

Bringing hope to life – you can make a difference

For most of us the summer months are a great opportunity to have a bit of time out with friends and family, and we do hope you all had a fantastic time. For the Haiti Hospital Appeal, the last few months have been anything but relaxing, and some of our busiest yet.

A few highlights have included taking part in the largest Dragon Boat race in Europe, being invited to No 10 Downing Street, and camping for four weeks at a number of large festivals sharing our vision – and that's just the UK side of things. It's no coincidence though that when our supporters in the UK are busy eagerly supporting us, the work in Haiti dramatically grows at a far greater pace. The last few months have been no exception, with exciting progress on our hospital buildings, the children's home getting close to full capacity, and the ambulance and clinic continuing to provide life saving care.

We hope this issue of Life Support will inspire you further by the difference you've helped make in the last few months. You'll also notice that this particular issue has a slightly different feel from previous issues, and provides you with a number of exciting ways to make a stand with us, and help bring hope to life in Haiti!

We wanted to share a little more about how you could get involved with HHA, especially for those of you we met over the summer for the first time and who are now thinking 'what next?' To all of you, whether old or new to the appeal, thank you so much on behalf of all those you're helping for the incredible difference you're making!



News in brief

House of Blessings

Our new Children's Home, kindly supported through Jubilee Action, has grown rapidly in the last few months. It now supports over 40 children with special needs a week, and already has a waiting list. Some families have travelled for over four hours to receive this valuable and unique care, which is transforming the lives of many children.

Health Care

Our Ambulance service has been busier than ever, providing further life saving support in a range of emergencies. We are also about to start a series of new mobile clinics and outreach programmes each week supporting some of the poorest areas in and around Cap-Haitian. Find out more in our next issue of Life Support.

Trips to Haiti

We've been blessed by a series of teams in Haiti over the last few months, and are looking forward to a big group heading out in November to hopefully complete our first hospital building.



How to help

What makes this edition of Life Support a little different to other issues is the opportunity for you to get involved with our work more easily. This newsletter has only provided a small glimpse of the incredible and life changing impact our supporters are having in Haiti- those individuals who generously support us month by month, whether with a gift of £3 or £30, and those who support us with one-off gifts. We're desperate for our work to progress so it can seek to help more of some of the world's most vulnerable people. However, the only way this is possible is through the generous support of those groups or individuals who feel they can make a stand with us. If you feel you'd like to join with us in our fight against poverty, there's many ways in which you can!

One significant way you could make a difference is through supporting our work on a regular basis. If you feel able to join with us in this way, please fill in the attached direct debit form and send it back to the address below. Equally, if you'd like to make a one off contribution to any area of our work, please make cheques payable to Haiti Hospital Appeal. Alternatively, we have a great new supporters pack available which includes all our new leaflets, a DVD about our current work, and various other useful bits and bobs. If you'd like one of our new packs, please e-mail: leuan@haitihospitalappeal.org

Thank you for your continued support towards our work. Together we truly are bringing hope to life.

Haiti Hospital Appeal, 30 Gates Green Road,
West Wickham, Kent BR4 9JW

Paediatric and Maternity Care – a glimmer of hope

Reducing mother and child mortality rates, of which Haiti has the highest in the Western Hemisphere, is at the heart of our vision. A mother is fifty times more likely to die during birth in Haiti than America, with a ratio of 680 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births. The child mortality rate is even scarier, with around 20% of children dying before their fifth birthday. The fact that 75% of children are born at home without any medical support is one major contributing factor. Statistics are one thing, but meeting the families affected by such devastation is another- lives that have been destroyed due to needless injustices that for a small cost could so easily have been avoided.

In the last few weeks I've had the chance to hear a little more from our Medical Director, Dr. Paul Toussaint, about the challenges he faces as a Paediatric Doctor in Haiti, and the urgent need for our new unit. Dr Toussaint highlighted the fragility of the current economic state, with an unemployment rate of between 60-75% of the overall population. In his view it is the children who are the 'major victims of this situation.' Haiti has a population of around 9 million, 40% are below the age of 15, and 15% are below the age of 5. He continued... 'we have a real deficit in health staff. 1 doctor for 100,000 beds. 75% of the doctors (in Haiti) live at Port-au-Prince (Haiti's capital, about 8 hours drive from Cap-Haitian.)

The rare doctors that establish themselves in the provinces live in the big cities. In Cap-Haitian, the second largest city, we count 8 paediatricians for about 400,000 inhabitants. They partially work in the public sector. However, the cost of a paediatric consultation privately is 600 gourdes (\$15US) – far beyond the means of most individuals living on less than \$2 US per day.



'The coming of the HHA Healthcare Centre is a glimmer of hope for the poor populations of Cap-Haitian, the communities like Limonade, Quartier Morin and the North-East, where there is no paediatrician.' Dr Toussaint explained how hope has been given through our centre, with large numbers of children now benefiting from paediatric exams, which previously had been ignored.

We also support 75 children regularly through a nutritional supplement, and have supported over 5,000 families with vital food provisions. 'Furthermore, our paediatric service is crowning the vaccination for 6 priority diseases for the Haitian government, through a broadened vaccination programme: PEV. Around 300 children are regularly vaccinated by us for such diseases as diphtheria and TB. However, our dream and the communities' wish is to have the possibility to hospitalise some children in the near future.'



Though Dr. Toussaint is greatly encouraged by the expansion of life saving services we're offering, he also remains realistic that until we have our Paediatric Unit we are still limited in many urgent areas. So much pain could easily be avoided here in Haiti through our new unit. For instance, in 2007, despite Haiti having such a high rate of HIV/AIDS, only 22% of women received the antiretrovirals needed to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS. According to Babies Without Borders, who are waiting to partner with us once this unit is completed, 'it was estimated (in 2007) that 4,000,000 newborn infants (worldwide) will suffer from some degree of birth asphyxia each year. One million will die, and a million more will have permanent brain damage. It is estimated that, with the appropriate and simple intervention of neonatal resuscitation, the incidence of death and/or disability in the

newborns could be decreased by as much as 50%...the majority of neonatal mortality occurs in rural areas, in regions where access to medical centres is limited.' Around 60% of Haitians have no access to health care, and it's these regions we're hoping to help.

The daily challenge for us as we await this unit's completion is that we're currently supporting many children at our Children's Home who have been left disabled simply through a lack of basic neonatal care. Children whose lives could have been so different if only they'd had access to a unit such as ours. We've witnessed both sides of this tragic tale, those left disabled, and those who have died.

I was recently challenged by a verse in Isaiah 59 'When the Lord noticed that justice had disappeared, he became very displeased. It disgusted him even more to learn that no one would do anything about it.' Whether we are believers of the Bible or not, the truth remains the same. There is a greater tragedy beneath those children of Haiti dying, the failure by wealthy countries to prevent these deaths in the first place.

Through our work, together with our supporters, we have a unique and exciting opportunity to do something that will have profound and eternal consequences. We want to turn this 'glimmer of hope' into something far greater. That's why we need your help today, and would ask for those who aren't already supporting us to take the time to think what a difference you could make through us to the lives of these desperate people. Thank you for your continued love and support, and may God bless you all.

Carwyn in Haiti

Haiti Hospital Appeal goes to Downing Street

In an eventful summer a delegation from Haiti Hospital Appeal were invited to a meeting with Sarah Brown at Number 10 Downing Street. Ann Keen MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Services had heard of our activities through a team of fundraisers in her constituency of Brentford and Isleworth.

The connection was the White Ribbon Alliance, of which Sarah Brown is the Patron. The White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood is an international coalition of individuals and organisations formed to promote increased public awareness of the need to make pregnancy and childbirth safe for all women and newborns in developing, as well as developed, countries. You can find them at www.whiteribbonalliance.org

Ian Hamlin, Jonnie Horner, Martin Slocombe and Phil Johnson were invited to join Ann Keen in Downing Street. Passing through some intense security and on into the Street itself felt somewhat surreal. Suddenly being on the inside of those impressive security gates and looking down the most famous street in the UK. Through the door and up the stairs, we entered into the White Room. This is the room in which visiting dignitaries sit and talk with the Prime Minister.

Given an audience with Sarah Brown we had the opportunity to share with her the origins of the Haiti Hospital Appeal, our aims and our ambitions. Sarah responded by making positive suggestions about a range of issues including fundraising, women's health, childcare and the Millennium Development Goals.

We talked with Sarah and Ann for 45 minutes, exclusively about the Haiti Hospital Appeal and the development of a relationship with the White Ribbon Alliance. Sarah was particularly interested in our ambitions for this year and the difficulties we have to overcome to make progress. Full of encouragement for our work, she invited us to join the White Ribbon Alliance as well as passing on valuable contact details both in the UK and Haiti.

We all feel incredibly humble to have had the opportunity to present the case for Haiti Hospital Appeal to Sarah Brown. We recognise that we are not only representing the work of our partners and Carwyn and Reninca in Haiti, but also you our supporters, who have enabled us to come so far.

Our dream is to be able to open the Delivery Suite and Maternity Ward this year. Together with the efforts of the White Ribbon Alliance we can contribute to ending the injustice of nearly 600,000 women per year dying from pregnancy related complications worldwide.



Wislain's story – a child offered love

Wislain is just one of the many children you've helped in recent months. She came to us in September, being carried by a girl who didn't look older than 12. Wislain had no shoes, and wore old, torn and tatty clothes. The older girl sat with Wislain, struggling to hold her as she moved around. Specialist equipment like wheelchairs is just not available in Haiti and disabled children have to be carried around, often for long distances.

When we heard the girl's story, she explained that she was actually 14 years old, and that she helps look after her younger cousin, Wislain, who has special needs. Wislain's mother died, and her father is handicapped and unable to provide the assistance Wislain needs. They all live together with their 75 year old grandmother. Before meeting us, this little family had no help or support. When asked how they feed themselves, the girl explained that sometimes neighbours give them food, but if not they go hungry.

Through your support Wislain now has the opportunity to attend the House of Blessings each week. She has come to life in this time and is an amazing girl, who for the first time is having the chance to live the life she deserves. As well as providing new clothes and a weekly food package, our home provides Wislain and her family with the love and care they have so tragically missed throughout their lives. The love offered to Wislain through your support impacts more than just her life- a child offered love, a family offered hope, in the knowledge that someone does care.

We wish we could introduce you to every person you've helped to support, but it's simply not possible. Wislain's story is just one tale from the lives of thousands of others who need our help. We're at a point where we can't receive any more children at the home or expand some of our health



services further, simply through a lack of funds. The only way we can proceed to impact and save more families is through your help.

Along with the direct debit form attached, there are many other ways you could help- for instance, getting your school, church or university involved, perhaps thinking about exploring our legacy gift scheme, or providing corporate sponsorship. We'd love to talk to you about ways you could help other children like Wislain.

If you'd like to make a stand with us and provide us with the opportunity to progress our work further, please contact: carwyn@haitihospitalappeal.org. The love you can provide may be the only love many of the families we help will ever receive.

To get involved or find out more please contact us:

**Haiti Hospital Appeal, 30 Gates Green
Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9JW**
info@haitihospitalappeal.org
www.haitihospitalappeal.org

Please make cheques payable to 'Haiti Hospital Appeal'. Taxpayers can download a gift aid form from our website, so we can claim back 28p from every pound given.

HAITI HOSPITAL APPEAL
Charity No: 1117528

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Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Name and full address of your Bank/Building Society

To: The Manager
Address: _____

Service User Number

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CAF, Kings Hill,
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Please pay CAF Re Haiti Hospital Appeal Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAF Re Haiti Hospital Appeal and if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

CAF Reference No. 7738-04

Bank/Building Society Account Number:

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Date: _____

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This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer.

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- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, CAF Re Haiti Hospital Appeal will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by CAF Re Haiti Hospital Appeal your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.