

did you know...

- Haitian Hearts has brought 133 children to the U.S. for surgery since 1995.
- Haitian Hearts is a 501(3)c organization.
- Haitian Hearts has a waiting list of 25 patients.
- Haitian Hearts works with clinics, hospitals, and orphanages in Haiti offering basic medical care.

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Pioneering Pediatric Heart Surgeon Accepts Haitian Hearts Child in Guatemala

When Dr. Aldo Castaneda retired from his job as the head of cardiac surgery at Boston Children's Hospital, he could have rested on his laurels. After all, he was one of the surgeons who showed the world that operating on newborns with heart problems is preferable to waiting until the children are older, as was the practice.

But instead, he returned to his native Guatemala, where there was no pediatric heart surgery, and established a hospital, **UNICAR**, that in 2004 performed 373 heart surgeries.

Now, a Haitian Hearts child will benefit from Dr. Castaneda's talent, foresight, and generosity. In March 2005, after reviewing echocardiograms of Haitian children, Dr. Castaneda accepted an 18-month child with a congenital heart defect for surgery.

Haitian Hearts is currently making arrangements for this child and his mother to travel to Guatemala to receive this life saving surgery.



Drs. John Carroll and Aldo Castaneda

After touring UNICAR, Haitian Hearts was so impressed with their program—one of only two in Central America that performs children's heart surgery—that we made a donation to pay for the surgery of a Guatemalan child whose family could not afford it.

The six-month-old with a congenital heart defect was successfully operated on in June.

"We are so thankful to Haitian Hearts for making this surgery possible," said Dr. Juan Leon-Wyss, lead surgeon of UNICAR.

While Guatemala is not as poor as Haiti, there are many people who cannot afford proper medical care.

Dr. Castaneda was very impressed with Haitian Hearts. "This is a wonderful thing that you are doing," he said.

Katina Thanks St. Thomas

Katina Antoine came to Peoria in 2002 and had successful heart valve repair. While staying with the family of Tom and Diane Carroll, she made quite an impression on the children at St. Thomas School in Peoria Heights, where the Carroll children attend.

Each year, the children raise money to be given to Katina and her family. This money has allowed Katina to attend school and pur-

chased other basic necessities for her family.

Recently, Katina's family was a victim of the ongoing violence that blights Haiti. Criminals burned them out of their home and the small store they operated. They were forced to flee Port-au-Prince and are now living elsewhere.

Katina and her family are very grateful to St. Thomas for their support!

Raphella Needs Plastic Surgery for Burns

One of the sad realities of life in Haiti is that children frequently get burned, often severely. In January, six-year-old Raphella was burned over her face, arms, chest, and back when a propane tank exploded.

We first met Raphella in March at St. Claire Church in Port-au-Prince. Fr. Gerry Jean-Juste brought her in front of the congregation. Her family needed help, and he asked his congregation for their support. Many people dropped goudes coins and notes into a basket.



Fr. Gerry Jean-Juste & Raphella

Dr. John examined Raphella after church. She will need plastic surgery to be able to properly open her mouth and extend her left arm. Fr. Jean-Juste helped the little girl receive a passport, and we are currently searching for a hospital to treat Raphella.

Another sad reality of life in Haiti is that innocent people are affected by the violence and lack of justice. Such was the

case for Fr. Jean-Juste when he was imprisoned by the interim government on July 22 for inciting violence and other charges for which the authorities have provided no evidence.

Fr. Jean-Juste has consistently and fervently called for non violence and respect for democratic principles. He runs a feeding program through his church, providing hundreds of meals to children each week.

We have seen first hand the care and concern he extends to his parishioners, like Raphella. After church, dozens of people wait to speak to him, asking for help with a myriad of problems.

It is a tragedy for the people of St. Claire's Church, all Haitians, and indeed all people who care about democracy that Fr. Jean-Juste is in prison. Amnesty International has designated Fr. Jean-Juste as a prisoner of conscience and asked for international intervention.

How Do We Spend Your Donations?

Much of the money that Haitian Hearts raises from generous people like yourselves goes to offset U.S. hospital costs for surgery. Some hospitals perform the surgeries for no charge and some accept our offer of \$10,000. Other costs associated with treating children with heart problems include, echocardiograms, medicines, visas, and travel expenses.

Haitian Hearts also supports the efforts of clinics and hospitals in Haiti. Recently, we have donated money to Grace Children's Hospital to purchase Rocephin, a high powered antibiotic that they were out of.

We purchase food and medicine for individual patients who are among the poorest of the poor.

We provide follow up care to Haitian Hearts patients such as Marie Mardi, Katina, Heuresse, Jackson John Baptise and Faustina.

Jackson and Faustina need follow up surgery, so we are looking for hospitals in the U.S. that are willing to treat them, but it is unlikely we will find any.

Poverty is like a punishment for a crime you didn't commit.
Eli Khamarev

Ronald and Roldophe: A Couple of Buddies Receive New Valves

Sixteen-year-old Roldophe and 12-year-old Ronald (featured in the last newsletter) became friends when they were both staying at a orphanage in Port-au-Prince. Haitian Hearts placed them there so they could receive good nutrition and medicine prior to their trips to the United States.

Within in weeks of each other, they were accepted by medical centers and left Port-au-Prince.

In April, Roldophe had two successful surgeries at **Vander-**

bilt Children's Hospital in Nashville. He returned to Haiti in June, where he is in school.

Ronald had valve surgery at **Albany Children's Hospital** in New York. He continues to recuperate in Albany.

The boys were able to talk to each other on the phone while they were in the U.S. and are looking forward to seeing one another when they are both back in Haiti.

Parents Patiently Wait For Their Children To Receive Surgery

People often ask, "Where do you find your heart patients?" Dr. John identifies most of them through an exam at one of the clinic or hospitals where he works. Often the parent has brought the child in for some other problem, but during his thorough exam, Dr. John detects a heart abnormality with his stethoscope.

Haitian Hearts then sends the child to a cardiologist for an echocardiogram, which confirms the problem.

The parent gives the echo cassette to us, and this is what we use to recruit a hospital to operate on the child.

Other parents hear about the program from word of mouth, including one mother who said that someone on a tap tap,



Wilmer and his mother wait.

Haiti's public transportation, told her about Haitian Hearts!

When children are good candidates for surgery, they go on our waiting list. We are scrupulous about telling the parents that we cannot make any guarantees about their child receiving surgery "la bas" (Creole for over there, referring to the U.S.)

However, hope and faith are two qualities that Haitian parents seem to have in abundance. It may be all they have in abundance, and we are humbled to witness these qualities in those who are so poor.

Wilmer, in the picture at the left, has a congenital heart defect, which needs to be repaired. We have seen he and his mother several times in Haiti.

She presents herself and her child to us calmly, but there is no mistaking that she desperately wants her child to live. It is her child's innocence and her devotion that motivates us to find them the medical care that all human beings in their situation deserve.

Dr. John Works Hard in Haiti

Medical care is in short supply in Haiti, so there is no lack of work for Dr. John in this impoverished country. Already in 2005 he:

Served as the only doctor for a Twinning Group from Kokomo Indiana's medical mission to Jeremie. The group, which consisted of nurse practitioners and dentists, saw 1,000 patients in five days.

Lectured and served as a teacher to medical students at the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince. This public hospital is staffed by the residents who are hungry for medical knowledge to help treat their critically ill patients.

Worked at the outpatient pediatric clinic at Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince. This clinic sees children from throughout the Delmas area and beyond.

Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.

Worked at the Lucella Bontemps Clinic, located on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. More commonly known to HH volunteers as Sr. Lela's clinic, this facility sees more than 200 patients a day.

Julianne Goes to Joliet and Loves It!

Julianne Pierre lives in the countryside near Port-au-Prince. When Dr. John examined her in January 2005, she could barely walk due to congestive heart failure from a faulty valve.

Fortunately, **Dr. Bryan Foy** and **Provena St. Joseph Medical Center** came to the rescue. They agreed to operate on Julianne. And not only that but Dr. Foy's family along with the family of Kathi Tromblay hosted Julianne during her stay in Illinois.



Julianne was so sick when she arrived in early June, that Dr. Foy moved her surgery a week earlier than had been scheduled. Thanks to Dr. Foy's skill and Julianne's resilience, she came through the surgery with flying colors and is a new girl. She now makes supper for her host family, goes swimming, and enjoys other summer activities.

Thanks to Dr. Foy and Provena St. Joseph!



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www.livefromhaiti.blogspot.com

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Check out our blogs for accounts of our
work in Haiti

Help Haiti!

Haitian Hearts provides medical expertise and support to patients, clinics, and hospitals throughout Haiti. Like the baby in the picture, thousands of children each year benefit from the thorough medical exams Dr. John conducts. We also provide ongoing care for sick people in Haiti, such as Samuel.

Samuel has cancer in his leg due to a bad burn he received. Haitian Hearts has paid for surgeries and other medical care for Samuel. Haitian Hearts also supports life saving immunization and feeding programs at the Lucella Bontemps Clinic.

Your generous support of Haitian Hearts makes possible this work in Haiti, as well as the heart surgeries in the United States.

In the past year, children and young adults sponsored by Haitian Hearts have received care in St. Louis, Joliet, Albany, Nashville, St. Petersburg, Rockford, and Guatemala City.

Thank you for your continued support!

