Steps toward community health

When medical teams travel to Terre Blanche, Haiti, they are often quickly overwhelmed by what they see.

A common question is, what are the most important problems we see and what should be done? A more important question is, what do the Haitians think are their most critical health needs?

Thanks to Medical Teams International (MTI), a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Ore., we now have a good understanding of what the people in the area of Terre Blanche think are their most important health needs.

In January, MTI sent three public health consultants to the area to get answers to this basic and very important question:

What do the community leaders of Terre Blanche, Finel and Dubedou think are the three most important health needs, and what should be done to address those needs?

Dr. Joe Markee, with Haiti Foundation of Hope, was asked to tag along with Mary Helen Carruth, Mike Wenrick and Dr. Steve Sethi, all with MTI, as they hosted a week-long

conference for 19 village leaders and spoke to people living in these communities. The needs assessment concluded that the three most important health concerns, in order of importance, are malnutrition, diarrhea and safe deliveries for pregnant mothers.

MTI and Haiti Foundation of Hope are making plans for the future to include identifying and funding a manager for the Community Health Program at Terre Blanche; training for community health workers to improve the health of pregnant women and children up to 6 years; and involving consultants to address the chronic problems of water in the area.

Kudos to MTI and all those involved in the needs assessment.



Trauma patients at the clinic...

Volunteers with the most recent medical team to Terre Blanche learned that the difference between “clinic” and “hospital” may not be so different when in Haiti.

Here’s what one doctor observed:

Since the Clinic of Hope opened a little more than a year ago, the people around Terre Blanche have continued to refer to it as a hospital. We respond that “no, it’s a clinic, not a hospital.” But after the last medical team, we learned that perhaps they have a much better understanding of the reality of health care in Haiti than we do.

On the first full day of clinic, we had all five available exam tables filled with bona fide emergencies – all at the same time. Fortunately the team quickly morphed into a superb surgical pediatric trauma team, which was exactly what we needed.

M. Nixon came to the clinic with serious

facial injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. A 3-year-old boy, who had multiple large-skull lacerations after



being dragged by a horse, was another patient. Then there was a 2-month-old with abscesses over his knee, shoulder, elbow and hand, which were drained. All these patients were able to leave the clinic on their way to recovery.

•To read more about the team’s experiences, go to www.haitifoundationofhope.org and click on “News.”



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SCHOOL UPDATE

Construction on additional classrooms at the school in Terre Blanche is under way. This is the first year for a seventh-grade class. Until now, there had only been school through sixth grade. Thank you to everyone who has donated money for the construction project as well as funds for supplies such as desks, blackboards and doors. At a small school dedication held in December, one seventh-grade student, who has attended the school since she was 3, thanked everyone for making her education possible. Also, there is a new well on the campus, meaning no more ¼-mile walks up hill with water buckets.



HOW TO HELP

SCHOOL CHILDREN – \$15 each month will provide food, a uniform and books for a primary school child; \$100 each month will support a teacher; \$25 each month will help support a secondary school student.

SCHOOL FURNISHINGS – Furnishings are still needed for the new secondary school: Eight doors (\$50 each), 200 desks (\$40 each), five blackboards (\$100 each), five teacher desks and chairs (\$150 each set), five file cabinets (\$150 each).

WOMEN'S TRADE SCHOOL – Donations will help women who are learning job skills to improve their families' lives.

PRAY – Remember those living and working in Haiti; traveling teams; safety for Pastor Delamy and his family; the ongoing work at the Clinic of Hope; and the community of Terre Blanche.

JOIN US – Apply to travel to Haiti on an upcoming team. Both medical and non-medical volunteers are needed. Remember that teams are filling up fast these days.

INSTRUMENTS – Haiti Foundation of Hope is looking for musical instruments for children to learn to play. Anyone who would like to donate a working instrument can contact the foundation.

If you want to be removed from this mailing list or want to receive this newsletter by e-mail, call 360-993-0974 or e-mail givehope@haitifoundationofhope.org.



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