



The Visitation

Spring
2010

Newsletter of Visitation Hospital Foundation

Visitation Clinic Withstands Earthquake



Included in the patients seen at the Clinic were 3-4 earthquake victims daily. In response, the Visitation Hospital Foundation Board set up a "task force" headed by Art Judy to focus on specific needs following the earthquake.

While the clinic sustained a crack in concrete walls, the building is structurally sound. Plans are underway to enclose the back porch of the clinic to create 9-10 in-patient beds. We continue to work with agencies such as Direct Relief Services and Catholic Relief Services to provide food, water, and medications. We rely on your love and support to help us with ongoing clinic operations.

VHF Selects Interim Executive Director



Art Judy of Atlanta, Ga., now serves as Interim Executive Director of Visitation Hospital Foundation (VHF) effective April 1, 2010, replacing Founder Theresa Patterson, according to Jerry Kearney, VHF Board President. Judy

served as member of the Board of Trustees for VHF since 2007. As Interim Executive Director, he will oversee the operations of the Visitation Clinic in Petite Rivière de Nippes, Haiti, and work with members of VHF in Nashville.

Judy has volunteered in rural Haiti since 1997. He has worked on numerous projects including serving as President of ServeHAITI, Inc, spearheading and co-authoring a grant application that won a first-round US AID PEPFAR-NPI grant, and creating audio/visual fundraising presentations. He has lead various infrastructure projects ranging from the design and installation of solar and diesel electrical power systems to leading work teams for building cabinetry and furniture in a rural clinic.

Kearney praised the work of VHF Founder and past Executive Director Theresa Patterson, whose vision helped create the Visitation Clinic and future hospital in Haiti. "We believe this will be a smooth transition for the organization. We are thankful to Theresa for the work she and her staff have given to this project over the years, and to Art for sharing his expertise as we continue to move forward to provide for the health care needs of our Haitian brothers and sisters."

While efforts to help Haitian people recover after the horrific earthquake of January 12 continue, the Visitation Clinic is treating patients daily. Before the earthquake, approximately 75-80 patients visited the clinic each day. Numbers increased as people migrated from cities such as Port-au-Prince, Léogâne, Petit-Goave, and other affected cities.



Board Announcements

Jerry Kearney of Franklin, TN, and V.P. for Mission at Saint Thomas Hospital, replaces Dr. Tom Grabenstein as President of the Board of Trustees for Visitation Hospital Foundation.

John Shemancik, CPA, of Brentwood, TN, assumes the role as Treasurer of the Board and Finance Chair.

Theresa Patterson remains as Board member, and **Art Judy** takes leave of absence to assume Interim Executive Director role.

Join us at 10,000 Villages

On Sunday, May 16, 2010

Noon to 5:00 p.m.

**The store is located at
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**10% of the proceeds that day
will benefit VHF**

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Our Mission

Visitation Hospital will provide competent and compassionate healthcare to the people of southwest Haiti and will empower them with resources to pursue their basic right to health and health education.

The Visitation

Editor & Publisher: Fran Rajotte

Development Director's Corner

"Be Still and Know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10)

Is it not a beautiful gift from God? Signs of new life are blooming from the earth. Spring is making its way with swells of new life and a promise of brighter days ahead. If we do not stop and pay attention to nature, we might miss some gifts that God has prepared for us. I am just as guilty as the next person, never really stopping to smell the roses, but rather rushing from one thing to the next. I know how important it is to bask in the presence of God whenever possible, but making time is sometimes a challenge. Yet, it is in those still moments where God speaks to each of us. I am reminded during those times of God's tremendous love for all humankind.

You have to wonder why we are so fortunate to live in the U.S. with so many blessings, but just 90 minutes off the coast of



**Fran Rajotte,
VHF Director of
Development &
Communications**

Florida by air, the Haitian people live in abject poverty, and are now dealing with devastation and disease.

I know that when the earthquake hit Haiti, generous people came forward to share and do what was needed to provide support. Now that time has passed, Haiti is still struggling for food, shelter, and medical care. We have the ability to make a difference, even in a small way. When you consider a gift to help the poor of Haiti, your gift goes a long way to provide them with life-saving medicines and nutrition.

You may be called to send a gift, organize a medical mission, or use your gifts and talents in other creative ways. Spending time with God will give you the answers and help you discover what God is calling you to do. Taking time to "be still" is also important for our own spiritual well-being. So, now that the darkness of winter is ending, pause and make time for respite with God, in communion with nature, and listen to God's voice. Happy Spring! May God bless you all with peace and wisdom!

Task Force Accomplishes Mission by Art Judy

The initial news after the quake was dismal. "Haiti is no longer what you knew. Everything is lost," was one email from Port-au-Prince. In the US, all we could do was to feel the same powerlessness to help. Then from Ti Rivière came better news. Visitation Clinic and the guest house stood, and our staff was fine.

There were no fatalities in town, though many homes were destroyed. Our water tower, power, and Internet survived, and the clinic was operational. So perhaps we had "paid it forward" by building well, with tropical storm resistance in mind. Still, a tsunami of need was coming, and we had to prepare.

The VHF Board began weekly meetings to track the fast changing events. Initially, information was sparse and conflicting. News stations reported an exodus to rural areas, but our patient visits dropped dramatically. Apparently, many Haitians went into Port-au-Prince to find relatives.

Next, military doctors were emailing our Board and staff to transfer scores of post-operative patients to the clinic. By then we, too, were treating quake injuries, along with more daily patients and requests for humanitarian help. The VHF Board established a special Earthquake Task Force to coordinate our response.

Board Member Denis O'Day, MD recruited an impressive slate of volunteers—one team of medical experts lead by Chris Sizemore,

with members Lynn Blair-Anton, RN, Ann Blake, MD, Janet Donahue, MD, Rony Jean-Francois, MD, Tom Grabentstein, MD, and Seth Wright, MD. The other team for communications, logistics, and infrastructure was also led by Judy with members Alan Doolley, Natalie Kittrell, Janet Nicotera, RN, and Riphard "Killy" Serent. We simultaneously worked on clarifying the needs and determining the best response. Over 33,000 people have now moved into Nippes (UN-OCHA 2/17) and our clinic reports unprecedented daily patient visits. To add further stress, Nippes has become the worst hit by seasonal torrential rains. We now project this as the next phase of need at the clinic. Patients with earthquake-related healthcare needs would be significant. Some will be direct casualties, requiring PT, orthopedics, prosthetics, or other long-term care. More will be indirect casualties from displacement, lack of shelter, and other stresses. We expected heavy and sustained demands on the clinic, and have considered adding medical staff and inpatient care. This will not be a short-term need, given the 3-10 year projections for rebuilding Haiti. At times, just communicating problems can help.

When Fran Rajotte and I met with the head of Catholic Relief Services regional office in Atlanta, we requested assistance for our clinic and village. After a series of follow-up emails and calls, a truckload of emergency food packages have been delivered.

Stories from Visitation Clinic

Many patients presented with burns, infections, broken bones, and post-traumatic stress syndrome. The patient to the left is receiving eye care from a visiting medical team from Vanderbilt. The patient to the right sustained a serious burn and received proper treatment at the Visitation Clinic. Patients not only receive care, but clinic staff provided them with food and water after their long journey from neighboring cities.



Memorials

In memory of Père Gerard Jean-Juste by Joe and Sharel Zelenka
 In loving memory of David Rodney Trotter by Elvira Trotter
 In memory of John Skevington by Joe and Sharel Zelenka
 In memory of Frank Eckart by Jim and Pat Rizzo
 In memory of Willis Murdock by Ann and Charles Armstrong, Jr.
 In memory of Edwin Burke by Ann and Charles Armstrong, Jr.
 In memory of James Cebula by Sharel and Joe Zelenka
 In memory of Phillip Schleeter by Sharel and Joe Zelenka
 In loving memory of Bob Dimitri by Fran Rajotte
 In loving memory of James Lotochinski by his parents Frances and Eugene Lotochinski
 In memory of Ron Stratis by Margaret Hunt
 In memory of Dr. George Bishop by Margaret Hunt
 In memory of Fr. Paul St. Charles by Robert Copeskey

Tributes

In honor of the 25th Wedding Anniversary of Clare Skevington and John Noll by Joe and Sharel Zelenka
 In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr. Boniface Hardin, O.S.B. by Joe and Sharel Zelenka
 In honor of the wedding of Steve and Rhoda Scherer by Ann and Tom Caste
 In honor of Fr. William Bevington by Christopher Connolly
 In honor of Jack Lemburg by Eric and Audrey Patrick
 In honor of Ed and Sarah Johnston by Chris and Bubba Donnelly
 In honor of Kathy Ingleson by Kathleen Frank
 In honor of Dr. Jeannie Beauchamp and Dr. Tom Grabenstein by Judith and William Reynolds
 In loving honor of Dr. Denis and Ann O'Day by Phoebe & Bob Drews
 Christmas Tributes in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cline, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Noel, Mr. & Mrs. William Blair by Anne & George McGugin

Christmas Tributes in honor of Tom and Margaret Buford, Thomas and Laura Buford, Dorothy and Alicia McCartney, Jack and Ruthi Brunlik, Justin and Becky Brim, Catherine Miller, The Collins Family, and Bob Lee by Anne Lee-Buford
 Christmas Tributes in honor of John Burns, Seana and David Tamisiea, and Dan Zientek by Maureen Zientek
 Christmas Memorials for Dr. George Bishop and Ron Stratis by Margaret Hunt
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Dr. Tom Grabenstein by William and Anne Kenney
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Dr. Denis O'Day by Sean & Janet Donahue
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Dr. Denis O'Day by Dr. Anthony W. Kilroy
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Dr. Denis O'Day by Dr. Clyde and Mary Smith
 A Christmas Tribute in honor of Diane Huggins by Debra Cole
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Lucy Wright and family by Amy & Rob King
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Mary Ready by Kathy Ingleson
 Christmas Tribute in honor of K. Jeanne Beauchamp, DDS, by Mary and Allen Amos
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Fran Rajotte by Frank and Joan McGranaghan
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Kathy Ingleson by Kathleen Frank
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Pat Newman Gordon by Sue & Vic Panitch
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Sandy O'Donnell by Margie Garrett
 Christmas Tribute in honor of Rev. Tom Bielawa by Ramona Hoffman
 Christmas Tribute in honor of A. Castello by Linda Martin
 Christmas Tributes in honor of Drs. Richard and Lytitia Shea and Tom and Alicia Luna by Barbara Fadell

VHF Board of Trustees

Jerry Kearney, *President*, Franklin, TN
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 Art Judy, Atlanta, GA, *Ex-Officio*
 Fran Rajotte, Nashville, TN, *Ex-Officio*

Eye Team Travels to Haiti—cont'd on page 4



The first Vanderbilt Eye Team traveled to Haiti in November 2009. In the photo to the left,

Dr. Amy Chomsky, Chief of Ophthalmology at Veteran's Hospital, Nashville, treats a young Haitian girl at the Visitation Clinic.

The team treated cases such as chronic eye irritation, congenital blindness, severe squint or cross-eyes, and damage to the eyes caused by sun exposure.

Noblesville, IN Hope and Healing Event a Huge Success

Fr. Tom Metzger and Joe Zelenka co-hosted a fabulous *Hope and Healing for Haiti* event last September in Noblesville, IN at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

The event raised over \$90,000 to support the programs and operations of the Visitation Clinic in Haiti. We appreciate the work of these two great individuals, whose efforts made this a huge success.

To the left, Fr. Tom Metzger shares his experience in Haiti and discusses the great need for financial support.

On the top right, John Schleeter, Jeff Patrick and Ann Marie Patrick discuss the presentation immediately following the event.

To the bottom right, Event participants share a Haitian dish at the Noblesville Hope and Healing event. Over 100 people were in attendance.



John Schleeter, Jeff Patrick and Ann Marie Patrick.



Guests are served a Haitian meal of beans and rice.

Vehicles for Charity

Please call 1-866-628-CARS (2277).

First Eye Team Travels to Visitation Clinic - continued from page 3



The team distributed reading glasses and glaucoma and tear drop medications. In the photo above to the left, Dr. Amy Chomsky gathers with some of her patients at the Eye Clinic. To the top right, members of the Eye Team pose with Clinic Social Services Physician Dr. Kosciuszko Pierre, and Clinic Administrator, Riphard "Killy" Serent. The Eye Team members left to right are, Dr. Amy Chomsky, Brian Carlson, Vanderbilt Eye Institute Administrator, and Janet Nicotera, RN, clinical research nurse specialist with Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health.

Clarksville Responds

A group of professors, students and members of the Clarksville community responded to the call for Haiti's earthquake relief through fundraising efforts that raised approximately \$10,000 to date. Proceeds were donated to Visitation Hospital Foundation. Deacon Tim Winters, Professor of Language and Literature, Mike Gotcher, John Moseley, Kathy Lee, Pam Gray, and David Von Palko, Professors of Communications, Matt Kenney, Professor of Political Science, Dave Loos, Athletic Director, and Lee Irwin with Five-Star Radio Group spearheaded the effort a variety of fundraising events referred to as "Clarksville Responds", during the week of January 24, and culminating with a telethon on January 31.



APSU President Tim Hall and his wife, Leah, pose with APSU students, who worked the phone bank during the *Clarksville Responds* Telethon.



Professor David Kanervo and Representative Curtis Johnson discuss Haiti on set during Austin Peay State University's *Clarksville Responds* Telethon for VHF.

Students participated by manning phone banks, operating cameras and sounds boards, and promoting the fundraiser via Facebook. Among those being interviewed for the telethon were Clarksville residents Dr. Tom Grabenstein, Dr. Jeannie Beauchamp, Kathy Burney, and Professor Tim Winters. According to Winters, the sale of T-shirts and the silent auction are still being tallied. In addition, members of the Clarksville community and their friends and relatives were invited to go online and make donations through the Visitation Hospital Foundation website.

"I am proud to have been a part of this event and to have these wonderful volunteers as my colleagues. We all hope that we can continue to make a difference in the lives of the people of Haiti by helping Visitation Hospital Foundation provide much-needed health care," said Winters.

From Nashville with Love at Nashville Farmer's Market

Nearly 500 people from all over Nashville convened at the Nashville Farmer's Market for an event to raise awareness of the need for medical care at the Visitation Clinic. *From Nashville with Love* raised nearly \$14,000 to date that will be used to buy needed medicines, supplies, and food for the people served by the Visitation Clinic in Haiti.

Event organizer, Andy Hunter, Chef of Acorn Restaurant, had been to Haiti as a 14-year-old, while a student at Father Ryan High School, and the experience changed his life forever. After the earthquake, Hunter decided to hold a city-wide event bringing together Nashville Original Restaurant chefs to help support the Visitation Clinic in southwest Haiti. In addition to Hunter, the planning committee consisted of Jolie Yockey, marketing director with the Farmer's Market, Julie Rahini with The Acorn, and Juliana Ericson, who organized the silent auction, plus Kathleen Chandler Wright, Nikki Jensen, Tiffani Rozier, Jeff Themm. Music was provided by Suzahn Fiering and the Elegant Gypsies (below center) and The Spiche/Contraras Quartet. Eighteen Nashville Original Restaurants participated.



Guest reviews bids on Silent Auction items. Photo by Stacey Battles.



Andy Hunter, Chef of Acorn Restaurant and his daughter, Vivienne. Photo by Marie Wallaker.



Suzahn Fiering and the Elegant Gypsies entertain guests at the Farmer's Market. Photo by Stacey Battles.



Chef of Park Café Restaurant serves bite size portions to guests. Photo by Stacey Battles.

Visitation Hospital Foundation

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Joe Zelenka Makes a Difference in Haiti!



Our volunteers are our most valuable resource, and Joe Zelenka is no exception. Joe has served in various capacities including serving as VHF Board Secretary and volunteer since the inception of the Visitation Hospital Foundation in 1999. He has been responsible for two *Hope and Healing for Haiti* events raising a total of over \$265,000 for VHF. Throughout the year, Joe is tirelessly raising funds and locating grant opportunities. Both he and his wife, Sharel, regularly give Memorial and Tribute gifts to Visitation Hospital Foundation in honor of friends and loved ones.

In addition to supporting VHF, Joe travels to Haiti several times a year to visit his sister parish in Belle Rivière. He and Sharel first visited Haiti with Theresa Patterson, who took them to Belle Rivière where they met Père Valery Rebecca. When they returned home, they convinced the church's Parish Pastoral Council in Indianapolis to begin a twinning relationship, which has been a tremendous outreach with St. Thomas Aquinas in Indianapolis.

Joe has been to Haiti approximately 50 times since 1990, and has brought a number of children to the U.S. for medical treatment. He is an advocate for justice in Haiti and has been a voice for the voiceless.

According to Zelenka, "I'm touched deeply by the faith, hope, and courage of the Haitian people." Joe has coordinated dozens of Medical Missions to Belle Rivière and continues to serve on the Board of both Visitation Hospital Foundation and the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas.

Joe and Sharel have been married for 37 years, and they have one son, Richard, and five grandchildren Roland, 16, Autumn, 14, Nicholaus, 12, Collier, 11, and Sarayia, 10.

