



# HBS Newsletter

## Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti



Spring 2016

### Cassandra

Recently, we had a very special case at HBS. Late one evening, a young girl by the name of Cassandra arrived at the hospital with significant swelling throughout her body. Large amounts of fluid collected around her eyes, face, back, stomach and feet.

After talking to Cassandra, we were surprised to find out that she was the sister of Geralda, one of our orphans. Geralda arrived at HBS two years ago suffering from severe malnutrition. After living in Kai Mira for two years, Geralda has since moved to the Hodges house and just finished her first trimester of school.

However, her sister Cassandra was not doing quite as well. She suffered from a condition known as Nephrotic syndrome, a kidney disorder that causes the body to excrete too much protein in the urine. A decrease in protein within the blood causes fluid to leak out of blood vessels, which results in edema, or swelling, throughout the body.

After a few weeks of treatment, Cassandra made little progress. As the time to discharge her approached, there was a feeling of despair amongst the staff. Amazingly, upon her first return appointment with the addition of a new medication, Cassandra made a miraculous recovery. Her swelling had almost completely reduced within a few days! Although her long-term prognosis is still uncertain, we thanked God for this small victory.

By Andrew Duchesne



### Frandie

Frandie, from Cap Haitian, is approximately 30 years old. He was admitted to the hospital with a severe infection on the palm of his hand, the result of a splinter. He required surgery where the wound was thoroughly cleaned and debrided. After surgery, he spent a week in the hospital being very lucky to have not lost any of his fingers.

After Frandie was released he had to come in every day to clean the wound, change the dressing and stretch the muscles in his hand. Now several months later the wound is fully closed. He does however not have the same range of motion yet that he used to and requires physical education to restore that.





## Work Teams

As we have written about previously, several years ago we started replacing roofs at HBS. Over time we have replaced the worst of them but still have a few to go. As can be imagined, almost all the ceilings suffered substantial water damage and have to be replaced.

Last year, a work team of seven persons organized by Will Benish and made up of friends and family from Ohio came to HBS. Their goal was to replace the ceilings in the cafeteria and the waiting room and then give both areas a fresh coat of paint. They worked very hard and in one week were able to finish what they came to accomplish. The end result was very nice as both the cafeteria and the waiting room look great!

With the help and support of these teams and individuals, the hospital is getting its much needed repairs and upkeep. HBS wants to thank the Ohio group and the Benish family for their time, effort and support.

This year in May we will have another work team from Oregon who will help replace the roofing around the court yard. We hope to have more work teams in the future.

## Surgery

Surgery has been ongoing since the beginning of this year with one visiting team per month. Three more teams are scheduled for April, May and November.

Many different operations are performed during those weeks. Most common surgeries are hernia and hydrocele repairs, circumcisions, resection of the prostate, hysterectomies (abdominal and vaginal) some C-sections and removal of "masses" (tumors - some benign some cancerous, as well as benign fibroids and nueromas)

Other surgeries done were thoracentesis (removing fluid from the space between the lung and the chest wall), toe amputations, mastectomies on both woman and men and repair of malformed limbs/appendages.

The Orthopedic surgeon from Oregon, at HBS in February, repaired a humerus of a woman who suffered a severe fracture in Port au Prince during the 2010 earthquake some 6 years ago. Thank you to all!



## Update Mattress Project

In our fall newsletter we mentioned our Mattress Project. We are pleased to let you know that we have received numerous donations though we are still a bit short of the amount needed to realize this project. We are hoping to attain that goal so we will be able to purchase and ship the mattresses this summer.

If you would like to help please contact us at:

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