

Phone: (309) 472-7522
E-mail: mariakingcarrol@gmail.com
Website: www.haitianhearts.org

Blogs of Interest:
<http://blogs.pjstar.com/haiti>
www.livefromhaiti.blogspot.com



Spring 2014

Two Haitian Hearts Beating Together as One!

Though Fastina Jacques and Caleb Derestil were both born in Haiti, they didn't know each other or even live in the same town. But when they were children, they both developed serious health problems. On separate occasions, Dr. John Carroll brought them to the United States. Caleb had a malignant tumorous condition, and Fastina needed heart surgery. They were both successfully treated and both returned to their families in Haiti.



Several years later, their health problems reoccurred, and John once again found medical centers to treat them. On this second and final trip to the U.S., Caleb and Fastina met each other, and the rest is history...matrimonial history! These two, wonderful young people were married on August 24, 2013, a Haitian match made in Peoria! Caleb works two jobs, and Fastina is studying to become a nurse. Their future is bright, and Haitian Hearts is proud to have played a role!

Woodson Is Coming to America...

Woodson Lerrisson is a handsome, four-year-old boy, who has been on the Haitian Hearts' waiting list for two years. He was born with a heart defect, a ventricular septal defect (VSD), which is a hole between the bottom two chambers of his heart. John has been treating him with medicines to reduce the fluid in his lungs.

Thankfully, in October 2013, Woodson was accepted by All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida! He will have surgery in Spring 2014. The repair will make Woodson's heart good as new, and he will be able to run and jump and play. Woodson is Patient #171 for Haitian Hearts!



...And Willgesta Will Have Surgery in Haiti!

Haitian Hearts is thrilled that two-year-old Willgesta Pierre has been accepted for surgery by Haiti Cardiac Alliance, an organization that brings medical teams to Haiti to perform heart surgery. Like Woodson, Willgesta has a VSD. Children in the United States who are born with congenital heart defects are operated on, usually soon after birth. But only a limited number of children are able to have surgery in Haiti. We are grateful that Willgesta will be one of them!

We Believe in Miracles...and So Does Marie!

In March 2013, John received a call from Haitian Hearts patient Marie Claude Toussaint. "I can't lie down," she told him. "I feel like I'm drowning." John suspected that Marie's heart valves, which had been repaired through Haitian Hearts in 2001, were again failing. There was only one way to find out; he flew to Haiti on Good Friday.

The situation was as Marie described, and John had diagnosed her correctly; she badly needed new heart valves. Before leaving for Haiti, John had in desperation sent an email to Dr. Bryan Foy, who has operated on other Haitian Hearts patients. On Easter Sunday, Dr. Foy responded that he and Edward Heart Hospital in Naperville, Illinois had accepted Marie! It was miracle No. 1!

But now we needed a host family and quickly, as they have to provide a letter to the embassy for the visa. We were coming up empty, when a woman walked into John's room at the guest

house in Haiti and said, "Did you know your new roommate is from Naperville?" Pat O'Donnell, had just arrived; he and his wife Pat quickly agreed to serve as Marie's host family, along with Linda and Steve Merz. Miracle No. 2!



John and Marie flew to Chicago. Marie was very sick. Dr. Foy, an excellent heart surgeon, replaced two of Marie's heart valves and repaired a third. Marie withstood the surgery well, but when it came time to take her off the bypass machine, her heart wouldn't start beating. She had to be placed on a special bypass machine in intensive care, where she remained for three days. Things were critical, but her heart gained strength and began beating on its own. Miracle No. 3!

Marie continued to improve and is now a new woman. She is able to do so many things we take for granted: go for walks, lie down comfortably, and function normally. She is one of many miracles we have been privileged to witness at Haitian Hearts.



Meet Waiting Haitian Hearts Patient Nathanaïelle

John finds many heart patients through his work in clinics and hospitals. But sometimes people seek him out or are referred to him, as was the case with Nathanaïelle Bruny. Nathanaïelle lives near the guest house in Laplaine, where John often stays when he is in Haiti. Our friend Gertrude, who owns the guest house, knew of Nathanaïelle and referred her and her mother to John.

Three-year-old Nathanaïelle has a congenital heart defect called Tetralogy of Fallot. With this condition, there are four things wrong with her heart. Fortunately, the surgical fix is fairly straightforward. Without surgery, most children who have this heart defect do not live past their teenage years.

Nathanaïelle's mother reports that already her daughter tires out when she plays. Please join us in searching for a hospital for Nathanaïelle and in praying for her and her family.

ONISTE: A Visible Transformation

One of our Haitian Hearts patients told us about Oniste Honore. This lovely woman, with a husband and three-year-old daughter, was suffering with an enormous tumor on her forehead that was destroying her health and threatening her life. When John saw her, Oniste was hardly able to hold her head up and was spending most of her time in bed.



Enter the amazing Dr. Wayne Yakes, an interventional radiologist who specializes in tumor removal and operates at Swedish American Hospital in

Englewood, Colorado. Dr. Yakes accepted Oniste into the program and embolized her tumor so that it could then be easily removed by the surgeon, Dr. James Morin. Oniste had a couple of touch up surgeries and some radiation as the tumor was mildly malignant. She was joyfully reunited with her family in Haiti a week before Christmas.

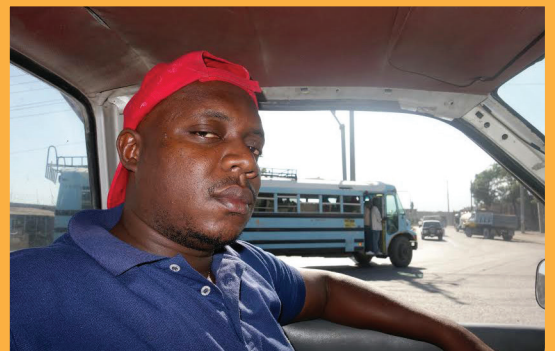
OUR PARTNERS IN HAITI

Haitian Hearts wouldn't be able to help as many people without our partners in Haiti. For years, John has worked at the clinic in Cite Soleil run by the Daughters of Charity. Besides the clinic, these amazing Sisters have a school, malnutrition program, and employment program for some of the poorest people in the world. A number of Haitian Hearts patients have come from their clinic. We thank the Sisters for their faithful presence and work in Haiti!



Passports, visa applications, echocardiograms...whatever we need for our patients, Johnny Bruni gets for us and on the double. The simplest tasks are so much more complicated in Haiti, but Johnny is not thwarted by the obstacles. His quick action has helped us save many lives.

Getting around Haiti and especially to the locations where John goes isn't easy. Fortunately, he can rely on Djongo Leon to transport him to wherever his patients are. Not only is Djongo a wonderful chauffeur, but he can fix a flat tire or other mechanical problems quickly!





Spring 2014

Haitian Hearts
2727 W. Heading Ave.
West Peoria, IL 61604

Address Service Requested



Haitian Hearts in the News

The good work that you make possible through your support of Haitian Hearts is continually recognized by the media. Here are some stories that highlight our accomplishments together:

- ▶ **Watch the amazing story of Oniste, who had life-changing surgery in Denver.**
<http://www.9news.com/news/article/358215/188/Practicing-patience-one-day-at-a-time>
- ▶ **Marie gets another chance at life in Naperville, Illinois.**
<http://couriernews.suntimes.com/lifestyles/20088117-423/open-hearts-give-haitian-patient-a-2nd-chance.html>
- ▶ **Read about Luckner in the *Chicago Tribune*. He also received surgery in Naperville.**
http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-10-31/news/ct-tl-naperville-haiti-heart-20121031_1_valve-replacement-heart-surgery-local-doctors
- ▶ **John Carroll is quoted in the *New York Times* in a story about the cholera epidemic.**
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/01/world/americas/haitis-cholera-outraced-the-experts-and-tainted-the-un.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

