

STAFF PERSPECTIVE

"HAS IS FAR MORE THAN A HOSPITAL."

By Dr. Hedwige Pierre, Chief of Medical Service,
HAS Integrated Community Services



I am a family medicine specialist and a native of Haiti. After completing medical school in Cuba, I returned to my home country because I knew that Haiti has a great need for excellent healthcare.

I have worked throughout the country as a physician and as an administrator, and spent the last few years working for Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a global health nonprofit helping leaders, health managers, and communities in developing nations build stronger health systems for greater health impact. There, I oversaw nongovernmental partners – a total of 32 institutions funded by MSH in that region.

HAS was among them, and, in my view, it was the best performing, most disciplined, and most open to change of all the institutions in my zone. HAS usually received less funding from MSH than other institutions, but always did more with it.

When asked if I would be interested in coming to work at HAS, I accepted immediately; I knew that working here would reinforce my vision of building a better healthcare

system in Haiti. There is a great team here doing very real work. We are working with the community and helping to change the conditions in places like the mountains in Bastien and Tienne, where state services do not reach.

Community health workers are the base of this organization. They support the work of HAS nurses, nurses' aides, and doctors in an integrated health system. This base is already strong, and I hope to reinforce it in three ways:

- With training and continuing education for community health workers and other key staff;
- By ensuring that our work is evidence-based – based on proven practices for preventing the spread of infectious disease, for example;
- And by strengthening our team's links with the community and with colleagues at the hospital to ensure the best possible continuum of care.

HAS is far more than a hospital; it is a truly integrated healthcare system. We are working to improve this system through better collaboration within Haiti, and with the help of our supporters abroad.

HAS is a beautiful institution, and our work is making a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people each year.

“ I knew that working here would reinforce my vision of building a better healthcare system in Haiti. ”



HÔPITAL ALBERT SCHWEITZER

HAITI

HAS U.S. Administration Office
2840 Liberty Ave, Suite 201
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.hashaiti.org



HÔPITAL ALBERT SCHWEITZER

HAITI

WHAT'S INSIDE

HAS NEWS | 2014 ISSUE 2

- HAS is Addressing the "Neglected Epidemic"
- Recent HAS Events
- Staff Perspective



HÔPITAL ALBERT SCHWEITZER

HAITI



HAS IS ADDRESSING THE "NEGLECTED EPIDEMIC"

By Louis Martin, HAS CEO

With inpatient occupancy rates at an all-time high of greater than 100% since June 2013, hospital resources at HAS are being challenged on a daily basis.

What keeps me awake at night is the acuity of cases we are seeing. A year ago, HAS patients remained in the hospital for an average of 4.2 days; today the average is 5.2 days, and we have seen a slow but steady increase for many months.

Why is this occurring, and what can we do to address it?

Road improvements made possible by the influx of post-earthquake funds to Haiti have resulted in an unintended consequence: many more traumatic injuries caused by traffic accidents. Such injuries often require surgery, usually orthopedic trauma surgery, and patients recovering from this surgery require physical therapy. Therefore, the average length of stay in the HAS surgery unit is now double the hospital average at 10 days per patient.

This trend is concerning, and we must marshal the resources required to address it. HAS is already undertaking a major expansion of its emergency facilities, thanks to a grant from American Schools and Hospitals Abroad, a unit of USAID, as well as support from Jones Day Foundation and other private donors.

Ideally, HAS also would have a full-time orthopedic surgeon on staff. Today, we rely on a staff general surgeon and visiting volunteer orthopedists to provide this specialized care.

We also must update hospital equipment essential to trauma care. A digital x-ray system, for example, would improve image quality and vastly improve efficiency, while enabling HAS to share x-rays with specialists working all over the world, simply by sending an email.

Perhaps most importantly, we must develop resources to collaborate with the community to address the root causes of the problem. We must integrate education about road safety and prevention into community and health center presentations, community outreach, and follow-up care with road traffic accident victims and their families. Topics must include the importance of seat belt and helmet wearing, and the terrible risks associated with driving at unsafe speeds.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), injuries are a neglected epidemic in developing countries, causing more than five million deaths each year, roughly equal to the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

"Injuries contribute to poverty, as the economic and social costs impact individuals, communities and societies," the WHO report states.

At HAS, we aim to develop creative, practical strategies to address this problem in both our hospital and community services, and work to identify partners who can help us execute plans.

As plans take shape, you will hear more from us on this important issue. Meanwhile, know that your support is helping HAS provide the best care possible, despite the challenges.



EVENTS

HAS RAISES RECORD \$700,000 AT 2014 PALM BEACH EVENT

The annual HAS fundraiser in Palm Beach, Florida, raised a record \$700,000 this year.

Internationally renowned designer and special guest Carolina Herrera accepted Le Grand Chapeau award at the April 2 event for her dedication to improving the health of children.

"It is a great honor to be connected to [HAS] in Haiti, an institution whose doors have been open for nearly 60 years, and which has been a source of aid to Haiti," said Mrs. Herrera. "It is wonderful to be part of this evening, which is such a great, glamorous success."

Co-chaired by HAS Board members Louise Stephaich and Anna Murdoch-Mann with long-time HAS donor Tom Quick, the sold-out White Hot Night-themed celebration at the Flagler Museum was sponsored by Bacardi USA, News Corp., and 21st Century Fox.

The event's live auction featured unique experiences, including tickets to the grand finale of TV series American Idol, an African safari, and a week's stay for 24 at a grand manor in the English countryside.

"We are very grateful to all who supported this amazing event," said HAS Board Chair John Walton. "The co-chairs are to be congratulated for this extraordinary



Tom Quick, Carolina Herrera, Louise Stephaich & Anna Mann

success. The event helped HAS raise significant support for the hospital while building awareness of our cause. It was a fantastic opportunity to tell our story."

Media coverage of the event to benefit HAS included features in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, The Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach Daily News, Boca Magazine, PBG Lifestyle, and south Florida NBC television news.

**Scan the QR Code for
video highlights.**



The Flagler Museum



HAS VISITS LONGTIME PARTNER ROTARY CLUB OF KEY WEST

HAS CEO Louis Martin and HAS Development staffer Katherine Matson spoke to the Rotary Club of Key West on March 20, with Louis joining from his office in Haiti via Skype. They covered the hospital's progress over the past year and priorities for the future, including highlights of the recently adopted five-year strategic plan.

The Rotary Club of Key West has supported HAS for more than 30 years. As International Chair Rachel Oropeza points out, many Rotaries support a project or organization for a few years, then move on to another one. But the Rotary Club of Key West has never wavered in its commitment to furthering the lifesaving work of HAS. Sandy Higgs, a longtime Rotary Club of Key West member and former International Chair, said, "As Rotarians, our long-running relationship with Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti has provided us the opportunity to make a tremendous difference internationally in the lives of those in need of quality health care and clean water."



The Rotary Club of Key West was first introduced to HAS through Edward Knight, successful businessman and pillar of the tight-knit Key West community, longtime Rotarian, and devoted supporter of HAS. "I want the biggest bang for my buck with whatever I do," says Mr. Knight. "And HAS is one of my favorite charities. I'm very, very proud of what the Rotary Club of Key West has done for Hôpital Albert Schweitzer over the years."

"Many Rotarians near HAS have long enjoyed a productive relationship with the Rotary Club of Key



West, and we have great respect for the work they do," notes Dawn Johnson, Director of Integrated Community Services at HAS and Assistant Governor of Rotary District 7020 in Haiti. "They are true partners and friends to HAS."

A few years ago, Rachel was able to visit HAS and observe firsthand the heroic work happening at HAS. "I had the privilege of watching the amazing group at HAS do so much good with so little," Rachel remembers. "I was truly blown away!" Rachel was also able to attend a local Rotary meeting with the nearby Rotary Club of Verrettes, held by candlelight just after a heavy summer rainstorm had lifted. "To this day, it remains my favorite Rotary meeting of all time!" Rachel laughs.

Through fundraisers, reverse raffles, and direct support from members, the Rotary Club of Key West has raised well over \$150,000 over the years for HAS. They are on track again this year to raise another major gift to help support the hospital's most urgent needs in the midst of another cholera season and ever-increasing demand on core hospital services, such as surgery and trauma care.

Mr. Knight sums up what so many members of the Rotary Club of Key West have put into action over the years: "I feel honored to be able to help."

Thank you, Rotary Club of Key West, for your decades of generosity to the patients and families served by HAS!

// I'm very, very proud of what the Rotary Club of Key West has done for Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti over the years. //

- Key West Rotarian Ed Knight



HAS Board members Rev. Harold Lewis and Louise Stephaich



HAS supporters Chad, Jane and David Hummel were among the special guests in attendance at the New York reception.

HAS HONORS BOARD MEMBER LOUISE STEPHAICH AT NEW YORK EVENT

HAS board members welcomed long-time donors and special guests at a private reception in New York City April 25th.

Some 70 people gathered to learn more about the hospital's progress and priorities. HAS Board Chair John Walton welcomed guests, and seized the moment to publicly recognize HAS Board member Louise Stephaich for "her extraordinary ability to connect people from all backgrounds and areas of the globe together, in service of furthering the mission of HAS."

"Louise, we are so impressed by your extraordinary dedication," said Walton. "We want you to know how grateful we are for your commitment, passion, and advocacy for HAS. If Albert Schweitzer was right that those who serve are the ones who are truly happy, I know then that you must be among the happiest people I have the privilege of knowing. "

Among those in attendance: Joseph Azrack, Abigail Congdon, Andrea Stephaich, Chloe Squires, Justin Patterson, KK Auchincloss, Countess Anne-Marie de Ganay, LeGrand Mellon, Martha Lear, Beth Daniels, Leila Shakkour and Mike Thorne, Mary and John Blasi, Richard Vestal, and Farley and John Bills.

“ If Albert Schweitzer was right that those who serve are the ones who are truly happy, I know then that you must be among the happiest people I have the privilege of knowing. ”

- John Walton, HAS Board Chair