

Report on Medical Mission to Haiti Team #2, March 4-9, 2010

Organizers

Ms. Maryanne Fike

Dr. Munirih Tahzib

How the trip was organized

Many on trip #2 were returning volunteers from Trip #1 (asterisks by names in the list below). Because of increased interest and support, the number of participants more than doubled for this venture.

The goals of this trip were expanded to include:

- much-needed psychological care for both adults and children
- on-going medical concerns of the community
- engineers who were eager to address housing needs, both the examination of standing structures including the Baha'i Center and the creation of new earthquake-resistant structures
- attention to hydrology needs of the Anis Zunuzi School
- dental needs of the local community, and eye care as well
- classes for children to help them cope with the uncertainties around them

Participants

* Maryanne Fike, Organizer, Fundraiser and Group Liaison

* Muni Tahzib, MD, Organizer, Pediatrician

* Pouya Azar, 4th year Medical Student

* Barbara Bravo, Assistant and Fundraiser

* Rose Cabot, Nurse and fundraiser

* Tina Edraki, MD, OB-GYN

* Mark Freehill, Dominican Republic assistant

* Jason Hitner, MD, Pediatrician

* Itanna Murphy, Physician's Assistant

* Yosafe Murphy, Respiratory Therapist

* Judy Rector, educator, Mona Foundation

* Varqa Ruhipour, MD orthopedic surgeon

John Amanat, architect

Noushin Ehsan, architect

Christine Galanido, nurse

Cora Garcellano, nurse

Kyle Horner, PA-C

Yumiko Ishida, architect

Christopher J. Keenan, MD. pedicarician
Scott Levine, Paramedic
J. Eduardo Maldonado, architect
Kira Mauseth, PHD, psychologist
Jessica McGuire, student volunteer
Tona McGuire, PHD, psychologist
Galina Mohebat, DDS dentist
Parvin Movaffagh-Jimenez, dental student
Brian Peterkin, PA Orthopedic Spine Surgery
Yanelly Quiterio Viola, dental student
Terry E. Reed, Medical Assistant
Safia Rizvi, organizer
Layli Sanaee, medical student
May Sanaee, medical student
Samaan Sattarzadeh, medical student
Jahan Tavangar, hydrologist engineer
Alex Williams, videographer

Goals of the Trip

- 1) Continue to respond to earthquake victims' basic medical, wound, and orthopedic needs
- 2) Continue to teach a team of youth/volunteers to care for other community members' basic health
- 3) Hold a 'housing fair' so locals could participate in construction of earthquake-resistant home building models and assist in assessing the structural damage to their homes and churches
- 4) Examine the water system at Anis Zunuzi and set up a water purification system for potable water for the kitchen area
- 5) Attend to the psychological needs of patients identified as needing PTSD attention
- 6) Attend to the dental needs of those attending the clinics at Zunuzi- cleanings, extractions and lessons in oral care
- 7) Do as many eye exams as possible and supply glasses where needed

Projects undertaken

- 1) 6 Primary Care Clinics were held at various locations: Anis Zunuzi Baha'i School, New Horizon Baha'i School, a tent city and an orphanage in Port-au-Prince with 150 children
- 2) triage was performed, pediatric and adult care was given, and countless medical supplies and food shared with the patients coming to the clinics
- 3) housing fair was held on the Anis Zunuzi grounds for interested locals

to participate in the construction of alternative homes

4) assessment of various structures around Port-au-Prince was made by the engineers and architects volunteers to assess the structural integrity of the buildings and whether they were safe for occupancy

5) a water purification system was installed for the kitchen use at Anis Zunuzi and maintenance information shared with Anis Zunuzi staff

6) dental care given to many patients; cleanings, extractions and basic oral hygiene classes were given along with supplies for basic oral care

7) psychological assessments made for various patients by doctors and coping techniques were shared individually and in groups for dealing with daily stress

8) basic eye exams were given and a couple of hundred eye glasses were given out to improve basic vision

9) classes were held for neighborhood children to help them cope with their unsettling situation and to offer educational support

10) contacts with various organizations were fostered and efforts were combined to optimize medical care for the Haitians

Local Community Involvement

Arrangements were made for the volunteers to pitch their own tents on the Zunuzi grounds. Breakfast and dinner was prepared by local people, and volunteers saw to their own lunches. Members of the community were invited to the clinics, to see the dentist and to visit with the engineers concerning housing possibilities. Youth served as translators and also as willing students in the medical clinics.

Future Commitments

*Many of the LFH team have committed themselves to a monthly return to Haiti to provide ongoing primary health clinics at the Anis Zunuzi and New Horizon Baha'i Schools and to building homes. An on-going list of physicians, engineers and other volunteers to help meet the immediate needs of Haitians is being kept so that needed supplies and volunteers can be funneled to the places most needed. The website "Love-For-Haiti.com" has been created by Ms. Azita Shahidi and interested health professionals and other volunteers can sign up for future trips. On the "Facebook" site the "Love-For-Haiti" page keeps participants and other interested parties informed as to activities and intentions.

Items Needed for future trips:

- Reading glasses of various strengths
- Tarps
- Tents
- Baby formula
- Pain relievers
- Antibiotics
- Antibiotic ointments
- Baby Tylenol
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste, floss
- Skin disorder treatments