Larry and Gwen Mellon built HAS in 1956, and respectfully named it after Albert Schweitzer to honor his pioneering humanitarian work in Africa. The Mellons then recognized the need for clean water and sanitation, and promptly expanded from the hospital campus to initiate community development projects that greatly improved public health. They honored Dr. Schweitzer and then moved forward.

Gretchen and Warren Berggren came to HAS in the 1960’s and 70’s; they built upon the success of the Mellons and established a ground-breaking community health program. In a seminal publication in The New England Journal of Medicine, the Berggrens described how basic primary care provided by HAS at the community level decreased child mortality, eliminated tetanus, and improved the health of the population. They took the mantra of “primary health care for all” and put it into action. The public health world is still trying to catch up.

In 2014 HAS launched a new five-year strategic plan. Again, this plan builds upon past success but is bold in its future vision. HAS Medical Director Dr. Herriot Sannon and a team of outstanding clinicians and community health workers are putting this plan into action. Despite tremendous progress, Haiti continues to suffer maternal and child mortality rates that are among the worst in the world, and as such, a major focus of HAS continues to be services and programs that are aimed at reducing risks for newborns, mothers and children. For example, HAS has implemented new strategies to prevent malnutrition, deployed new childhood vaccines, and will be launching an exciting new program to improve adolescent health.

Also, recognizing the tremendous loss of life caused by trauma and motor vehicle accidents, there is a renewed emphasis on emergency surgical care. HAS is one of the few centers in the country capable of providing 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week trauma care. Thousands of lives will be saved through these efforts.

Nearly 60 years of success and a bold vision for the future. That is a winning combination.
Kellee and Steve Meng began supporting Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti not because they had visited Haiti or heard of HAS in the news, even after the 2010 earthquake—but because they set out to find an effective international organization that could do the most good with every dollar they donated. A careful search on the non-profit ratings website Charity Navigator led the couple from Fishers, Indiana, to HAS. (HAS receives Charity Navigator’s top rating of four stars.)

“We were impressed with the scores HAS received for transparency, financial health, and operational accountability,” says Steve. “As a business owner myself, I appreciated that HAS scored so highly on those metrics, and it’s good to know that over 90% of donations go towards the cause. HAS has one of the lowest administrative expense percentages of any charity I have come across.”

Steve is the founder and president of Base Camp Leasing, Inc., a hunting land lease company that operates across 24 states. Kellee and Steve are both glad that their philanthropic support can directly help so many people in need in a very challenged part of the world.

“We know our support is helping HAS to save the lives of children and families,” says Kellee, “which motivates us to make a difference when we can.”

Although real-world impact is far more important than any rating, these consistently high scores speak to the efficiency and effectiveness of HAS’s hardworking doctors, staff, and volunteers. While every organization must invest in its administration and long-term sustainability, HAS keeps its overhead as efficient and lean as possible, in order to direct resources to its core mission: to provide crucial, lifesaving healthcare to people in great need. HAS is able to accomplish a heroic amount of work every day with a seasoned staff, experience gained from nearly six decades operating in Haiti, and countless partners and volunteers who donate their time, expertise, supplies, and financial support.

The Meng family is proud to count itself as a strong partner of HAS. In fact, they and their sons Gavin and Grant plan a visit soon to Haiti and HAS—so they can witness in person the extraordinary impact the hospital is able to make. “Many of us in the United States are very fortunate,” remarks Steve. “We are grateful to have the advantages of living in a developed country, and happy to play a small part in helping people in the developing world. We are confident that HAS is a smart investment that will yield lasting, positive change in Haiti.”

To view the stellar scores HAS receives on Charity Navigator, go to www.charitynavigator.org and search for Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti by typing in our tax ID number, 25-1017587. HAS is also highly rated on GuideStar, and recently underwent a rigorous screening process that resulted in certification by the Better Business Bureau.
INSIDE HAS

Q&A WITH HAS FACILITIES DIRECTOR JIMMIE TINSLEY

By Katie Matson, U.S. Administration Office

Katie Matson: The Emergency Department renovation funded by American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) of USAID is a lot more extensive than new paint or light fixtures. Can you tell us more?

Jimmie Tinsley: This is a complex, multi-year project that won’t be completed until mid-2015, and it affects almost all of the patient areas of the hospital—surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, the list goes on. We are reconfiguring a lot of the existing space for greater efficiency, and skylights and a new ventilation system will make the hospital airier and brighter inside.

KM: What impact will the renovation have on patient care?

JT: This renovation will make the hospital safer, especially from an infection control standpoint, and it will become a nicer environment for patients, their families, and the staff. Once the renovation is complete, the space will be a lot more efficient, comfortable, and better for clinicians’ workflow.

We were able to install a natural convection turbine—basically, it’s a natural air conditioning system that sucks hot air away and pulls fresh, cooler air inside. It will make a big impact, and it’s extremely energy efficient. For the first time ever, we will need to pay attention to whether the NICU [neonatal intensive care unit] is warm enough for the babies!

KM: What have been the biggest challenges?

JT: The logistics of this project are challenging—you’re literally worrying about nuts and bolts, because there’s no Home Depot if something is forgotten. Fortunately, we’ve been able to do a good job of staying on schedule and on budget. I attribute a lot of that to Nellie [Player, Purchasing Manager in the U.S. Administration Office], who coordinates all the complex orders and logistics.

KM: What would you like supporters to know about the Facilities Department?

JT: If the Facilities Department is operating efficiently, that maximizes the efforts and costs spent elsewhere, including on direct patient care. In my mind, the most significant thing Dr. and Mrs. Mellon were able to do when the hospital opened in 1956 was invest in the infrastructure of the hospital—the water tower, power generators, the sewage treatment facility. You simply cannot have a modern hospital without clean water and electricity. For our community health work, especially up in the mountains, you need reliable vehicles to transport the vaccines, medicines, and other equipment. Without vehicles and gas to operate them, none of that healthcare can happen.

KM: What are your hopes for the future?

JT: After this project wraps up, the next step is to furnish the hospital with new medical equipment and furniture. We are also determined to reduce energy costs, and are planning for a solar energy system that will save the hospital hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in diesel fuel. We also would love to be able to invest in a new water tower—it’s had to work incredibly hard since it was built in 1954!

KM: What accomplishment are you most proud of?

JT: This is really the first opportunity we’ve had since the earthquake to show outside funders what we’re capable of. I was really proud when representatives from ASHA/USAID toured the site this summer, and told us how impressed they were with our work. They told us that HAS stands out among all the hospitals in Haiti, in terms of our ability to execute on our plans and manage the workload, and the way we stretch every dollar.
In my home country of Haiti, the demand for physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists and rehabilitation nurses is greater than the supply. Most work in large cities such as Port-au-Prince, while approximately 70 percent of the Haitian population lives in rural areas like the Lower Artibonite Valley, where HAS is located.

Rehabilitation services are vital to many patients’ recovery processes. They help minimize the length of inpatient stays, while helping patients resume productive lives and re-integrate into their communities as quickly as possible. I am proud to work for HAS, which offers the only physical therapy program in the HAS service area, where more than 350,000 people live and work.

I began working here in 2011, and took over as Rehabilitation Services Manager in 2012. Before that, I studied physical therapy in the Dominican Republic (there is no physical therapy school in Haiti currently), and worked there for a time before returning to Haiti.

The HAS Rehabilitation Services program began in 2008 with volunteers who came to HAS periodically to help patients who needed to learn how to walk with crutches. In 2009 HAS initiated a rehabilitation technician training program, which has helped develop the more extensive program in existence today.

The program is aligned with World Health Organization recommendations and with the Haitian Ministry of Health’s goal to provide universal access to quality care for all Haitians through decentralization of rehabilitation training and services.

HAS rehabilitation services today include traditional physical therapy services, as well as aspects of occupational and speech therapy. For example, HAS therapists help stroke patients improve their ability to swallow. All services include education and support for patients’ families to help ensure that therapy continues in the home when needed.

Patients with any condition may be referred to the program, but most are recovering from traumatic injuries or stroke, or have developmental delays. Our team of seven provides some 700 consultations every month, with roughly 17 percent of HAS physical rehabilitation patients coming from outside the HAS service area.

Today HAS aims to enhance the program with sustainable, low-maintenance equipment and additional continuing education for staff. We also are working to further integrate rehabilitation services into community-based treatment and care.

Meanwhile, we know we are making a significant difference in patients’ lives. It’s enormously satisfying to see patients regain control of their lives.

With the help of many, we will continue to improve HAS rehabilitation services in a place that truly needs us.

Nathalie Duverger is Rehabilitation Service Manager at HAS.
PITTSBURGH, PA – More than 100 Pittsburghers, including special guest Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, gathered September 11 at the first annual $5K Rum event to taste Haitian and Pittsburgh-made rums while raising $5,000 for HAS.

The event held at Maggie’s Farm Rum Distillery in Pittsburgh, PA, was produced by the U.S. Administration Office of HAS, which is located in Pittsburgh. In addition to Tim Russell and Moss Clark of Maggie’s Farm, which provided the venue and donated a portion of cocktail sales to HAS, sponsors included HAS Board member Tom Succop and Jo Ann Succop, RE360, Bill Chisnell Productions, 2nd II None Productions, and photographer Alex Hanson.

Other special guests included RE360 founder and CEO Joe Calloway, longtime HAS donors Virginia Dato and Jamini Davies, Andrew White, and Chris Thieman and daughter and former HAS intern Jackie Thieman.

“I am proud of Pittsburgh for its long-running support of this amazing organization, which was founded by a Pittsburgher and which has been so effective for nearly 60 years in improving public health in Haiti,” said Mayor Peduto.

Visit [www.hashaiti.org](http://www.hashaiti.org) to read about more recent and upcoming HAS events.

Interested in hosting your own fundraiser for HAS? Contact Tran Doan at [tran@hashaiti.org](mailto:tran@hashaiti.org).
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