



SANTE TOTAL

Healthcare for Haiti's Poor

Spring 2017

First Impressions

By: Joel Goodman, DDS

From 2-8 January, I participated in my first trip to Jacsonville. Participants from New Orleans, the Baltimore-Washington metro area, and San Francisco included physicians, nurses, a physical therapist, medical students & interns, a retired dentist (me), and other dedicated volunteers. In five days of clinic, we saw over 500 patients.



Several veteran volunteers commented that the cross-section of patient needs was the most varied they had experienced over

the years. My personal favorite was a 2-year old febrile boy who, despite his discomfort, never stopped smiling at caregivers. Throughout the week, I assisted two Haitian dentists who treated over 125 patients for cleanings and extractions. We met one evening and discussed how we can provide more

comprehensive dental services to the community once the permanent clinic is finished. The upstairs of the mission house has a beautiful new tile floor, and Gaby's wife cooked all meals in a new outdoor kitchen behind the mission house. Unfortunately, the water pump failed on our second day there, and bucket showers and flushes became part of our routine.

Besides delivering primary medical, dental, and optometric care, several other recurring tasks were completed during the week – an organization and inventory medical and surgical supplies by a Virginia Tech contingent of 8 who showed up mid-week for 36 hours, a pharmacy inventory, and a reorganization of medical records.

Mid-week, Temrah Okonski, a physical therapist from Maryland and fellow Rotarian, and I met with the Rotary Club of Pignon at the hospital there. They are willing to serve as the host club to administer a Rotary Global Grant our club in Ellicott City, Maryland is currently writing which will 1) finish the clinic; 2) provide water and generator-powered electricity to the clinic and adjacent school; 3) connect the clinic to the US for telemedicine; and 4) support tuition costs to train Haitian doctors and nurses to staff the facility.



In summary, it was my honor and privilege to serve with such a motivated, sleep deprived group of professionals. I just wish this 64-year old body had the stamina to keep up with them. I look forward to returning to Jacsonville to help complete the construction of the clinic and to see Gaby's and others' plans for the good people of the Central Plateau come to fruition.

Meet Ruth Romain

By Temrah Okonski, PT

I met Ruth in March 2013 during a Sante Total trip to Jacsonville. She was about 3 years old and could not walk. I have always been very impressed with the Haitian moms and dads raising children who were not developing normally. I do not take this love for granted having treated patients in the US who have left



their home countries because having a child with special needs was not accepted. The Haitian families I met treasured and cared for these children like they would any child.

Ruth's mom was no exception, and she loved Ruth so much that she cared for her completely, to the detriment of Ruth's physical development. We diagnosed Ruth with developmental delays. The key to working with children who have motor delays without significant tone or asymmetrical movement patterns is to understand that early intervention services can directly impact developmental outcomes.

I knew that I needed to help Ms Romain understand that though Ruth would develop, she would do so at a slower rate than other children, and only with a lot of hard love and mom-work. I spoke to Gaby about the need for intensive therapy during my week in Jacksonville, and Gaby invited Ruth and her mom to stay at his home for the week.

Every morning before clinic got busy I worked with Ruth for over an hour building her strength and confidence, while I trained her mom so she could do the different exercises with Ruth. Ruth's mom was a great student and learned fast. We played games in kneeling, on all fours, worked in standing, and did lots of baby sit-ups, among many other basic strengthening exercises. Ms Romain went home with a book of hand drawn pictures of exercises and carefully detailed instructions of the exercises written by one of our interpreters.

Since March 2013, I have visited Jacksonville 5 times, each time I was hoping to see Ruth, but never did. Then in March 2017, to my surprise

I received an email from Gaby, and a recent picture of Ruth. The email read, "Dear Temrah, this is one of your patients. She could not make movement. Now she is walking. Bravo Temrah. Gaby" To say that email made my day is an understatement. I was elated.



Going to Haiti a couple times a year can be tough. The trips can be hard on my family, and can be physically and emotionally difficult for me. Stories like Ruth's help me know that supporting Sante Total, Gaby, and Jacksonville are worth the effort.

Temrah has been a physical therapist for nearly 30 years. She practices in the Baltimore, MD area, and has been on 7 Sante Total trips.

Haiti Agroforestry Project, Update

By John Gallini, Richmond VA

Objectives of the project:

1. Facilitate the establishment of one or more locations on Haiti's Central Plateau where food producing tree stock is available for distribution. Tree species to

be included are Mango, Maya Nut, Citrus and Avocado.

2. Partner with schools, which provide meals to students, to establish groves of food producing trees that will enhance the nutrition of the meals for those students.

Personnel

We have identified a person from the Central Plateau who has agreed to work part-time on this project for a year. His name is Fanfan Myriel. His experience includes managing a tree nursery for 10 years as part of a project sponsored by The Little Brothers of the Incarnation and funded by a Haitian Government agency. We began providing a monthly stipend in October, 2016.

Fanfan has arranged with two other workers to assist him in this project. The first is Elitoine, a man with whom Fanfan worked at the previous Tree Nursery in Pondiassou, and Aurelus Chansner, a worker from Jacksonville. Both assistants also work part-time.



Elitoine and Fanfan

Location

We have identified a location for a pilot project that will provide land to establish a food producing tree nursery. That location is the village of Jacksonville, near Pignon and we will work with Gaby Thelus, a leader in that community. There is a Catholic school in Jacksonville that provides meals to its students and we will seek to partner with that school.

Selection of Tree Species

The criteria that we are considering as we select the tree species to plant include
There are a number of factors that would have an influence on which tree species to plant when seeking to improve the health of schoolchildren. Among them would be:

- a fruit's ability to remedy deficiencies in the current diet,
- the time it takes for a tree to bear fruit,
- the productivity of the species,
- the time of year tree produces fruit,
- the number of years of high level productivity,
- the suitability of the species to the climate involved,
- availability of seed,
- resistance to diseases and predators,
- the amount of care required after the trees are established,
- cultural factors.

A well-designed project will involve expert input on all of those. For the pilot project we are at present planning to plant orange, grapefruit, papaya, avocado, Maya nut, and mango. That is

subject to alteration as we obtain input from our consultants.

Seed Starting

Fanfan identified the tools that were needed, and most of those have been purchased. Fanfan and his co-workers have now prepared seed pots with orange and grapefruit seeds, and some of those have sprouted.

He has papaya seeds that will be started in March. We have been trying to obtain Maya nut seeds and are expecting that they will become available in March. Avocado and mango seeds will become available in April. One of the next steps for the nursery is to provide shade for the seedlings.



Citrus beginning to sprout in seed pods

Site Preparation

The site for setting out the seedlings to establish a small orchard is about two acres

in size. There is a cactus fence that partially protects the area. It needs reinforcing and additional fencing along one side. There is also a well in the area with a submersible pump powered by a diesel generator. The pump was originally designed to operate with solar power and that system could be repaired by purchasing new solar panels.



Site for orchard

Financing

I have committed to providing salaries for the workers for the rest of 2017; at which time we will reassess the progress and decide how best to proceed.

Members of my family have contributed a total of \$3,850 which will cover some of the expenses associated with planting and nurturing the orchard.

Support the Nelson Children

By Gabriel Thelus

Katchenara, 8 years old, and Loudjilove, 5 years old, lost their father Nelson Celicourt last year. We are looking to raise \$500/year for the next 10 or 11 years to support the children. We stress this is a need, and any contribution would be truly appreciated. The money will ensure they have a secure future and the support they deserve. If you are interested in making any donations, please send a check to:

1511 Dufossat St. New Orleans, LA 70115. All donations are tax deductible.



FUTURE MEDICAL TEAM DATES

May 6-13, 2017

Aug. 26-Sept. 2, 2017

Jan. 6-13th, 2018

If you are interested in signing up please contact us at santetotal.healthcare@gmail.com in regards to the trips; more information will be available as dates come closer.

Fundraiser

Hosted by: *Knights of Columbus*



On November 11, 2016, the Knights of Columbus, an organization dedicated to charitable acts throughout the community, hosted a successful annual Beers and Brats Fest. It was a wonderful event, bringing in many community members both from the church and the surrounding New Orleans community. In addition, the Archbishop of New Orleans provided a grant to Sante Total on top of what was earned at the fundraiser, between the two events we raised nearly \$25,000. We are incredibly grateful for this wonderful gift, and will use the money to improve the community and continue our work on the mission house.

To learn more about how Alison Smith MD, PhD and Ed Ready JD became involved in Sante Total and Knights of Columbus, read the article below:

<http://clarionherald.info/clarion/index.php/news/archdiocesan-general-news/6120-couple-initiates-mater-dolorosa-kc-haiti-partnership>

Funds needed for Sante Total

Please consider donating to Sante Total. We are running very low on funds which will make it difficult for us to continue to support our projects in Jacsonville.

We are making progress, but please remember we still need ongoing financial support to continue projects throughout the year! Our cupboards are looking quite barren! *Even \$20 can go a long way in Haiti.* **Please designate: "Sante Total" for your contributions.** There are two ways to give a tax-deductible donation:

1. **Visit our website** at 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

Sante Total Wishlist

Purchase important medical supplies to support Haitian clinic!

Our wish list can be found here:

<https://www.amazon.com/registry/giftlist/LMFZE20HRC2L>

If you want to avoid making personal contributions, we started to use Amazon Smile, which allows you to donate money to Sante Total while you shop for multiple purchases on Amazon! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. You can do this in 3 easy steps:

1. Search for: <http://smile.amazon.com>
2. Look up Sante Total under 'organizations'
3. Shop and earn money for Sante Total!

Need gift ideas? Shop online for Sante Total shirts, mugs, baby clothes, etc. They make the perfect holiday/birthday gifts!

Link to merchandise:

http://www.cafepress.com/santetotal?awc=4102_1449203914_18e89914d5d5cd3877110659e0b65ba7&utm_medium=affiliate&utm_source=aw&utm_term=85386&utm_content=0



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October 2016-February 2017

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Have a great summer!