



FLM HAITI

**FUNCTIONAL LITERACY MINISTRY OF HAITI
EDUCATIONAL & MEDICAL MISSION**

NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 2019



Janice Shephard, of Belle Center Church, makes a new friend during her first mission trip to Haiti.

The Gift of Friendship

Belle Center Church has given years of caring, partnership

By Emily Wingfield

Belle Center United Presbyterian Church is one of FLM-Haiti's longest and most sustaining mission partners. The church has been a partner with FLM for more than seven years, providing a lifeline of care and funding to assist thousands of Haitian men, women, and children.

When the Rev. James Burton, a friend to FLM-Haiti, moved to pastor Belle Center United Presbyterian Church, in Belle Center, Ohio, in 2011, he desired to get his new congregation involved in mission work. To get started, Burton invited FLM board member Sue Robinson to visit in 2012. While there, Robinson shared the work FLM does in Haiti, and included how members of their church could participate in a week-long, hands-on mission trip. A couple of summers later, Belle Center members Beth Butler, Janice Shephard, and Burton made their first flight to Haiti.

Butler and Burton participated in the Teacher Training Seminar and Shephard worked at the clinic, testing patients' eyes and prescribing and distributing glasses. Deeply moved by the experience, they encouraged the church to continue—and even expand—its support of FLM. It was the beginning of a special friendship and partnership.

Over the years, Belle Center has provided financial and human support to empower some of FLM-Haiti's most critical initiatives. The outreach, through general and designated donations, has been used to help more than 650 children through FLM's Classroom Sponsorship Program, which provides school supplies, a daily



Beth Butler and the Rev. James Burton with donations of school and hygiene supplies, and first-aid material that the Belle Center Church helped to collect in support of FLM Haiti.

multivitamin and a daily hot lunch to the students. For some, this is their only meal of the day.

The church also supported FLM's clean water initiative, providing 20 families with filters that remove life-threatening bacteria and gave families safe, clean water to keep them healthy.

Beginning in 2014, Belle Center's multi-year financial support provided the seed funding to allow FLM-Haiti's House of David Community Health Center to hire a pediatrician. It's a gift that continues to give as the pediatrician has provided countless infants and youth with proper health care in a region that so desperately needs it.

Belle Center's long-term support has provided medical and education materials and, more importantly, hope for the people FLM services. "Many have been blessed through their display of kindness," says FLM board member Robinson. "It is a partnership of faith that shows us how God's love and mercy continue to touch the world."

For more information, please visit flmhaiti.org or call 412-784-0342

Vaccination Program Launched at the House of David Community Health Clinic

In early summer 2019, FLM Haiti’s community health clinic, House of David, joined in a national immunization program to halt the spread of contagious diseases among the nation’s children.

The clinic is working with the government to provide free vaccines to newborns and children up to 5 years old. FLM’s resident physician, Dieudonne Catulle, is administering vaccines against MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), rotavirus, BCG (tuberculosis), and other diseases. Evens Frejuste, director of FLM’s board in Haiti, says the clinic is working to soon expand the program to include pregnant women.

In Port-au-Prince and other parts of Haiti, the government is helping health organizations to administer the “five-in-one” pentavalent vaccine, which protects children against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, and influenza type b or Hib, which causes pneumonia and meningitis. The House of David is hoping to become a part of this effort, too.

The immunizations, underwritten in part by GAVI, an international organization that advocates access to vaccines, are part of the Haitian government’s efforts to promote public health and fight back against childhood mortality.

“Having access to the vaccines are important for the future,” Frejuste says. “More children can get the vaccines, many of which are needed for them to attend school, and we help provide lifesaving protection in the areas we serve.”

Photo by Kenneth Neely



Blood pressure testing and checking temperatures are standard parts of care for FLM Haiti medical mission teams.

Mission: EMPOWERMENT

For five days, an FLM-Haiti team engaged in a medical mission. For four of those days, the team provided quality medical and dental treatments, vision exams, and much-needed prescription medication to the people in the mountainous Haitian communities of Thomassin, Kenscoff, and Boutillier. On the fifth day, for the first time in the more than 20 summers that teams have been traveling to Haiti, the physicians and nurses served the people who serve us. The team dedicated a time to help our helpers—the staff at the House of David Community Health Center, the Kay D’Esperans guesthouse workers, and FLM Haiti’s interpreters. Each was able to bring two guests. They brought their mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and their babies. It was a special bonding as they received the range of medical services as well as BP (blood pressure) education.

Over five days of service, here's the IMPACT by the numbers:

- Comprehensive medical exams were given to **434** patients
- **75** patients received dental exams
- **293** patients received vision exams
- Prescription medication was made available to **1,604** patients
- **154** individuals received BP (blood pressure) education

FLM-Haiti’s efforts are changing the lives of thousands, leaving an impact that will be seen for years to come.



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The value of the **Gourde**, the Haitian national currency, is falling in value and inflation is rising. **This strains our ability to make a positive change.**

IN HAITI
59% OF PEOPLE LIVE ON LESS THAN \$2 A DAY

(World Bank 2012)

THE PRICE OF FILTERED WATER HAS RISEN

75% A 2018 5-gallon jar of water cost .50 cents, now costs \$1.35

THE PRICE OF FOOD HAS RISEN

50%

A 27-LB BAG OF RICE, A FOOD STAPLE THAT COST \$5 LAST YEAR HAS DOUBLED TO \$10.

Your Gift Can Help!

Please, go to www.FLMHaiti.org to see the good work of our partnerships; make a tax-deductible donation to empower the work that we do caring for children, mothers, fathers, and communities.

Partnering with Computer Reach

By Emily Wingfield

FLM-Haiti has forged a new partnership with Computer Reach, a nonprofit dedicated to making technology available to those in need. The organization provides refurbished equipment, computer literacy training, support, and envisions “a computer literate world where the benefits of technology are shared by all.”

Recently, Computer Reach provided 10 Linux computers to FLM for use in its education and medical missions. In addition, eight Apple computers were provided to students for use with FLM’s Excelsior Technical Institute, one of the few institutions of higher learning in the area. FLM, thanks to the generosity of Computer Reach, was able to purchase the computers at greatly reduced costs.

Computer Reach worked directly with l’Alliance d’Action Chrétienne, or AAC, which is certified by the Haitian government as a nongovernmental organization. AAC is the sister organization to FLM-Haiti.

“Our nonprofit organization is delighted to have forged a partnership with FLM Haiti and we look forward to working with you...in support of uplifting and empowering individuals in Haitian communities.” said Dave Sevick, executive director of Computer Reach. “We are pleased to provide digital literacy skills and technology to nations in need, such as Haiti and other Central American countries.”

James Bryant, the FLM board member who helped to facilitate the partnership, added: “Technology defines the future of the earth and access to it is defining the future. We want to give that future to the people we know in Haiti.”



H-O-P-E for Haiti 5K Walk

More than 100 people participated in this year's Hope for Haiti 5K Walk. On May 18th, they gathered in Highland Park, bringing their energy and support to contribute to FLM-Haiti's most successful Walk fundraiser to date. The fund raising exceeded goals, allowing FLM to fund operations that provide **H-O-P-E**—healthcare, opportunity, partnership, and education—to those we serve. Cornerstone Network was a major and generous sponsor and we thank in-kind supporters such as Roland Ford, Shape Training, Fleet Feet, and Planet Fitness-Edgewood. We are grateful to all of the individuals who donated and walked.

Photo by Kenneth Neely



Family, community, and even animal friends gathered to support the annual H-O-P-E for Haiti 5k Walk.

We extend a **THANK YOU**
to all of the donors who
support FLM-Haiti.

SAVE THE DATE:

FLM-Haiti Annual Banquet and Art Sale

Saturday, October 26, 2019

5 p.m.

Tickets: \$60

Doubletree Hotel, Monroeville

101 Mall Boulevard, Monroeville, PA 15146

Purchase tickets online:

flmhaiti.org/newsevents

For more information, call **412-784-0342**