



**Spring 2014**

**16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Medical Teams Visit  
Jacsonville this Winter**

This past winter, two different teams traveled to Jacsonville! The trip in November held clinic led by Dr. Maggie Hopkins and Dr. John Roberts. They also worked on a garden project led by Dr. Carl Motsenbocker. Volunteers included Violet Yeager, Heather Solomon, Amy Cavigli, Alex Coward, CT Grayson, Ebony Raymond, Susan Wright, and Alison Smith.

The January volunteer team also held clinic, led by Dr. Sue Gibson, Dr. Isabel Gross, Dr. Kim Chau, Dr. Kiersta Kurtz-Burke, Dr. Devi Yalamanchili, Dr. Julia McDonald, and Dr. Sue Rodgman. Volunteers included Leona Garber, Shela Gu, Scott Revell, Rose Bissonnette, Carl Mickman, Amanda Kiefer, Katelyn Yoder, Mary Katherine Ursulak, Quinn Jackson, Michael Ripple, Emily Harkins, Ashley Kiefer, and Alison Smith. Many thanks to our trip-goers!

#### **FUTURE MEDICAL TEAM DATES**

May 3-10, 2014

Fall 2014 trip dates TBD

Winter 2014 trip dates TBD

#### **Garden Project**

Carl Motsenbocker, LSUY /LSU AgCenter professor of horticulture and sustainable agriculture traveled with the medical mission trip over Thanksgiving in order to work with Gabriel Thelus on his on-going garden projects with school children from the Jacsonville elementary school. The objective was to volunteer with the garden project and to assess the future collaboration and support for locally produced fruits and vegetables and local food systems in the area in general. Carl brought vegetable seed to be used in the garden project on land devoted to gardens behind the Sante Total mission house. While he was there he worked with Gaby and students from 2 school classes on making raised beds, preparing the soil, direct seeding of vegetables, and plot maintenance. Future collaborative efforts where discussed and also the need for tools, simple irrigation systems, and volunteers such as LSU horticulture students to assist with the garden project.



#### **Building roads in Jacsonville**



The people of Jacsonville are beginning a project to improve the roads in their community. A message from Moosantu:

*We haven't done any work on the road, but they sometimes put concrete blocks on it to help fill in the holes. It is used daily by people of Jacsonville to go into town to sell products, buy food/water, and for children to get to school. If it was fixed, it would help save people a lot of time and would increase their safety. During the rainy season, it can get really muddy and it becomes nearly impassable.*

We need about \$2000 to fund the improvement of the roads project. If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact Alison at [Alison.annette.smith@gmail.com](mailto:Alison.annette.smith@gmail.com).

#### **Reproductive Health in Jacsonville**

*By Leona Garber*

In January 2014, during our clinic week, a small group of students met with the Groupe Development Femme Matabonite (GDFM), a woman's microfinance group based in

Jacsonville that has also been involved in a variety of community health activities. We asked them a variety of questions around childbearing practices, pre-natal and post-natal care, family planning, and sex education. What these women shared was very helpful in painting a fuller picture of the status of reproductive health in Jacsonville, outside of what we have already learned from clinic.

According to GDFM, most women are unable to afford a pre-natal visit to the doctor. Those who have the means may make one visit during their pregnancy. Common problems during pregnancy were challenges with either having access to food or not having an appetite when food was available. The majority of women are delivering children in their homes, sometimes assisted by a mid-wife or family members. Infant mortality following delivery has been known to occur, but we do not have sufficient information to determine the rate or cause of mortality for young infants and children. Children are typically breastfed 1-2 years. In terms of desired number of children, women agreed that 3 or 4 children is an ideal number for a family. Although a nearby clinic in Pignon offers a variety of birth control options at cost, Jacsonville women have limited access to birth control due to financial constraints. In regards to sex education, the women stated that they had received no sex education as adolescents, however their teenage children are currently receiving sex education in schools. Mothers stated that although they do counsel their older children to abstain from sex, there a number of youth who are sexually active. Women expressed an interest in receiving more information about hygiene and sexual health so that they may better advise their children.

We are planning to continue working with GDFM on community health projects and are looking forward to closer collaboration in the future.

### **Clinic Roof and Construction Progress**

We are about \$7000 short of finishing the roof of the medical clinic and \$20000 short of completing the entire clinic. If you have any suggestions for how we can raise this money to finish the construction, please email [alison.annette.smith@gmail.com](mailto:alison.annette.smith@gmail.com).

### **Donors, Dec 2013-January 2014**

Jean Carter  
Dr. Julia McDonald  
Andrew Wallace  
Yen Chen  
Terrie Clark  
Patrick Sweeney  
Christine Johnson  
Seth Jaffe  
Evelyn Goss  
Dr. Jack Hutter  
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Barbara Weis and Mark Stiles  
Tim Jachymowski  
Linda Stabler  
Carrie Henry  
Dr. Kiersta Kurtz-Burke  
Binh Chau  
Karl Irikura  
Dr. Sue Rodgman  
Dr. Sue Sangster Gibson  
Susan Conley and Shawn O'Connell  
Dr. Andrew Shannon

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#### **JEAN LOVE**

#### **Two year old boy with a club foot**

A two year old boy came with his mother for evaluation by the Sante Total medical team. He was found to have a club foot, a condition that is normally treated early on in the United States. He has a large callous on his knee from "walking" on his knees to move around. We were able to help Jean go to a hospital in another town to receive periodic casting to fix the position of his foot. Jean is now walking on his own!

#### **LIBENSON**

#### **Young man with severe diabetes**

Libenson is a 24 year old diabetic whose parents died in the earthquake. Earlier this year, he had extremely high blood sugars because he was unable to pay for his insulin. He has been doing much better since we were able to help him pay for his medications. However, he needs continued financial assistance. We estimate that we need \$50 per month to keep him supplied with medicines and food.

## **HOW TO DONATE**

We are making progress, but remember we still need ongoing financial support to continue projects throughout the year! **Please designate: "Sante Total" for your contributions.** If you are interested in giving a tax-deductible donation, there are two ways:

1. Visit our website at [www.santetotal.org](http://www.santetotal.org) and make a donation via Paypal.
2. Write a check payable to: "Sante Total" and mail it to:  
Sante Total  
c/o E. Alton Sartor  
1511 Dufossat St.  
New Orleans, LA 70115

## **THANK YOU**

Sante Total board members would like to extend many thanks to **both Winter medical teams** for another successful trip to Jacksonville!

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