

Report on Mission to Haiti Team #4, May 6-11, 2010

Medical team:

The Love for Haiti medical team returned for a 4th time to continue clinics at two sites that were set up previously and had been identified as areas in need of healthcare facilities. The team consisted of one MD, two PA's, one Respiratory Therapist, one medical student, one nursing student and one pharmacy student. Clinics were set up in Lilavois, at Anis Zunuzi School and the other in Titayen, near New Horizon School, where an old, empty school building is used to see patients.



Pharmacy reorganization and inventory

During this trip, the team continued the collaboration with Haitian doctors (from Partners in Health) and a pharmacist. This collaborative effort had been started on the prior trip to Haiti, and helped LFH team members learn about the diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses in Haiti, such as malaria, HIV, TB and typhoid. This collaboration was also set up in an effort to make these clinics into permanent, ongoing facilities staffed by local doctors. We used local community members to staff the triage, to be pharmacy aids, translators and an office manager, all of whom were compensated for their invaluable work. We saw approximately 500 patients over three days at Anis Zunuzi and 170 patients in two days at Titayen. We successfully treated more than 60 patients with malaria and referred others for HIV and TB testing. All patients now have medical records filed in portable boxes so their treatment can be tracked over time. We worked alongside dedicated, compassionate and competent Haitian doctors who helped us considerably with conditions that were new to us and taught us of local treatment centers for TB and HIV management as well as hospitals where larger surgical procedures could be done.

Our long term desire is to develop sustainable clinic in Titayen where the physical facility exists and consider options for a sustainable model in Lilavois where there is also a need for a health center and to serve those who do not have access to care, because of financial or other barriers.

A return visit to an orphanage in Port-au-Prince served about 70 boys with a check-up, nutritional drink and/or vitamins and afterwards crayons and a coloring sheet. Most of the children had scabies, a highly infectious skin disorder but were otherwise generally OK. The staff and visitors there didn't know what it was so they were informed. Basic cleanliness is a real problem as there is no running water and too many children in the space. Fewer wound issues were seen this visit.



The pharmacy was completely organized and inventoried on Monday following the three-day clinics. This was an all-day job participated in by most of the volunteers. All the contributed supplies were sorted, stocked by type and use and counted. Now the medical teams will be able to reach for what's needed quickly for their clinics, saving valuable time and most importantly, items most needed can be identified.

Dr. Maryjane	Mariana	Cooper
Dr. Matine	Tina	Dezotelle
Jason		Edraki
Itanna		Ghadrshenas
Yosafe Murphy		Hu
		Murphy

Mental Health Team:

Our main focus on this trip was the training of youth to help address the huge mental health needs following the earthquake. Problems were clearly delineated in the presenting complaints in the March clinic, and many patients were seen individually and in groups by the two psychologists present. Widespread needs made it very difficult for this to be handled by the local mental health professionals, so some of the techniques and tools common to peer counseling often used in schools were suggested. The goal was also to develop something which would emerge from within the community and could be sustained through the community. The plan and goals were explained to Cris, a very capable year-of-service student from Belgium who had translated for us on our first trip. He enthusiastically agreed to help identify community members who would be interested and also to translate training materials into Kreyol. Though he had talked to many interested youth about this training, no one knew how many would actually attend on Saturday.

Saturday morning the "classroom" was set up under a mango tree. To our delight, 20 young adults arrived, 17 men and 3 women. The group included many university students, several teachers, and one school psychologist. "Haiti 1:1" was designed to cover basic counseling principles, as well as techniques suitable for the kind of issues common to post-disaster scenarios. Topics covered included common mental health responses to disaster, effective communication skills, characteristics of helping relationships, confidentiality, recognition of severity and need for referral, self-care, simple cognitive-behavioral techniques, and breathing

and relaxation techniques. The class involved some lecture and much group discussion, role play, practice, and feedback.



Sunday make-up class

We went much beyond the time we had assigned to the training. However, when we offered to stop and perhaps continue another time, the students asked us to please keep going. The volunteers were attentive, engaged and asked excellent questions. They provided examples of situations they thought they might face and many talked about how friends and family had already approached them for advice and support. At the conclusion we asked them to agree to meet monthly with Cris as facilitator, and for them to do any peer counseling in teams of 2 persons. We hope to be able to provide ongoing consultation, perhaps via Skype, and to return to refine the educational piece and "train the trainers" so that this program can continue.

The mini-class on Sunday for the high school boys who were translators on Saturday and couldn't attend the first training, reviewed much of what we had covered with the larger group, but also had the advantage of giving this close knit group of young men a chance to talk about their own experiences in the quake, and to share their own grief and fears. They also were excited about learning tools to help themselves and their peers. When this group had finished, their teacher asked if the breathing techniques could be taught to his two classes on Monday AM and the doctors agreed to do that.

Cris contacted Kira a week after the training saying that one of the volunteers is seeking additional training for a group of 15 youth in his community because the response to his new skills personally had been so profound. We will be seeking specific feedback and critique from the rest of our first group of peer counselors, and will be modifying and improving as we go, but we ended the day feeling very hopeful and excited about this wonderful start. One of the doctors remarked after the training class, "It's almost 100 degrees and yet I feel chills because it went so well!"

Dr.	Jeff	Gilman
Dr.	Kira	Mauseth
Dr.	Tona	McGuire
Dr. Michael Tandy		

Clean drinking water:



The water treatment system installed at The New Horizons School.

We were fortunate to have Jahan Tavangar come with the Love for Haiti team for a second time to install more water filtration system. On our second trip, he placed a four-stage water system at the Anis Zunuzi School, which includes reverse osmosis and UV light treatment. This has been providing students, staff and Love for Haiti team members with clean drinking water which can be stored in 5 gallon containers. On this most recent trip, he placed a system at New Horizon School near Titayen which will produce 500 gallons/day of clean drinking water for that school. Jahan also met with UNICEF in Haiti to show them his water filtration system, as UNICEF is looking into installing water filtration units into the schools of Port-au-Prince. The idea is that this would not only provide clean water for school children but also for their families and the surrounding communities. If this system is approved for wide scale usage in Haiti, a local engineer has been identified to work in training Haitian people in the maintenance of the water filtration system, helping boost the economy of Haiti.

Long term thoughts are that eventually a manufacturing plant for the system can be set up in Haiti as well, creating local jobs and of course leading to better health overall. As of May 1st, UNICEF lost funding to provide clean drinking water for tent cities in Port au Prince.

Educational Support:

In March, two classes were held to give children and opportunity to express themselves through art activities. An additional activity included singing a song about peace which they seemed to enjoy. Jessica spent considerable time and effort creating hand-drawn booklets to illustrate the song with words in Kreyol and she brought them this time. Her father Jerry played the guitar so the adults could learn the song at our first nightly meeting. Unfortunately, there wasn't time to share it with the children this trip because school was back in session. Hopefully these will be used in the future.



Kindergarten students exploring new math manipulatives

Classroom materials were supplied to the Montessori kindergarten in the form of a globe, wall map, many hand-made sensorial exercises, math activities, scissors, books, paints, brushes, paper and other learning activities. These were cheerfully accepted by the teacher and her assistant as the supplies they work with are minimal and very well-used at best. The children set right to work threading painted beads and working with some math counting exercises.

A second list of 'wished for' materials was created by the teacher and at later visits it is hoped that more materials will be able to be taken for the children to use. These will be used in the new kindergarten classroom once it has been built. At present the class meets outside under woven palm fronds and the tables, chairs and other supplies are moved there daily.

Jessica

McGuire

Judy Rector

Engineering Support:



One of Sue's broken walls.

Homes of the teachers were visited by engineer Simon Solorio to determine the extent of damage and need for repairs. Three of the teacher's homes were flattened and are uninhabitable. These teachers' families need tents and tarps for the rainy season. We left several tarps and they will be used for this purpose. Three were damaged but could be repaired and made habitable again. Next visit volunteers hope to begin working on the rebuilding of these homes.

The foundation of Gaby's home is in the process of being created at this time. This is a three walled addition on to her parent's home a short drive from Anis Zunuzi. It shouldn't take too long for the

walls and ceiling to be constructed as there were many workers hard at work to get this completed. This home will be much smaller than her previous residence (the director's home) on the school grounds which pancaked during the quake. That rubble is in the process of being jack-hammered to bits and the rubble carted off. Though it's a huge task, we could see a lot of progress since the last time a team visited.



Gaby's new foundation

Plans for an apartment building for school workers in lieu of a director's home are being discussed but no firm consensus has been reached about a replacement building.

Sue and Yves Puzo's home is also being reconstructed. The structural integrity is sound, but two outside walls partially broke and other interior, non-supporting walls broke. The damaged areas in the walls have been taken out and new concrete with re-bar should go in this next week. They should be in their home in two weeks and they are thrilled. They have been camping on the soccer field in a tent with many other homeless people and though they've shown remarkable patience and grace throughout these four months, I can imagine they'll be happy to be in their own home once again.

A small solar panel which stores energy in a battery which will power four light bulbs was brought and though it was tested and works fine, we're waiting to see the best and most appropriate use of this gift before its installation.



Solar panel being assembled

A tent city was visited where a Nura dome had been constructed earlier. Under the interested eyes of the nearby residents, the space under the dome was cleared of rocks, twigs and trash by

LFH members before metal fasteners were joined to most all the cross points, making the dome far sturdier.

Then a large tarp was pulled over the structure and tied down to blocks. Discussion about how to make a "door" for the tarp was ended when the Haitian leader of the tent city said that they would make the door themselves.

A PVC home was erected as a model but later it collapsed under the weight of water from a storm. Engineers also tried chicken wire on a Nura dome, and then covered the chicken wire with cement. This model later collapsed because of the weight.

Emily
Nancy
Maryanne
Christopher
Yumiko
Jerry
Simon
Jahan Tavangar

Cleveland
Cleveland
Fike
Harvey
Ishida
McGuire
Solorio