

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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Marvelous Mauricio!

Spunky, eleven-month-old Mauricio is the most recent child to receive life-saving surgery through HH. Here's how his story unfolded:

In spring 2007, Dr. John received a desperate call from a Haitian-American in Boston. A friend of his had a relative in Haiti, who had a baby with a serious heart problem.

John was in the States at the time and could not make any promises. A couple months later, he traveled to Haiti to escort back another patient. While he was in Haiti, the man from Boston called again and was told that if his friend could bring the baby to John in Port-au-Prince, the capital city, John would examine the baby.

A couple days later, baby Mauricio and his parents saw John. John listened to Mauricio's heart. The exam did indicate a heart defect, so John sent the baby to one of Haiti's few cardiologists to get an echocardiogram. This test revealed that Mauricio had a heart defect



Dr. John examines Mauricio in Port-au-Prince

called Tetralogy of Fallot, which needed to be repaired soon or Mauricio would die.

In June, Haitian Hearts presented Mauricio's medical records to St. Louis Children's Hospital, and they accepted Mauricio! HH paid the hospital \$10,000 to help cover the costs.

Mauricio and his mother flew with Dr. John to St. Louis in September and Mauricio had surgery on October 5. They were welcomed by the wonderful Jim and Jane Ebel family, who have also hosted other Haitian Hearts children.

Mauricio responded amazingly well to surgery. He was out of the hospital in less than a week.

Mauricio and his mother have returned to Haiti to his father and five siblings. In the months and years to come, HH will monitor Mauricio who now has a chance at life!

Two accepted for surgery in St. Louis

Two girls Jhiny Felix, age 12, and Christelle Brazil, age 4, have been accepted for surgery at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center in St. Louis in January 2008.

John Carroll and Ed King escorted the girls from Haiti, where they live in the Port-au-Prince area. Our friend Gertrude Bien Aime Azor who runs the Providence Guest House, helped the families with the paperwork for the

passport, visas, and other documents. Gertrude's help to HH is invaluable and we deeply appreciate her expertise and efforts in running the bureaucratic gauntlet.

As with Mauricio, the Ebel family is hosting these girls during their stay in St. Louis. We are very grateful to the Ebel's for all of their support of Haitian Hearts and our young patients.

Marie Makes HH Patient #5 For Provena St. Joseph

Marie Amazan is another young Haitian affected by rheumatic heart disease. Common in the U.S. 100 years ago, rheumatic heart disease typically develops from untreated strep throat. What can be cured by a few pennies worth of penicillin, untreated turns into a disease that can ravage the heart valves, as was the case with Marie.



Marie's loyal fiancé, Junior, brought her several times to Dr. John for examinations.

Dr. John submitted Marie's case to Provena St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet. She was accepted by the hospital and

surgeon Dr. Bryan Foy.

John and Jennifer Carroll escorted Marie from Haiti to Joliet, where she had to be taken immediately to the emergency room and admitted to the hospital.

Marie had her mitral and aortic valves replaced and came through the high risk surgery very well. She was hosted by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the order that founded the hospital.

As is the case with many of our Haitian patients, Marie touched the hearts of many people, including Anita Reiss, one of the nurses who cared for her. They developed a special relationship and Anita had Marie to her home and took her to her appointments.

Marie returned to Haiti in September and was greeted by her overjoyed fiancé Junior.

Jenny & Heuresse: Their Heart Challenges

Jenny and Heuresse are two young women, who like Marie, above, have had rheumatic heart disease. Unlike Marie, they had their valves repaired in Peoria.

Unfortunately, they are experiencing valve problems again, which isn't uncommon for those who've had their valves repaired. They both need more surgery.

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. **Anne Frank**

Both Jenny and Heuresse live in the Port-au-Prince area. Both are also feeling the effects of their faulty valves and are often short of breath.

Jenny is single and works as a teacher of deaf children, while Heuresse is a widow with two small children.

We bring these young women medicine on each trip to Haiti. Our biggest challenge is finding hospitals that will agree to surgery so that they can have their valves replaced.

Maxime Petion 1987-2007

Maxime a brave young man, died in Jan. 2007 in Ohio. He had previously had surgery in Peoria and was accepted by Cleveland Clinic for much needed care. Here is what a CC staffer wrote:

"Thank you Maxime, for lessons taught—how to pause and enjoy the minutes, to be grateful, to breathe, and to sleep, and to laugh with beloved family and friends. As Jesus did, and Jackson, and so many others, you have again taught us by example, a quiet persistent message, despite being wracked with pain and exhaustion, despite smashing into nightmares of inequity, injustice, man's arrogance and fear. Faith. Hope. Love. My faith and hope have been healed, once

again by your example, your love of life. Now is the moment, not tomorrow or next year. Thank you for the reminder, Maxime. I will try, again, to make NOW count."



Maxime Petion

Seven Months in Haiti: Dr. John's Work

Dr. John spent from July 2006 to February 2007 in Haiti. During this lengthy stay, he treated hundreds and hundreds of patients at the following clinics and hospitals:

The outpatient clinic at Grace Children's Hospital, where he administered life-saving antibiotics, which HH provided.

The Daughters of Charity clinic in Cite Soleil., located in the heart of this very poor slum of 200,000. Dr. John treated children with diseases ranging from TB to malnutrition to meningitis. HH also donated money to the Sisters malnutrition program, which feeds babies and teaches their mothers a useful skill.



John checking a young heart patient.

Father Rick Frechette's traveling clinic. Father Rick,

who is also a doctor, has a mobile clinic, which travels to some of the poorest and most dangerous places in Port-au-Prince offering medical care to people who are too sick to leave their homes.

San Fils, a home for the dying run by the Missionaries of Charity. This hospice provides a place for very sick men, women, and children, many of whom have AIDS, to live and often die.

St. Damien's Children's Hospital: a brand new hospital in the Tabarre section of Port-au-Prince.

And of course, HH patients and others seeking medicine, money or even just a little bit of hope daily found Dr. John wherever he was. He was able to distribute medicines to HH patients and others and to diagnose heart problems in others.

John also returned to Haiti in May, Sept., and Dec. 2007 to work and transport patients.

Special Thanks to Haitian Hearts

The Haitian Consul General, Lesly Conde, recently recognized the efforts of John Carroll and Haitian Hearts. He wrote:

On behalf of the Consulate General of Haiti in Chicago and indeed on behalf of the Haitian community, I want to express my profound and sincere gratitude to you for the wonderful difference you have been making in many Haitian lives for the better part of a quarter century.

The fact that you deliberately chose to take your skills to Haiti and trade the comfort of your home for the appalling conditions that we all know shows that beyond the misery, you see

If you can't feed 100 people, then feed just one. Mother Teresa

children and young adults who deserve a chance at life. You recently gave such a chance to Marie Amazan. This young person is now facing life with a heart full of hope and gratitude.

Allow me to be the mouthpiece of all the people whose lives you have transformed. Thank you very much for having revived our trust in human nature.

Frandy's Drive to Succeed

We are awestruck by the drive and hard work of many young Haitians who barely get enough food to keep them healthy. Frandy DeJean is one such young man.

Frandy, who came to St. Louis for medical care in 2005, lives in Carrefour, a very poor suburb of Port-au-Prince.

Despite his poverty and health problems, Frandy has managed to



Frandy wants to learn.

become quadra-lingual (Creole, French, English, Spanish) and goes to school where this summer he recently passed a big set of exams.

Frandy has dreams of attending college in the United States and becoming a diplomat who will one day help his country.

It is not easy to study and learn when you are often hungry and when you are constantly fighting the daily indignities and hardships that poverty in Haiti bring. But Frandy is determined. And we are inspired.



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www.livefromhaiti.blogspot.com

www.Dyinginhaiti.blogspot.com

Check out our blogs for accounts of our
work in Haiti

We need your contribution and prayers!

When you make a contribution to **Haitian Hearts**, you are helping some of the poorest children in the world, children who live practically next door to the United States.

Haitian Hearts uses your donations to buy medicines and medical care both in Haiti and in the U.S. for people from Haiti who have no resources.

A little money can buy a lot of care in Haiti. We appreciate your support of Haitian Hearts.

We are also grateful to the medical centers who donated care to Haitian Hearts patients in 2007:

Cleveland Clinic

Provena St. Joseph, Joliet, IL

St. Louis Children's Hospital

Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, St. Louis.



Thanks for your help!