



HEALING ART MISSIONS

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Collaborating with Rural Haiti
by Connecting Communities to
Healthcare | Education
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Photo: Jessica Phegys Photography

Dear Friends,

November 2022

This is a particularly difficult letter to write this year. Last year at this time when I wrote to you, I was optimistic that we would be able to return to Haiti and to our beloved clinic to resume our work since the end of the pandemic seemed to be in sight. However, this was not to be.

Instead, this past year has been the most difficult year for Haitians that I have witnessed in my 25 years of working in the country. The details of this situation are far too much to explain in this brief letter, but just in the past few months Haitians have had to endure gang battles in their streets, children being recruited into gangs, the risk of kidnapping, difficulty finding food, limited access to clean water, fuel at up to \$50/gallon (if they can find it at all), soaring unemployment rates, the return of cholera, nationwide lockdowns, closed hospitals, closed banks, and closed schools.

What's left of the Haitian government is doing very little to remedy this situation. The everyday Haitian is on their own.

The worst moment of this year for Healing Art Missions was shuttering our clinic in Dumay due to escalating gang activity and the fact that our patients were moving away in droves to flee the violence. This was devastating to me, personally, and to the many HAM volunteers and donors who have put so much of their time, resources, and love into helping us build that clinic over the past 20 years.

The situation in Haiti feels very hopeless at the moment, but this is precisely why we cannot give up. So many organizations are pulling out of Haiti now because of the instability, but there is no one to fill the gap. The government will not do it. The international aid community is scrambling, but many of these organizations are big bureaucratic machines and their aid will take time.

This is where groups like Healing Art Missions come in. **We are small and nimble enough to adapt programming to help a targeted community. So, we are adapting!**

Since the earthquake of August, 2021, HAM has been working in the Nippes Department, a rural district in the southern peninsula that has not experienced gang violence or the turmoil that has plagued the rest of the country. What the region is experiencing, however, is a concerning lack of access to basic healthcare.

For the past year, HAM has helped to fill that gap and we have developed a reputation as a reliable partner. Incredibly, we are currently providing 100% of all orthopedic care in the region. We are also providing safe birthing services, hiring anesthesiologists and nurses, and performing additional surgical procedures at the region's hospital, Hôpital Ste. Therese de Miragoâne. **Thanks to HAM's reputation as a trusted NGO in Haiti and to Dr. Jacques' reputation as a top surgeon, we have been able to seamlessly transition our operations to this new area.**

Dr. Jacques' steady leadership is to be credited for our success in keeping HAM operational. Many of our partner NGOs in the country have had to cease operations during the recent turmoil. We are fortunate to have Dr. Jacques at the helm in Haiti.

We are also fortunate to have you in our corner. HAM truly could not have made it through this year without your support—both financially and emotionally! Truth be told, there were moments when all seemed lost, but the thought of turning away from the people of Haiti now, when they perhaps need support from the outside world more than ever, also seemed unfathomable. Knowing that we could count on the HAM community's support made it possible for us to envision a path forward and to seize opportunities that came our way. Thank you.

As 2022 comes to a close and we look toward the New Year, I can only imagine that the turmoil gripping Haiti must somehow come to an end. What that future looks like, though, I do not know. I do know, however, that **the people of Haiti are going to need us—potentially even more than they have ever needed us in the past.**

Most sincerely yours,

Tracee Laing, M.D. Founding Director

With your support, we will continue to help as many people as we can. Thank for standing with the people of Haiti during this difficult time and for your continued belief in our work.



HEALING
ART MISSIONS

Charles Solomon School

Although the start of the school year in Haiti has been delayed due to the nationwide lockdown and safety concerns, the Charles Solomon Primary School is ready for the school year. This past summer, there was some damage to the foundation of the pre-K building due to a heavy storm, which will need to be addressed in the coming year. We have received a generous donation from the South Sacramento Rotary Club so we can begin these repairs.

Students pre-k to 9 = 337

Students adult literacy = 33

Staff of 35



Demier Clean Water and Health Program

This program continues to provide clean water to hundreds of people in the rural mountainous community of Demier. The program also continues to provide basic first aid and public health. This year, HAM invested in a new horse to help transport supplies to the community.



Dumay Clinic, by the numbers

Patient visits: 5,428

Patients vaccinated: 1,567

Labs performed: 5,585

Family Planning Patients: 643

Services provided October 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022



Serving Haiti since 1999

2022 Annual Report to Donors and Friends

Accomplishments: October 2021 to September 2022

Access to Basic Surgical Care in Grand Sud

In response to the 2021 earthquake, HAM began providing needed surgical care in the southern peninsula of Haiti (known as the Grand Sud). Initially, we thought our time in the Grand Sud would be limited, but due to the closure of the clinic in Dumay and the ongoing gap in healthcare services around Miragoâne, we have decided to stay and partner with the community to help meet their healthcare needs.

**From January 1 – September 30, 2022,
HAM provided these services in the Grand Sud:**

Orthopedic consultations: 754
Orthopedic surgeries: 50
Surgical consultations: 377
General surgeries: 250
Wound care: 119



Building a Clinic in the Grand Sud

For the first time in its history, HAM owns land in Haiti! In October, we purchased a plot of land just outside of Miragoâne with the goal of building a healthcare clinic in the coming year. Presently, HAM is providing surgical and safe birthing services at the local hospital, Ste. Therese de Miragoâne, but there is an urgent need for a separate primary care clinic and ambulatory surgery center in the region. In 2023, we will explore the feasibility of building such a facility on this plot of land.



Profile: Joël Saint-Cyr

Joël Saint Cyr, a licensed nurse specialized in midwifery, has worked with HAM since 2018. Joël appreciates the opportunity to work in Nippes because he is the only permanent midwife serving 11 communes.



Joël shares, "HAM's work in Nippes is important because there are many people who do not come to the hospital due to lack of funds and many pregnant women still lose their lives by staying at home to give birth." He believes all women deserve quality care during this important milestone in their life.



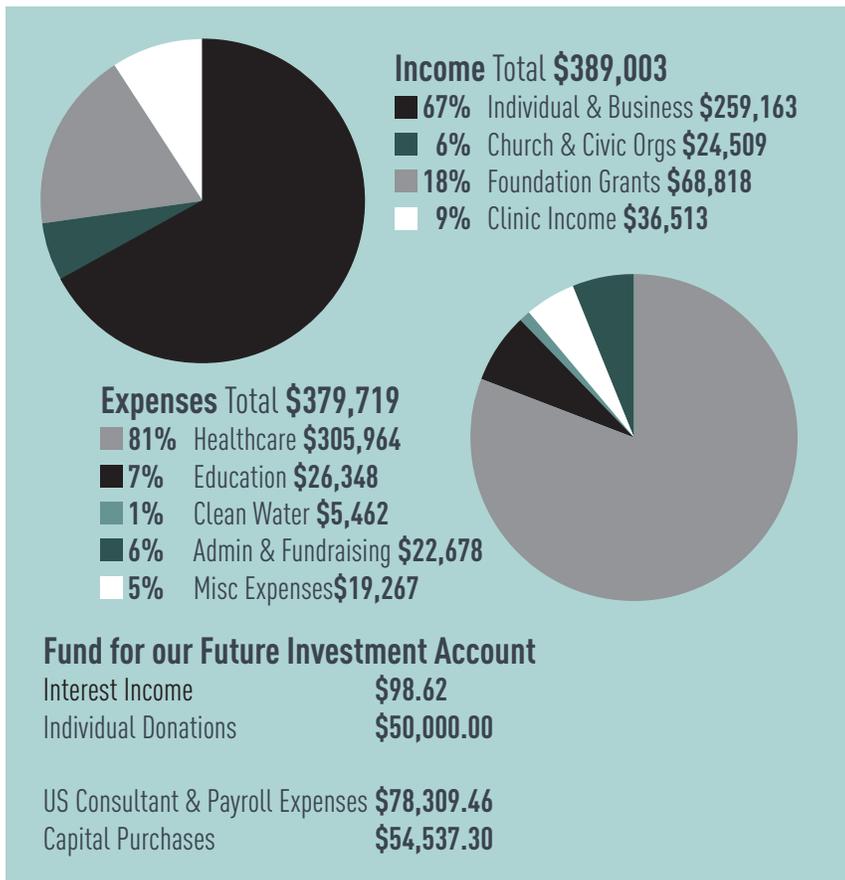
Joël has assisted in over 200 deliveries and helped many women safely bring their baby into the world. However, the stories of women who do not survive stay with him and inspire him to continue his important work. He tells of one woman who presented with eclampsia after having a seizure while laboring at home. Although he medicated her and helped her through a difficult delivery, she did not make it through the night. The baby, a little girl, did survive thanks to Joël's interventions after her birth.

Joël Saint Cyr is an integral part of HAM's medical team and we are grateful for his skill and compassion. He fills an important gap in maternal care in the Nippes region.

Prenatal consultations: 596
Midwife-assisted deliveries: 216

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2021/2022 Supporting/Collaborating organizations:

So Hum Foundation, Portland, OR; First Community Church, Columbus, OH; Larson Legacy Fund, Portland, OR; Children's Practicing Pediatricians, Columbus, OH; John & Susan Dewan Foundation, Chicago, IL; First Congregational Church, Hudson, OH; Rotary Club of South Sacramento, Sacramento, CA; Rotary Club of Snoqualmie Valley, North Bend, WA; Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, Annapolis, MD; Lighthouse Christian Church, Drummond Island, MI; United Way of Central Ohio, Columbus, OH; David's United Church of Christ, Canal Winchester, OH; United Church of Granville, Granville, OH; Whitaker Foundation, Snoqualmie, WA; First Presbyterian Church, Granville, OH; Hare Electric Inc., Rocky River, OH; Lions Club, Heath, Newark, OH; Calvary United Methodist Church, Lakewood, OH; Haitian Ministry of Public Health, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Together Rising, Falls Church, VA; St. Luke Foundation for Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Hernia Repair for the Underserved, Omaha, NE; Direct Relief International, Santa Barbara, CA; Hernia Help, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

HAM is an official 501(c)(3) non-profit, U.S. Federal Tax ID #311618706, and a licensed Haitian NGO franchise. Your donation is tax deductible.

Note from the Executive Director:



Friends, I am so honored to work with all of you as we aspire to help our partner communities in Haiti. Thank you for your support as we work to meet the healthcare, clean water, and educational needs in three rural Haitian communities.

With all that is happening in Haiti, it is the everyday Haitian who is struggling the most. Your generous donations are put immediately to work employing Haitian people, supporting Haitian merchants, and changing lives for the better. Thank you for sticking with us during this challenging moment in the country's history. We are truly grateful for your partnership and trust.

Connie Skingel, Executive Director

