



between FRIENDS

News from Friends of the Children of Haiti

December, 2011

Friends deploys patient education video at clinic



CYADIER, Haiti – In Haiti, taking a pill can save a life – a simple act that’s often in no way simple.

At the Friends of the Children of Haiti clinic, medical challenges can stretch far beyond those in the States. In the Western Hemisphere’s poorest country, people die every day for the want of cheap prescriptions that in America cost just \$2. Recently, Friends treated a teen-age girl crippled since birth by rickets, easily preventable had her mother had access to simple vitamins.

Vitamins are part of Friends’ proactive programs that, along with prescription medications, account for an astounding 937,500 pills dispensed to 2,500 or more patients at each two-week clinic session. Many patients receive long-term prescriptions for chronic conditions yet they might return to clinic only every two months.

That makes clinic-patient communication critical. Many patients cannot read, yet for problems like hypertension, diabetes or epilepsy, the clinic pharmacy sets them up with a 70-day supply of pills – often 1,000. Though pharmacists and interpreters carefully would explain each medication, the inability to read meant patients could not seek answers to questions after the end of each clinic.

“Our goal is
long-term care”

“Our goal is long-term care,” says Friends’ Bob Hoy, PharmD. “But we can’t do that if they’re not taking the proper medicine.”

- Bob Hoy, PharmD

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CALENDAR

January 7, 2012
**Heartland Festival
Orchestra concert**
Washington, IL

January 16-27, 2012
**General practice,
surgical team**
Cyvadier, Haiti

March 2, 2012
Casino Night event
Peoria, IL

March 12-23, 2012
**General practice,
dental team**
Cyvadier, Haiti

May 7-18, 2012
**General practice,
surgical, dental team**
Cyvadier, Haiti

July 9-20, 2012
General practice team
Cyvadier, Haiti

September 10-21, 2012
**General practice,
surgical team**
Cyvadier, Haiti

November 5-16, 2012
**General practice,
surgical, dental team**
Cyvadier, Haiti

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So, to better get the message across, this year Friends has created a short video to stress to the need for patients to understand and follow their medication regimen. The message was simple, but it stuck.

"We made repeated follow-up questions to the patients, and they understood everything completely," Hoy says.

Friends hopes to create more videos to help patients better understand the treatments they're receiving at the clinic and how proper medication use can improve their lives. A new wide-screen monitor could be added at the clinic soon too (thanks to a generous grant) for better viewing of the videos by patients.

Evolving efforts like this continue Friends' success in providing perpetual medical care for those in need.



- Shellie Coleman

Foundation board names new president

Friends' team leader and board member Shellie Coleman has been named board president by the Friends Foundation. Coleman, of Peoria, Illinois, says, "I am excited about taking a key leadership role in an organization dedicated to providing basic health care needs for the Haitian people. I plan to support and enhance the many excellent fund raising initiatives that have been started by past leaders of FOTCOH. In addition, I plan to challenge our growing volunteer population outside of the Peoria area to replicate many of the Peoria area fund raising initiatives in an effort to expand the number of our vitally important charitable donors."

The Friends Foundation was established in 2008 as a separate corporation from Friends to focus on raising funds for Friends' operating expenses and capital projects. This separate fund-raising arm has become crucial as Friends has increased the number of medical teams and formulates plans for expanding clinic facilities. You can reach Shellie Coleman at coleman@fotcoh.org.

Just updated:

Heartland Festival Orchestra concert

Artistic Director David Commanday and the Heartland Festival Orchestra will perform a "New Year's Greeting: from Vienna to Broadway" concert to benefit for Friends at Five Points Washington in Washington, Illinois at 7:30p.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2012. The concert program will feature Vienna waltzes and Broadway hits with Broadway's original Phantom stars Elizabeth Southard and Gary Mauer. Call 309-339-3943 or visit www.heartlandfestivalorchestra.org for further information.



Friends Casino Night event

Friends' 2nd annual casino night will be held Friday March 2, 2012 at Mt Hawley Country Club in Peoria from 7p.m.-11p.m. It will be a fun night of blackjack, roulette and craps. Drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. All chip winnings can be used towards great raffle prizes. Additionally, there will be a silent auction with many fun prizes. Mark your calendars and help us make this event a great success! Call 309-369-2634 or email coleman@fotcoh.org for further details.

FRIENDS  OF THE
CHILDREN
OF HAITI

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Between Friends is distributed to inform supporters about Friends of the Children of Haiti. Submissions for BETWEEN FRIENDS are welcomed for consideration and should be sent to email@fotcoh.org Friends of the Children of Haiti is a non-profit organization.