



# between **FRIENDS**

News from Friends of the Children of Haiti

November, 2006

## Water-borne disease most often diagnosed



– Dr. William “Bill” Edwards

**CYVADIER, Haiti** – Dr. William Edwards was blown away by the worms.

As a first-time volunteer with Friends of the Children of Haiti, Edwards knew he would face medical challenges uncommon to America. But as he saw patient after patient at Friends’ clinic, he was astounded by water-borne worms and other parasites – “just the sheer number of people who seem to have them,” he says.

Edwards, a pediatric hospitalist at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and the Children’s Hospital of Illinois in Peoria, estimates that as many as 75% of his patients in May 2006 had some sort of parasite, including stomach worms, ringworm or scabies. Stomach worms are the most often diagnosed problem at the Friends’ clinic, afflicting up to 40% of the caseload.

Most stomach worms are spread by oral-fecal contact, in part because of unsanitary bathroom conditions throughout the country. Further, parasites infect water via garbage dumps located near water tables and wells.

Fewer than a quarter of Haiti’s population has access to clean water. In fact, the country’s supply is worse than any nation on earth, according to England’s Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

“There’s  
**absolutely nothing**  
(besides a total water policy change)  
you can do about it,”

*Edwards says.*

In the stomach, worms trigger diarrhea and block nutrition absorption, often resulting in fatal dehydration and malnourishment. The average Haitian’s life-span has fallen to 49 years – six less than just a decade ago – mostly because of the diseases tied to dirty water.

Children are especially susceptible to worms. For every 100 deaths of children under 5 years old in Haiti, more than 50 had symptoms linked to typhoid, dysentery bacilli and various parasites that infest the fetid water, according to the Canadian International Development Agency.

Without a change in Haitian sanitation, worms and parasites will continue to ravage the country’s people.

## CALENDAR

Nov. 6 -17, 2006

**MEDICAL MISSION**  
Cyvadier, Haiti

February 6-20, 2007

**MEDICAL MISSION**  
Cyvadier, Haiti

April 23- May 4, 2007

**MEDICAL MISSION**  
Cyvadier, Haiti

July 9-20, 2007

**MEDICAL MISSION**  
Cyvadier, Haiti

August 6, 2007

**GOLF OUTING EVENT**  
Arrowhead C.C.

September 10-21, 2007

**MEDICAL MISSION**  
Cyvadier, Haiti

Nov. 5-16, 2006

**MEDICAL MISSION**  
Cyvadier, Haiti

## Friends 2007 Calendar Now Available

*The 2007 Friends of the Children of Haiti calendar is now available.*

The calendar features beautiful original artwork created by children at the Faith and Love Orphanage in Cyvadier, who receive medical care at the Friends clinic. Priced at \$20, proceeds from each calendar sold will cover the cost of a one-year supply of medication for the average patient at the Friend's clinic. Supply is limited, so please contact John Krajewski now to order your calendar: [johnkrajew@yahoo.com](mailto:johnkrajew@yahoo.com) or 309-532-3223



### Just updated:

- **Friends Golf Outing**

The 8th Annual Friends Golf Outing, held on August 28th, was a great success despite some soggy conditions that day at Arrowhead C.C. 134 golfers played and over \$24,000 was raised to help Friends continue to bring essential medical care to their patients in Haiti. The Friends Golf Outing Committee sincerely thanks all who supported this event and cordially invites everyone to attend again next year (Aug. 6, 2007).

- **September 2006 Mission Very Successful**

Team leaders Kent & Linda Bryan report that their team consisting of 17 volunteers conducted a very successful mission at the Friends clinic September 11-22, when they treated 1446 patients over nine clinical days. The team also brought dental care with them for the third consecutive year, providing treatment for 155 patients.

Go to: <http://www.fotcoh.org/gallery.html> to view a photograph of Friends' September 2006 Mission Team.

- **November 2006 Team 'Diverse'**

Team Leaders Shellie Coleman (Peterborough, England) and Bob Hoy (Bloomington, IL) say they will bring a diverse team of 18 volunteers from two countries and four states to the Friends clinic November 6-17, 2006. Please keep the November team in your thoughts and prayers.

- **Friends 2007 Mission Schedule**

Friends of the Children of Haiti is pleased to announce that it will send five primary mission teams to Haiti in 2007 on February 6-20, April 23-May 4, July 9-20, September 10-21 and November 5-16. Contact Friends at [email@fotcoh.org](mailto:email@fotcoh.org) or visit [www.fotcoh.org](http://www.fotcoh.org) for further information about volunteer opportunities in 2007.

**BETWEEN FRIENDS** is distributed quarterly to inform supporters about the Friends of the Children of Haiti (FOTCOH) medical missions. Submissions for BETWEEN FRIENDS are welcomed for consideration and should be sent to: [email@fotcoh.org](mailto:email@fotcoh.org)

If you would like this newsletter emailed to you please send your email address to: [email@fotcoh.org](mailto:email@fotcoh.org)

The Friends of the Children of Haiti is a non-profit organization.

FRIENDS  OF THE  
CHILDREN  
OF HAITI

4007 Smithville Rd.  
Bartonville, IL 61607

ph. 309.697.6473  
[email@fotcoh.org](mailto:email@fotcoh.org)  
[www.fotcoh.org](http://www.fotcoh.org)