

did you know...

- Since 1995, Haitian Hearts has brought 143 patients to the U.S. for medical treatment.
- Haitian Hearts works with clinics, hospitals, and orphanages in Haiti, offering basic medical care.
- Haitian Hearts has a waiting list of 10 patients.
- Haitian Hearts has worked with hospitals in California, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee, New York, Massachusetts & Florida.

contact information

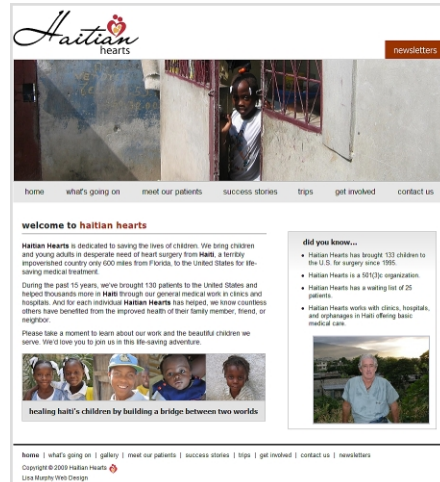
Haitian Hearts
2727 W. Heading Ave.
West Peoria, IL 61604
309-472-7522

email:
mariakingcarroll@gmail.com

website:
www.haitianhearts.org




New Look, New Website, New Mailing Address



You may notice with this newsletter we have a cool, new logo and a bright new look. Our new look is incorporated into our website at www.haitianhearts.org. Make sure to check it out!

Also, we have a new mailing address:

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

We look forward to hearing from you! 

Widnerlande-From Haiti to California: A Six Year Odyssey

After six years of work, 7-year-old Widnerlande Jean Louis is coming to the United States for heart surgery! She will be operated on in Sacramento, California at Sutter Memorial Medical Center by Dr. Teimour Nasirov.

Dr. John Carroll first examined Widnerlande in Haiti when she was 18-months-old. He heard a telltale murmur and had her mother take her for an echocardiogram. The echo revealed that Widnerlande has a ventricular septal defect (VSD), which is a defective opening between the lower two chambers of the heart.

Since then Widnerlande and her mother have weathered numerous trips to Port-au-Prince from their home in the Artibonite valley to get passports, hurricanes, a devastating earthquake, and the general hardships of life in Haiti that make the days difficult. Haitian Hearts never gave up on Widnerlande, and we are so grateful to Sutter and Dr. Nasirov for giving this little girl a chance at a healthy life.



A Retrospective on 2010: A Tough Year for Haiti

For those who care about Haiti, 2010 has been a heart breaking year. Many of us remember where we were on January 12 when we heard about the earthquake that killed upwards of 200,000 people and destroyed so much of the infrastructure of Port-au-Prince and beyond. Hundreds of thousands of people are living in tents as a result. In November, Haiti was hit by Hurricane Tomas, and now it faces a deadly cholera epidemic.

At Haitian Hearts our mission is two fold: to bring Haitian children to the United States for life-saving surgery and to work in clinics and hospitals in Haiti providing basic medical care. The difficulties of the past year do not change our mission; indeed, they intensify the need for it. In 2010, we made five trips to Haiti. Here are some of the accomplishments your support made possible:

- Bringing and sending money for food, water, and medicine directly to earthquake victims
- Checking our heart patients and bringing them critical medications and providing echocardiograms
- Treating hundreds of patients at the clinic run by the Daughters of Charity in Cite Soleil, Hopital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, and Hopital Cite Lumiere
- Working at official Cholera Treatment Centers to treat patients with this deadly disease
- Teaching Haitian resident physicians and nurse practitioner students
- Identifying 10 new heart patients and getting them appropriate diagnostic care
- Helping Haitians obtain passports and visas to come to the United States for surgery



Rose: A Waiting Patient and Survivor

Rose is a survivor. This 9-year-old girl was trapped for four days in a collapsed building after the earthquake. Her father, who was next to her, was killed. A relative brought Rose to John and he heard a heart murmur and sent her to a cardiologist for an echocardiogram. This diagnostic test revealed a heart defect. We are searching for a children's hospital that would be willing to thoroughly examine Rose to see if she is a candidate for surgery.



Medjina: First Post Earthquake Patient

Beautiful 7-year-old Medjina had successful heart surgery to replace her mitral valve at St. Louis Children's Hospital in March 2010. Medjina was our first patient to have surgery since the earthquake. She is the fifth patient we have brought to St. Louis Children's Hospital and we are grateful to them for their wonderful care of our patients. Medjina has made a full and wonderful recovery and she is a flourishing second grader who likes to swim, ride her bike, and play the piano.



Mary Carroll (1914-2010)

John's mom and one of the biggest supporters of Haitian Hearts, Mary Carroll, passed away in April at the age of 95. It's impossible to describe what Mary meant to all connected with Haitian Hearts. From caring for Haitian children in her home, to her generous financial contributions, to coming up with the name Haitian Hearts, back in 1995 when John brought the first patient to the United States from Haiti, Mary will be missed in incalculable ways. She had a huge heart, great determination, and was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Mary's memorial was to Haitian Hearts. We have given \$15,000 from her memorial to the Daughters of Charity, an international order of Catholic Sisters, who operate a clinic, feeding program, employment program, and school in the heart of Cite Soleil, one of Haiti's harshest slums. John often works in the Sisters' clinic and some of our Haitian Hearts patients have been identified and received medical care at the clinic.

Mary lives on in our hearts and memories (and in heaven!) and in the work of Haitian Hearts.



Heroism of the Haitian People

The earthquake and all of the disasters the Haitian people have suffered—and are suffering through—remind us of the daily heroism they exhibit. One example is Gertrude Bien-Aime. When the earthquake struck, Gertrude ran out of her guest house as it collapsed and helped rescue orphans in another building. She took 37 of these orphans and gave them a home at her new guest house. Meanwhile, for weeks, Gertrude slept in a car as she tried to obtain help for people who had been badly hurt. We know this example of selflessness was replicated many times over in Haiti. It was not so much the international community or the Haitian government that saved Haitians. It was Haitians saving Haitians.



Cholera: Haiti's Latest Cross

In October 2010, a cholera outbreak started in the central region of Haiti and quickly spread to many parts of the country, including the overcrowded capital, Port-au-Prince. This bacterial infection has claimed thousands of lives.

In November and December, Dr. John Carroll, medical director of Haitian Hearts, worked at a Cholera Treatment Center in Lap-laine, on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. He, along with Haitian doctors and nurses, treated cholera patients with oral and IV rehydration fluids. These life giving fluids literally brought people back from death's door. Your support of Haitian Hearts helped people who were suffering from this devastating disease, which can kill so quickly.





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Check out our blogs of our work in Haiti

Blogs of interest:

www.livefromhaiti.blogspot.com

www.Dyinginhaiti.blogspot.com

Please Help Haiti In Its Greatest Time of Need

Thanks to your support, the earthquake, hurricanes, and cholera epidemic have not stopped Haitian Hearts from bringing children to the United States for heart surgery and bringing medical care to the people of Haiti.

In the most challenging year of 2010, we have brought patients for surgery to St. Louis, Florida, and California. Your generous contributions have allowed us to work at clinics and hospitals around the country.

Thank you for all you make possible, and we ask your continued partnership in the life-saving work that Haitian Hearts does.



Healing Haiti's children by building a bridge between two worlds 