



HBS Newsletter

Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti



Spring 2007

Surgery



The end of January was very busy at the hospital. The first surgery group of the year had just arrived and was ready to start operating. Many patients lined up that were scheduled for their long awaited surgery. The patients arrived at the hospital with their families who would take care of them after the surgery until they were ready and strong enough to go home.

It takes a bit of preparation for HBS to get ready for a surgery group. Several months before the team arrives, a list and schedule is made up of potential patients. The patients have an initial consultation with a doctor and then sent to the laboratory for blood tests. An inventory of surgery is done to see what is needed, making sure all the necessary supplies and equipment is on hand. Many of the supplies and medical equipment are donated in the United States through individual requests by each surgery group. These donations are sent to HBS Haiti via our office in Florida. The surgery rooms have to be prepared and cleaned up the weeks prior to surgery and sterilization is ongoing for at least ten days prior.



Dr. Jeffrey Twidwell operating using the donated laser machine



Dr. Anders Ulland and Dr. Jeffrey Twidwell performing surgery

The surgery groups, usually numbering between six and twelve medical persons, operate on and help as many patients as they can. Most groups operate on 50-70 patients during their stay at HBS. Each group brings its own specialists with them which vary each time. This last group, headed by Dr. Jeffrey Twidwell, an Urologist of Wayzata, Minnesota, using a new donated green light laser machine, was able to help a lot of prostate patients that needed surgery for quite some time.

HBS has two more surgery groups scheduled to come to Haiti in April and May reaching out to help many more people in need.

Patients that had surgery

Many men came in to have hernia operations, though we had one case, a woman named Marie. She had had two cesarean sections to deliver her babies, but the last one had herniated and was causing her much pain and discomfort. She came in to have it operated on. Here she is after the operation given hope once again.



Andre, a young man, about 35 years of age, was out with friends and became involved in an altercation. He was stabbed in the chest with a sharp knife causing internal damage and bleeding. His family hurriedly brought him into the hospital in the early evening. Fortunately this was the week we had a surgical team here. The surgeon decided since the knife had punctured the chest wall an X-ray was needed. Using our new X-ray machine, he was able to see exactly where the knife had punctured the chest wall enabling the operation to immediately to repair the wound. Everyone commented on the fact that it was good that there was a surgeon here to accomplish the needed surgery most likely saving his life.



Another woman had a scheduled operation to remove a large tumor. When the lady was returned to her room she said that she had seen the large tumor that they had removed and was very happy to be relieved of that burden. Her family was gathered around to care for her including her young son who was anxiously awaiting her return from the operating room.



Many of the patient's relatives are often anxious while they are in surgery. Here is a young woman reading her bible while her father is on the operating table. Since the patients are often asleep or drowsy from the anesthesia, they need to have someone there with them to care for them. The families bring their bedding and food along to care for their loved one while in the hospital.

Jim & Marg Brickman



Jim & Marg Brickman with some of the Kai Mira children

This year was the 4th visit of Jim and Marg Brickman from Canada. While they are always a great help around the hospital, organizing and spending time with Kai Mira orphans, Jim's special project this year was to repair the water tower in Limbé town that has been leaking. As the demand for water grew over the years, a water well was drilled in the town square and a water tower was constructed next to it. It holds 7,500 gallons of water to supply the needs of the local townspeople with about 200,000 gallons of potable water daily. So it is no wonder that folks became concerned when they saw the water leaking out of the bottom of the water tower. They installed new pipes and valves to create a bypass so the community would still have water while the tower underwent repairs. The leaking plaster was scraped out and as soon as the rains let up, a special cement will be set in to stop all the leaks. Working inside the tank up in the air, is rather hot and tiring as you might imagine. Some of the workers told me, they were glad it rained this week, to get a bit of rest before having to drop into the tower to apply the special cement. It has been great to have the Brickmans here and help us. We hope to see them again next year.



Laboratory



HBS laboratory is in a real need of new equipment. Every day the patients need to have various lab tests done and we are down a number of microscopes. We do a lot of different tests in the lab necessitating the need to have good equipment for the technicians to be able to keep providing this service to our patients. We are looking for people who are willing to donate towards this project. The total amount that would be needed to purchase 3 new microscopes would be approximately U\$ 1600.00 including shipping costs to Haiti.

Please help us raise the funds to be able to buy new microscopes for our lab by contributing towards this project and indicating this in the memo of your donation.



Update on Kai Mira



Shawn Hodges, Joanna's grandson, has been in Haiti since October of 2006. He is very busy with various activities, including monitoring the welfare of the children in Kai Mira.

As more volunteers come to HBS and spend time with these children they are doing so much better. Every afternoon it is play time at 4 pm in Kai Mira, either in the exercise room or on the porch. Everyone is putting

a lot of effort into making these children happy. In April, Dr Colleen O'Connell of Canada will have a team of rehab specialists to work with those in the HBS Kai Mira program. The team consists of a physician, a physiotherapist, a dietitian, an occupational therapist and three support staff. HBS really appreciates these support groups.



HBS Office in Lake Worth, Florida



220 South F Street, Lake Worth, FL 33460

Coping with the turmoil and unrest in Haiti, we opened a small office in the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in 1999. In 2001 we were able to move to Lake Worth, FL. HBS now has 1500 sq. ft. of warehouse space and close to that in office space. It is so much easier from our office in Lake Worth handling the ordering of medical supplies, shipping, receiving your donations, talking to potential volunteers, corresponding with you and taking care of the finances. We are able to have unlimited internet to get the best possible prices for items/supplies badly needed in Haiti. Back when everything was done from Haiti the donations that you sent came all the way to Haiti and then had to be sent back out to Florida to be deposited in the bank. Over the boxes that were shipped directly to Haiti, we had no control. Under the present system, we know exactly what we receive here in Lake Worth and then a number is assigned to the boxes which are shipped to Haiti. This way in Haiti they know what they are suppose to receive and we can track items that get misplaced. It is much more secure to operate this way.

A hearty thanks to each of you who share in the support of the hospital and its care of the sick in the town of Limbé. We couldn't do the many things that need to be done without your financial support and also your many prayers. Please keep the gifts coming.

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A graphic with the words "HAPPY EASTER" in large, yellow, block letters, surrounded by purple and pink flowers.