New Orléans, LA
April 13, 2017

Dear Members, Volunteers & Friends of AHDH & Haiti:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of AHDH, Inc., I take, once more, an immense pleasure to share with you our latest mission report, AHDH’s Winter 2017 Medical & Educational Mission Report, our 68th since 1986, which took place from February 24 thru March 11, 2017.

Back in the summer, we tried to put in a capsule the extraordinary extent of our mission, one word came to mind, you remember? INEFFABILIS!!
This time we need to go beyond, maybe we can compromise for MEMORABLE!!

Another extraordinary milestone in our mission

Such a privilege, but so challenging to report (I would gladly turn over the privilege to someone more fortunate to have studied journalism) all the goodness witnessed in the company of so many (34 plus) ordinary folks doing extraordinary acts of love... from several US states, East to West Costs, or just from the town next door, Jacmel, or far away from the central area of Haiti.

So many talents, so many gifted, generous colleagues and friends of AHDH, how privileged such company.
And such an inspiring mosaic of backgrounds: Egypt, Ethiopia, Belize, Panama, England and US with its typical diversity of backgrounds.

Please, meet, below, some of these beautiful 34 souls, used by definitely Higher-than-us power, which brought so much relief to so many less fortunate of our brethren.
From:

**Eyes (Ophthalmology):** As now you come to expect, the Eye-Team, under the leadership of Dr. Anika I. M. is expanding by leaps and bounds: With the addition of a second operative microscope and table, to her own OR room, 2 cases can run at a time (photo below): No wonder from 35-40 cases a week, we now reach another score of 55 cases. Yes! 55 of our less fortunate brethren shed their cataracts and other crippling sight problems. (so far I can attest that she is not using yet mud and spit, like the Nazarene (John 9:1), but we will watch her.
And her colleagues faithfully won’t miss the rendez-vous (below left, on the right, Reynold M., in practice in Jacmel), or are back after a few years of absence (Erold J.F. below right, compatriot in practice in California) so glad to see so much progress, and ready to share his skills. Mille Mercis, Reynold and Welcome back, Erold.

While mobilizing another brand new small army of colleagues: Muhammad E. (below left, 2nd from left, and below below, rt), Benjeil E, green bottom, and below below, left), Jessica S. (1st from right); Optometrist: Tenesha B. (below rt. center, grey top); RN: Barbara Z. (below left, green cap); and “Senior Angel” Amelia B. (below rt., center), Lindsey W. (blue top)

While reminding the army of satisfied patients that invisible behind us is an army of benefactors: Rand Eye (Florida), Dr. Zwerling (NY)
As it has become a routine now, 3 campuses are covered, namely, Hopital St. Joseph Campus (Ridoré); Cayes-Jacmel, (under the direction of our colleague surgeon, Dr. Louis P. you will meet soon in our main OR), below left: from left, Mrs Wilder, ADM, Claude V. (local, AHDH’s “Senior Angel”), Eye Team leader Dr. Anika M., Salome B., Pre-med student, Cincinnati, and Weber, “Junior Angel”, from FL; Muzac (under the leadership of Mr. Ange and Mrs. Vanite L. and CODEM), and while extension to the community of La Montagne is under consideration for June, as that community has needs also.
With such “déploiement”, a total of **800 patients** were seen, **600 corrective glasses** dispensed, **55 eye surgeries performed** (cataracts, and others), a **new record. Great job, Eye team!**

**And the general crowd, from the whole County and Jacmel, Bainet and Port-Au-Prince, was there.**

**ENT***(ORL, in French):* If you have had an opportunity to read our mission reports before, you must remember our excitement, a few years ago, when for the first time we could find an ENT doc to join us: Dr. Marie Gardys Phoebe J., *(below, center)* opened that avenue to our mission and she must have fallen, like AHDDH, in love with the La Vallée community. We are all excited when she responds “yes” to our invitation and ENT surgeries now is routine. Expectedly, she had 4 surgical cases waiting for her, besides minors, and exam. **Mille mercis encore Consoeur Phoebe.**

**General surgery:** Our OR Team is another faithful component to our mission: A “Senior Angels” Club. Once more we were blessed with the contribution of 2 surgeons’ colleagues, Prof. Marie May. L.F, *(above, 1st from left)* practicing in Port-Au-Prince, but, loving teaching, brought once more one of her senior residents, Dr. Sancha N. B. PGY-3, *(above, right w/green cap)*, who didn’t waste any time to show her autonomy, despite the spoiling from “Senior Angels” *(left to rt)* Sandra L.R., RN-Circulator, Celeste S.J, RN-Scrub and Diane *(see more below pg. 12).* **33 surgical cases went smoothly** with such a team Dr. Louis P. mentioned above, in practice in Cayes-Jacmel, faithfully joined us again. We don’t unfortunately have any photo. It’s probably time to fire Carl, the photographer. Anyone willing to replace him? We very much missed Roger B., MD, (Texas), who could not make it this time, but Amelia B. *(see “Eye team, above)* was there and as usual contributed as 10. Looking forward to having both in June.

**Anesthesia:** How blessed we were this mission!
Notified early enough, our colleague, Marie Lydie A., MD, *(below left, young patient in her arms)* teaching at Hopital Mirebalais (State University), the newest and largest hospital of the country, was able to lend us her support the whole first week. This photo below will tell you how big our blessing: Caring to the detail for each patient. We just adore her.

So seems one of her CRNA students, Fatima S.L. *(below right)*, that she brought along. She seems to love our mission, therefore, her name may pop up again. An inspiration for our own RNs.

So is “Old reliable” Nadeige, CRNA *(below left, on right)*, which was a pleasure to welcome back, and as usual very dedicated to our mission. We missed her good buddy, Stephanie, but she promises to be back in June.

A son of the village, Dr. Ricardo M. *(below left, 1" from left)*, was able to dedicate to us almost the whole week of Team-1, while introducing along a surgeon colleague *(2" from right)*. Now the road and the bridge are built, putting Jacmel a stone throw from Ridoré, our RN students coming out of Nursing School and some interested in CRNA program, there is a lot of potential between Hopital St. Joseph and Dr. Ricardo M., to make St. Joseph a full fledged system. Follow my glance!

**Preop/PostOp:**

Our fortune didn’t stop there: A few years ago, a *(single)* RN, joined our mission, *(Keith, below green top)* and left an impressive imprint in the Pre-op area. When he shared his decision to come back, not only we had vivid in memory his great contribution, but he announced that, surprise, there is now a Madame Keith and she is coming also: We had more than a double dose of the Porters: Camella *(flower name, very special in Haiti)*, next to Keith, took charge of our pharmacy/storage room, armed with her laptop and left her own memorable imprint.
By the end of the week, **33 surgeries** (General surgery, Ob-Gyn, ENT) were recorded, besides the Eye group performance, above.

**Internal Medicine/Family Practice/Pediatrics:**
Once more, led by Anisa S., M.D. Associate Professor, the Cincinnati group showed a strong presence at the mission. Not only is she Coordinator of the mission but busy assembling a team, and motivating them to raise funds to buy medicines, so crucial to the success of the mission.

Above, left, leading the pack from the Auberge, and at the hospital everywhere she is needed. Above right, making sure that husband, (Robert P., MD) get the medicines he needs, as he is running a very busy clinic at the Internal Medicine Clinic.

Thanks a million, Anisa, **Mme. Coordinatrice.**
And she doesn’t bring along only her better half, but her colleagues: Michelle G. *(below left, Pediatrician)* and Premed student Salome B. *(below right.)*, one the most ubiquitous volunteers:
As announced, our beloved ‘’Coordinatrice Par Excellence’’, Nicole V.M., Pediatrician, has been slowly but surely making her way back to the mission. And, as always improvising spots (below left) to run clinics (while the Outpatient Clinic still under construction, see page 16), And over the years she has not failed to pick up a lot of friends- admirers (below right, Joe and wife Louise, and Eddie and wife Marlene) of her extraordinary contribution as well as late husband’s, Arshi M. (Anesthesio), whose extraordinary contribution was recognized with a plaque, last December, by Fraternité Valléenne (Joe and Louise) in NY.

We are so elated to see her re-engaging, continuing to give so much for the progress of H.StJ.

OB-GYN: Being the only Ob-Gyn of the group was not particularly unchallenging. We dream one day Dr. Anika (see Eye, above, with her 6 colleagues), will share with us her secret.

Ob-Gyn colleagues, in the States, Hopital St-Joseph needs us!

We have our cervical dysplasia/cancer Dx and Rx program going on for 2 decades (Pap, colpo, biopsy, conization); occasional C/Section, myomectomy, tubal ligation etc.

But, a dear colleague of ours, since Faculté de Médecine et Pharmacie years, currently practicing Family Medicine (FL), who has been joining us religiously over the last two years: Michelle I.G., MD, didn’t hesitate to throw her gyn. skills in the mix: Below, left, white top, running the Ob-Gyn clinic.

When we are lucky enough to have her, as she is on high demand: below right, at the Eye Clinic in Cayes-Jacmel. We will take the opportunity to pay homage here to Elie N. (below right, green top), the ambulance driver, who takes us everywhere our services are needed.
We would like to thank Dr. Michelle I.G. for sharing her experience with a good friend of hers, Weber P.L. Cytologist (below, yellow shirt, see also ‘Eye’ above, pg.4), who could not have enough of our most tasteful drink. Our gratitude also ‘Dokla’ for sharing with your kids your experience: Since our return, quite a few donations, via Paypal, hit our website in support of our mission. [http://www.haitiahdh.org/Donate_Page.html] Mille mercis encore, Miche!

2nd generation Haitian-Americans: A dear facet to our mission, is to see the avenue created by AHDH to encourage back to the land of their parents reaching its goal. As featured in our last Summer 2017 Mission Report, we had the delight to welcome Dr. Peggy B.L., Ob-Gyn, (NY) who took her 1st trip to “her” parents land, accompanied by her husband, David L., IT specialist, of Jamaican descent. They fell in love and remain so involved in supporting AHDH mission. Thanks again Peggy and David. And your parents who did a good job! This trip, we had the pleasure to welcome Peter P., (P.A., NY), who dreamed also for a long time to “come home”. Despite his limited creole mastering, he sure spread a lot of love around. You will find him everywhere he could be useful: below left, grey top, fixing “our engineer’s”, (George, below left, yellow top), and below right, red top, enjoying new friends.
Talking about “our engineer”, is a real challenge. To summarize George’s impact on our mission: Faithful volunteer to our regular missions since Winter 2008; with our Emergency Earthquake mission in January 2010, he was one of the first to join us in New Orleans, while he was still living in US. Suffices it to emphasize that without that support, recently reinforced by a high school classmate of us, Guy-Gerard L., Electrical Engineer, subspecialised in generator, we would be “grounded”, to use an electrical term: 3 OR and a Recovery Room with A/Cs, countless electrical equipments..just unthinkable. While bringing along his sister, our colleague Josseline L. B., MD, Neonatologist, who also “served” mission, and continue to support AHDH.

Mille mercis encore George.

**Father of Imaging at H.St.J:** Mike, our extraordinary blessing since November 2003, could not make it, and we miss him a lot! But, he is already en route for June, and with company (his BRCC students).

**Pharmacy and Team-2:** Once more, our mission has been blessed by two dedicated volunteers to our pharmacy, Camella W.P, featured above with husband Keith , with Team-1(page 7), and by Sharonjit S., DPh, with Team-2. Dr. Sharonjit S. has developed her niche in our mission for a few years now.

She took over the database left by Camella and completed our inventory, while making it so easy to dispense the Rx for the patients we were seeing, as we had a much reduced staff. While, she was involved in everything Team-2 had to undertake: Below left, blue top, helping AHDH
congratulate Engineer Theodore P. after the Outpatient Clinics building slab was completed, and go to the inauguration of the first reservoir (see pg.14 also)AHDH has sponsored along Water for Life, Solidarité Fribourg-Haiti, in our common efforts to keep concretely the cholera scourge at bay, along a new strong local group, CODEM (below right). She didn’t have to be begged either when Roger (pilot) invited her to be copilot, on our way to PAP.

Team-2 and FSIL: We were delighted to welcome once more, for Clinical Rotation at H.St. J. for a week, two senior RN students of the Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de Léogane, of the Université Episcopale d’Haiti, a very dynamic institution under the leadership of Dean Hilda Alcindor, now offering MS degree, first time in Haiti (go to www.haitinursing.org). It remains amazing how throughout the years those young future cadres exhibit a standard preparation, professionally, intellectually, ethically.
Rotation which is also an opportunity for our own undergraduates and graduates at Université Notre Dame (UNDH,Jacmel campus) to mingle and exchange experiences: Below left, from left: Soline N. and Jeanne D. (UNDH); Widline C. and Marline St,L. and Fritzna G. (FSIL), below right, blue top.
Now, Show Time.

Back to Team-1 for a minute: We were blessed once more not only to have Diane L.C. Chief Scrub Nurse (see above, page 5), but also husband, Leroy C., musician-teacher who kept his words to return and continue to make a difference at the La Vallée three main institutions, the Public High School Philippe Jules, the Nun school and the Eglise St. Jean Baptiste church choir. Aside education and practice, we were gratified with an end of the week concert, like the one of last summer. Please, let’s pay homage to the dedication of Diane and Leroy, (below left), and the pride of 3 of the students (below right). We can but remember these words: “Remember there is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates ripple effect with no logical end.”
Quite a few moments during that mission had also something out of this world: Look at the pictures below: On the left, some of you may remember Elizabeth: This kid came our way during our Summer 2011 mission, when she was short of breath: Tetralogy of Fallot. “Blessingly” (not just luckily), one of our volunteers, a New Orleans Ob-Gyn, knows a cardiologist next door. And the process went into motion: Elizabeth had her heart fixed at Children Hospital, is back home and shining life. What she has in her hand is as special: The grandchild of a Crowley, LA, volunteer received her first paycheck, and wants part of it to be dedicated to AHDH for something special. Who would be more special for it? The photo below right: June 1987, we are exploring where in Haiti we could more efficiently serve our brethren, have a concrete long term impact on behalf of our less fortunate. We visited a group we had just heard about, CODEVA. “Professor” Leon F., first from left, one of founding fathers, was the elder we met (we still have the video of that meeting in AHDH’s archives). We were so impressed by his idealism, that back in New Orleans, we suggested to develop a partnership with them. He is so proud to have had his own eye surgery in his home village, besides his satisfaction to see his home county enjoying more and more modern, dignified healthcare. By the way, the company was special: Sandra B-R. (blue cap) has been meeting him since she started to volunteer in June 1991, and Claude V. , adopted son of the village since 1990’s. Again: Remember there is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates ripple effect with no logical end.

And one of their pet dream: TER (Traitement, Education et Recherche) Center is, at time, painfully slow coming but is on its way, and will land, by HIS grace.

More Reservoirs to cholera at bay: In meantime progress is on going. As we reported after our Fall 2016 Mission, the hurricane Matthews brought a stark reminder: The cholera scourge will remain endemic unless we embark on permanent water infrastructures, which is the main problem… stop the cosmetic gestures we see too much of.
Otherwise, the population will remain as vulnerable as they were in November 2010, when the UN “gift” to Haiti took over the Central, Ouest and Sud-Est departments of Haiti went aflame. It was time for AHDH to bring more shoulder to the efforts of a local new organization, CODEM (Comité de Développement de Muzac), run by dynamic returned expatriates and locals. The benefits are so many: Accessible potable water, free the kids from deep ravines trips to fetch water, to give them the luxury of time to attend school, no more risking injury etc. We have been giving them some support on a personal level for the last few years, when they had already managed to catch the full attention of Water for Life. (See June 2014 Mission Report). This time we extended AHDH mission to join such illustrious company as WfL, Solidarté Friboug Haiti (you met before with the Outpatient Clinics project under construction),to build their 5th reservoir. (below: Right Ange L., and Claude V., white hat, both featured in “Eyes” above, page 4)

Now, potable water is a daily reality for the Muzac community, like Dade, Bas-Ridró etc: Below, left, Vanite L., pink top and Emilie B.; below right a grateful community expressing their relief.

While, thanks to ED&F (you met along our Outpatient Clinics construction project also), we left AHDH contribution for a 6th reservoir, and progress is underway: below left, in February; right, last week and this morning, 2nd row
RN and Management/Accounting Students Scholarship Program: As most of you know, we have now 10 RN graduates from Université Notre Dame, Jacmel Campus. Now, like in the US, they face their State exam to be free to practice. In meantime 10 are helping out at the hospital. Once State licensed, it will be time to spread them over the County of La Vallée and reach out to the 12 villages in need, while 3 are graduating this fall and the last one next year.

While, avenues for specialization (Nurse anesthetist/CRNA, Community RN, Pediatrics RN, CNMW, OR tech. etc.) remain in the medium range goal.

Our 4 Accounting/Management students are doing well and have 3 more years to go.

We are getting closer and closer to AHDH’s objective of growing La Vallée own cadres for that full blast organization of Hopital St. Joseph.

How can we ever thank so many of you enough, for enduring with us over those last 5 years?

We have been so privileged to have you on board, along those years. With your limited permission, please, allow me to at least mention, in alphabetical order:

Ana D.S. R. (Louisiana)
Anthony & Jackie L. (Louisiana)
Danielle C. (NY)
Evangela G-N. (RN), (Louisiana)
Gabriel A. (MD). (NY)
Jeanette J-P (RN). (NY)
Nicole L. (RN). (NY)
Rickie & R. J. (Louisiana)
Rose J. (RN). (NY)
Yanick A. (NY)
And we appreciate some of you extending your support to the 4 Accounting/Management students we just enlisted last fall.
You are no more just ordinary people, when you are doing such extraordinary things!!
You are role models. Thanks for sharing their dream. Those new professionals are most grateful.

**Outpatient Clinics status:** We have registered some recent progress, as the difficulty buying building materials in the business environment there is improving after the hurricane. We start seeing some profiling of the H.St.J campus, now the big slab is in place.
We are most grateful to all of you so patiently supporting this project.
AHDH in Grand Boulage (Central Plateau) Christmas joy.
As now a tradition, AHDH’s President, Fenelle G. G. teaming up with ‘‘We Care Charitable Foundation’’ (Chicago) brought once more joy to the hundreds of children, for Christmas, in Grand Boulage, in the Central Plateau area of Haiti.

Mission Support Angels: We had to develop recently a new category of “Angels” who can’t make it for the mission but dedicate so much effort to its success…medical supplies and equipment, financial support for our meal voucher program, CRNA’s (nurse anesthetist) stipends. We take great pleasure (and pride) for your friendship. A few to mention:

1-Alcon: Most of our ophthalmology performance would not have been possible without you.
2-Plenty International religiously takes charge of about half of our medicines bill, usually via
3-Blessings International who offered us a special discount.
4-Allergan Medical Missions Program
5-The Florence Mauboule Ch. Foundation
6-Jonathan Z., MD (new operating microscope for eye surgeries)
7-Dr. Melissa H., MD
8-Peggy B., MD
9-Nicole V.M., MD
10-Mohammed E., MD
11-Gail B.
12-Eurydice M. and Herb L.
13-Daisy G.
14-Mamadou B.
15-Lindsey W.
16-Michelle G.
17-Herb and Eurydice M L.
18-Marie Lissa G. (Ottawa)
19-Imani Temple #28
20-Brenella D. J. (Crowley)
21- Savoy Medical Center: John P.’s and Cheryl L.’s kindness to process our orders is well appreciated.
22-Mr. et Mrs. Jackie.& Anthony L. who footed the bill for so much of our medicines.
23-Jennifer F.
24-AND SO MANY MORE for their prayers and good wishes.

And to ALL of you, praiseworthy volunteers, thank you for your extraordinary accomplishments. We know you had to sacrifice a lot to be with us – vacation, family obligations, financial resources, you name it - but it is so heartwarming to see that you chose the Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable - enhancing a little bit more solidarity across our little fragile blue planet.
There are no words to thank you. Just INEFFABILIS !!
And I am sure you all know HE is taking ample note of your acts (James 2:20 and Mat. 25:14 on) and His blessings will be visiting you – but most of the time in very subtle ways.

Un gros merci encore à tous !!

Très Cordialement,
P.S: Summer 2017 Medical Mission, # 69: June 23 – July 2 (Team-1) and July 1 thru July 8 (Team-2).
Please, send us a note AS SOON AS you intend to join. Before this memo is even out, we already have 20 plus registered volunteers. Please, help us get better and better organized by registering early.

Le photographe photographié: A collectible!

Million Thanks, Carl

Version françoise

La Nouvelle-Orléans,

Le 15 avril 2016

Chers Membres, Volontaires, Amis de l'AHDH et d'Haiti :

Un gros Bonjour !

INEFFABILISIMO !! (Plus qu’Ineffable!)

Difficile de trouver un mot qui puisse englober l’entièreté de cette dernière tournée médicale: Tant de talents, de bienfaits, d’humanisme, tout a contribué à en faire une autre de très mémorable.

A partir de ce paragraphe, vu les difficultés techniques à insérer toutes les photos déjà présentées ci-dessus, on va compter sur l’indulgence des rares lecteurs de nous faire signe pour la traduction française.

 Galleries of Photos:

Il fait bon de vivre quand il y a de telles compagnies sur terre : George est impayable
Stimulating the local economy: Patients more and more come from more and more remote areas to consult.

Hommage to main Coordinatrice Anisa, relaxing with husband (grey top) and “old” and new friend.

A leader pondering her next move.
Enjoying helping others

We want our share of good health!
Getting a sense of how much longer with Mr. Engineer?

When the last time you met someone she was 2-3 years old: Martine H., center
Can’t get enough of that friendship

One of the favorite spots to pose at the Auberge

Blessings for the new reservoir, best shield against the cholera challenge
The spigot now is nearby, no more risking injury, wasting precious study time going down the ravines to fetch water.

Thanks God for all those new friends, in HIS
Future musical leaders of La Vallée