SANTE TOTAL
Healthcare for Haiti's Poor

Fall Newsletter
November 2026



Sante Total, which means "Total Health" in Haitian Kreyol, aims to provide sustainable healthcare to rural communities in the central plateau region of Haiti. We believe you can only improve health through eradicating the disease of poverty. The Sante Total approach considers the entire person – physical health, well-being, education, and employment, to be essential to health and quality of life.

FUTURE MEDICAL TEAM DATES

On hold due to safety concerns

Be a part of the team! Contact us at
santetotal.healthcare@gmail.com



Dear friends,

We thank you so much for your ongoing support of Sante Total. The situation in Haiti continues to be very difficult despite international efforts to address the situation. Our Haitian partners Gaby, Berteau, and so many others, are courageously struggling on to improve their community. Fuel is still expensive and scarce, making it difficult to transport food and vital supplies from one part of the country to the other and 90% of the capital is controlled by rival gangs. Berteau said that many families don't have enough food and can only afford to eat a small amount once a day, and the UN confirms that Haiti faces tremendous food insecurity.



Despite the difficulties, people go to work and to church, kids go to school, and life goes on in Jacsonville. Progress is slower than we hoped it would be, but Sante Total is doing our best to continue our work in the community. We are still working toward opening the clinic and have obtained another School Lunch grant thanks to the ongoing support of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish. The students we have supported have graduated and many are working on projects in Jacsonville. We have also continued to support activities and a food distribution program for the elderly and have continued to do remote medical consults and to help people in the community with their medical bills.

Gaby sends his greeting to all, saying "This year makes it over 6 years without having the Sante Total medical team visit Jacsonville. We miss these people a lot. Many patients, friends, English translators and medical workers keep asking about this American team. They wonder when they will come back to Haiti. I want to remind you after the Corona Virus era, the gangsters took over and they ruled over the country and now we have total insecurity. Such a situation makes Haiti poorer and more desperate.

Despite all of this, a great thing continues to happen. As supporters, you never give up on assisting Sante Total to help in different projects, especially in health, education, hunger, etc. Myself as the founder and general director of Haiti CSR, I feel so delighted to thank you profoundly from my heart of your share and compassion. I would like you to understand that your contribution becomes more significant as Haiti is going deeper in more disaster.
We are praying that God continues to bless you for your continued donation.
MÈSI ANPIL, BONDYE BENI AMERICA (Thank you very much, my God bless America).
Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts! Please continue to support our efforts to help the conditions in Haiti improve!

Barbara Weis, MD MPHTM
Executive Director, Sante Total

Current Environment in Haiti

Information gathered from Human Rights Watch, PBS, and the New York Times.

CHALLENGES

- **Gangs** now control **over 90%** of the capital, spilling over into other areas of the country. The U.N. human rights office reported that in 2025 over 5,500 people were killed, 2,600 injured and over 1.45 million remained displaced.
- General elections are scheduled to be held this year. The presidency, all seats in the senate and the chamber of deputies and local and municipal offices will be contested but the elections have been **repeatedly delayed** since 2019 and have now been delayed for August and December due to **gang warfare and lack of funds.**
- There are now six small airports open in Haiti, but the **main airport** in the capital **remains closed** due to gang violence and commercial options for flights are extremely limited.
- Terminating Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti leaves approximately 330,000 Haitian nationals in the U.S. facing **mass deportation.** This has caused the Dominican Republic to terminate all new work visas for Haitians as well and will cause even more **economic hardship.**

Current Environment in Haiti

Information gathered from Human Rights Watch, PBS, and the New York Times.

POSITIVE MOVEMENT

- The **UN-backed Multinational Security Support (MSS)** mission transitioned and expanded its anti-gang operations, working alongside the Haitian National Police to reclaim territory and reestablish state authority.
- The World Bank and local authorities successfully established new multifunctional **safe havens** and **infrastructure projects** across exposed coastal regions, generating local employment and protecting livelihoods ahead of the storm season.
- The government enacted new training initiatives aimed at fighting corruption among the younger generation and finalized an official two-year country program with the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** to boost decent work and **expand social protection.**
- While Haiti didn't win its World Cup match against Morocco, fans were jubilant about being able to cheer on their team, which defied the odds to play in its **first World Cup stint since the '70s.**

Current Environment in Haiti

Information gathered from Human Rights Watch, PBS, and the New York Times.

HEALTH

- **Cholera** continues to be a concern, with 2,852 suspected cholera cases reported by the government in 2025, including 186 confirmed cases and 48 deaths. Children under 9 represented over 1/3 of the cases. The resurgence of the disease was heavily concentrated in overcrowded displacement camps around the capital, exacerbated by severe gang violence and a lack of clean water.

- **Food Insecurity:** According to the U.N. World Food Program, the number of food insecure Haitians has tripled since 2016, and Haiti has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world**.** A total of 5.7 million Haitians -half the population - do not have enough to eat, and 1.9 million, or 17% of the population, are suffering emergency levels of acute food insecurity, which leaves them with food gaps, high acute malnutrition and excess mortality rates. An alarming 3.3 million children — the highest number on record — are now in need of humanitarian assistance and 277,000 children (22% of children) are suffering from acute malnutrition; 125,000 are severely malnourished. Sixty-six percent of under 5-year-olds suffer from anemia which compromises their development and leads to lifelong health issues.

Featured Board Member: Alison Smith, MD

My Daughter's First Steps **by Paula A. Smith**

In 2007, an undergraduate student mission trip to the northeast region of the Central Plateau of Haiti became the inspiration for my daughter, D**r. Alison Smith**, to envision ways to help the poor living there who were deprived of adequate healthcare.

Two years later, while a medical student at Tulane University, she obtained permission and organized a team of volunteer physicians, residents, and medical students for a medical mission trip to Haiti. Transporting suitcases with donated medical supplies, the team flew across the mountains to Jacsonville. They were met by Gabriel Thelus, a Haitian born and raised in Jacsonville, and a graduate of Virginia Tech. He provided leadership and support for the team and community.

A year later, in 2010, Alison, 25, founded Sante Total, a nonprofit organization, and began coordinating quarterly medical trips with a volunteer team of medical professionals to provide healthcare to the people in Jacsonville and the surrounding communities.

Not long after, I accompanied my daughter and a medical team on a mission trip to Jacsonville. The next morning the team prepared to assess people waiting in line for the clinic. I was assigned to the eye clinic to provide vision exams and donated used eye glasses. Many people had cataracts. When one man finally found the right glasses he smiled and said to me, "Merci!"

The afternoon we waited at the airport in Port-au-Prince to return to the US the plane was delayed. So the team agreed to spend time helping people. The photo I took of my daughter with children gathered around her is one of my favorite memories of that day.



Dr. Alison Smith surrounded by a group of children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Featured Board Member: Alison Smith, MD

Today my daughter, Dr. Alison A. Smith, MD, PhD, FACS, is an Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and serves as Associate Program Director of the LSUHSC Surgical Critical Care and the Trauma Medical Director for the Norman E. McSwain-Spirit of Charity Level I Trauma Center at UMC New Orleans.

In reflecting on our daughter's goodness, it seems natural to me that she founded Sante Total. After earning dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Biological Sciences and Chemistry from Virginia Tech, she received one of the university's most prestigious honors, "Woman of the Year." She attended Tulane University and completed an MD and PhD in Biomedical Sciences through the Physician/Scientist program, followed by a general surgery residency and a Surgical Critical Care fellowship at UT Health San Antonio. And in 2019 she was awarded the American College of Surgeons Pfizer Surgical Volunteer Award. Recently she received the Woman of the Year Award by New Orleans City Business.

Since the beginning of Sante Total, it is estimated that in 25 medical mission trips about 10,000 people living in local communities in the Central Plateau were treated. The good work in Haiti by Sante Total is paused at the moment because of political upheaval. Yet, the Haitian people are never to be forgotten.



Dr. Alison Smith is presented the ACS Pfizer Surgical Volunteer Award.



Project Updates

Computer Lab to be Constructed in Honor of Dr. Marquis

We received a donation in honor of **Dr. Paul Marquis** from his wife to build a computer lab at the school. Dr. Marquis was a family practitioner who participated in many Sante Total medical trips. A committee has been formed and we are moving forward to put together a proposal and budget for this project and hope to open it soon!



Sante Total Team, May 2019. Paul is on the right

New Projects

School Health Clinic Expansion

We have expanded the school health clinic so that it will be stocked with basic supplies the school nurse needs to care for the children such as band-aids, gauze, alcohol, medications for pain and fever, etc.

New Yearly Global Health Trip

Dr. Weis worked with BicoVensen to organize a new yearly Global Health trip to the Dominican Republic. During the time there, they worked with Haitian physicians in the Dominican Republic to run a clinic at a large Haitian church in Santiago de los Caballeros for Haitian refugees who often have difficulty accessing the public health clinics in the DR. We have continued to provide the funds for quarterly clinics for the kids there which have been greatly appreciated.



Santiago Clinic



Blood Pressure Check



Clinic with Barbara



Clinic Medications and consultation with Bicovensen.

Clinic Construction

Open the Clinic Team



Current Progress on Clinic Construction

We have now created a new **"Open the Clinic"** team consisting of Gaby and all or our recent graduates to address barriers that need to be overcome for us to open. The furniture from the grant supported by the Rotary of Ellicott City is finished and the shelves will need to be installed after the plastering and painting has been completed. The windows need to be equipped with screens, which involves hand-building frames and installing them, and there is some plastering and painting left. The microscope, centrifuge, computers, and other necessary items for the clinic are now in the possession of BicoVensen, the medical student we have been supporting in the Dominican Republic. He will transport everything to the clinic when the security measures necessary to keep it safe have been completed. Gaby has located a local physician who is willing to work at the clinic one day a week and we are hoping to start this as soon as the building has been finished. Our hope is that with this team in place, we will be able to move forward rapidly and get the clinic open as soon as possible.

In the meanwhile, we have continued to support families in Jacsonville who need help with their medical bills and medications.

Message from Berteau, Founder of CHEAHP
(Center for the Handicapped and Elderly)



Berteau at a weekly CHEAHP meeting

Living here in Haiti is hard. The insecurity here, it is something. The gangs will let the country grow when they want. It now costs a lot of money because always no gas and you have to buy from people selling by the gallon for high price. Hospitals cost a lot of money. Here with the elders the situation is not easy because food is too expensive. The government here doesn't care about the old people and the paralyzed people. We are obliged to keep working. They don't have food at home to support themselves and we have many kids coming too. When we organize the Christmas solidarity for them for more than 500 people it is because the elders need to enjoy also and it is only once a year they get that chance to participate and to organize the party. We always count on your support because the charge it's really big. Thank you for your support of the elders. I really appreciate that. Your effort for the elders is really significant. We always need more because they depend on us.

Update from Berteau's Group



Berteau's Group

- Berteau continues to hold weekly meetings at **CHEAHP** (the Center for the Handicapped and Aged).
- A meal is provided at each meeting and they then send people home with supplemental food for the week.
- Food is more expensive, so we have increased support to $800 a month.
- We also supported a huge Christmas party which was attended by almost **500 people** last year.

Donations for this project would help us to increase the amount of food we distribute to the elderly and disabled in the community.



Berteau's Group

Students & Scholarships

We have invested **over $18,000 dollars in scholarships** for students who will help us staff the permanent clinic including: one medical, one nursing, one pharmacy and one administrative student.

Ketteline has finished her nursing degree and was working as a nurse at the school until she had twins and she is now out on an extended maternity leave. We are considering supporting a second nursing student so there will be two nurses available to work in the clinic.

Maisson has completed his degree in administration at the university and is doing well despite the chaos. He now works at the school and is a member of the team working on opening the clinic.



Maisson at his graduation

Students & Scholarships



Ben-Ben with his mom at graduation

Myrbensly (Ben-Ben) graduated from pharmacy school on October 8th 2023 and has been working in Cap Haitian doing odd jobs but he has not been able to find a pharmacy position yet because they are extremely scarce. He is now working as a member of the "Opening Team" to organize the medications, tests and pharmacy supplies we will need to open the clinic pharmacy.

Bicovensen completed his final year of med school in the DR and has passed all the exams necessary for him to practice in the DR. He now needs to complete a year of service which he owes the government for his medical school training but he has to wait because the DR will not issue any work visas to Haitian nationals right now. He is currently completing an Ultrasound course so that he can use this technique in the clinic.



A picture of Bico after receiving his intern badge

School Update

St. Rose of Lima School continues to be a place of hope and opportunity for children and families in Jacsonville. The school is growing dramatically, and **attendance has almost doubled**: from 120 students to over 220 students served by 24 dedicated teachers from preschool through 9th grade. Gaby says this is because they have developed a good reputation, and parents are choosing to send their children there now. Despite ongoing unrest and instability throughout the country, the school remains open, safe, and thriving thanks to the tireless leadership of Gaby and the devoted staff. This year also brought several important improvements to the campus through the generosity of donors. A **new security fence and guard station** were completed to better protect students and staff, and the school now has **solar-powered electricity** to support daily operations with future plans for a **computer lab**. And as enrollment continues to increase, support is now being sought for a separate kindergarten building to meet the needs of the school's youngest learners. Your donations continue to provide the majority of the funding for teacher salaries and classroom materials, directly impacting every child at the school.



St. Rose First Grade Convocation 2026



St. Rose 2026 Kindergarten Convocation

School Update

We received a grant from the St. Thomas of Villanova Parish again this year to help cover the **school lunch program**. We have continued to extend the food program through the summer because there is so much food insecurity and the kids will now receive food all year. The food from HaitiOne, the organization we work with, is being supplemented with local food to make it “taste more like the Haitian food the kids are used to. Otherwise, they won’t eat it” per Gaby. The families are very grateful that their children receive at least one balanced meal a day.

Gaby said that “We still have hope that another tomorrow is possible. **Thank you for the support Sante Total is giving** for the community. It is a bright spot during a very difficult time.”



Unloading Boxes of Food

Boxes of Food Stored in the Chapel



How to Contribute



Dear friends of Sante Total,

Mesi Anpil (thank you so much), for your generous donations of time, energy, and money, and your willingness to help! Sante Total is counting on your participation to continue our projects in Haiti.

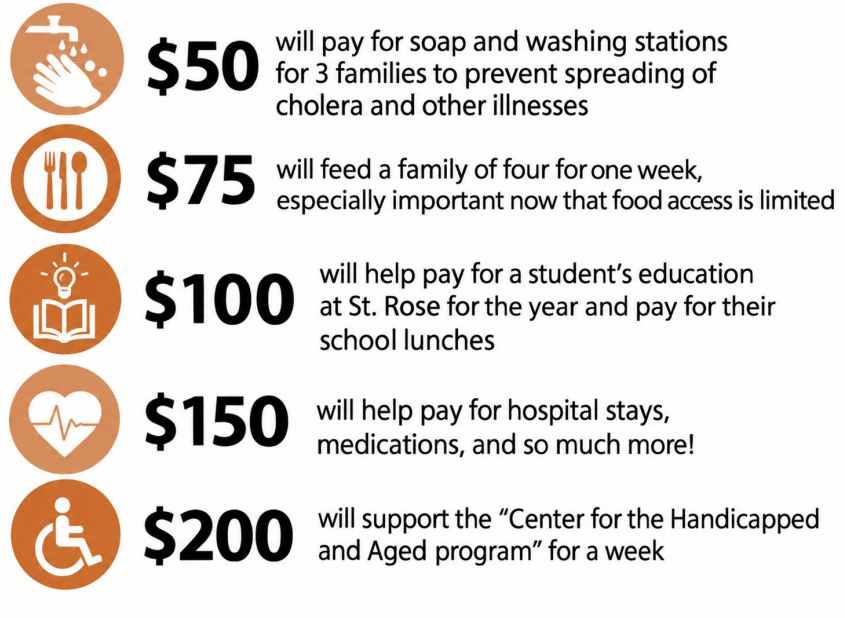
Why? Because Haiti is still the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and the recent political turmoil has caused suffering in Jacsonville. Our friends are struggling with inflation, gang violence, and gas, food, and medication shortages. Through all of the difficulties, the people of Jacsonville have persevered, thanks, in part, to your donations.

If you would like to donate in someone's honor as a holiday gift, we will send you cards that you can gift to your favorite person.

Please lend us your support this giving season! Together, we can make a difference!

You can donate directly online at www.santetotal.org or send a check to the address listed there. Or you can also do both!

Here's to the hope that someday soon, we will work ourselves out of a job!



We're making progress with your generous support. Thank you to our 2026 donors!

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We're making progress with your generous support. Thank you to our 2026 donors!

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