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Gregory with some of his new-found family at Grace Children's Hospital in 1998



Gregory now has two sons, Elijah and Zachary

LOOKING BACK: FROM FAMILY AT GRACE TO ONE OF HIS OWN

When Gregory Adrien came to Grace Children's Hospital in 1998, severely malnourished and crippled by Tuberculosis, it's no wonder he quickly learned to regard the staff and other children at Grace as his family. After his mother died when he was young and his father and new step-mother mistreated him, he took to begging and selling on the street to find food for himself. He learned that if he slept on his belly, he wouldn't feel as hungry.

He heard about Grace from a US Army doctor, and walked the long road to the hospital on his own. When he arrived, he was welcomed with open arms!

"I felt so sad to see the other kids playing on the ground by the window," he said. "The nurse told me to stay in bed until I started getting better. She said, 'Courage, little boy, be patient. Don't worry; one day you will be healthy.'"

And soon he was. And today, he still is. And so is his family. Now age 31, Gregory has two sons and lives in Miami, Florida where he is pursuing his music career as a hip-hop artist. He said he's still working on making his dream a reality, but it was Grace Children's Hospital that gave him hope and propelled him to the next steps in his life.

"Grace Children's Hospital built the foundation for my life," he said. "Without Grace, I don't know where I would be now. Honestly, probably dead."

After his treatment at Grace, he was moved to St. Joseph's Home for the Boys, continued his schooling, and joined a dance troop called Ayiti Dans Ansamn'm, which actually toured the US to several of our donor churches. He came to the US to live just before the earthquake of 2010.



"I felt miserable when I arrived, but it did not take long for me to feel accepted and part of a real family at Grace."
- Gregory Adrien, past patient at Grace

Looking Back - continued

Ten years later, Gregory says he still feels like he's a part of ICC. "It's like a big family," he said. "I can't wait until I can go back to Haiti and visit Grace."

It is only through the help of International Child Care donors that we are able to help children like Gregory. This is just one success story, but there are many more that need to be created. We greatly appreciate and thank you for your support that helps continue to provide hope, health, and well-being to these children and families.

"I would tell the people who can help to make sure Grace always exists. It's the best hospital and does so much for Haiti," Gregory said.

Just \$8 Can Save a Child's Life



During our 50 year anniversary, we ask for your support to help International Child Care grow and spread God's love and blessings to those children and families in Haiti and the Dominican Republic that need it most.



HOPE FOR REBECCA

Three-year-old Rebecca came to Grace Children's Hospital on March 28 with a high fever and difficulty breathing. Though she lives an hour and a half away, she was referred to Grace by Doctors without Borders because they knew Grace could save this child's life. The staff at Grace quickly tested her and got her hooked up to an IV and oxygen. And, indeed, saved her life.

She's already feeling much better, even though it took some time to stop the tears. She was missing her mama and is eager to return home to her parents and two brothers.

And now, thanks to your gifts, hope returns to her family!



LIVES SAVED AT JOLITROU

A month ago, Wilfrid, Cleotte, and their daughter Magalie were on their deathbed. And they may have remained there if it weren't for the Jolitrou clinic. The nurse discovered that they were experiencing food intoxication from a local plant. They were put on IVs and stayed in the clinic for three days to recover as the nurse treated them.

At the time this picture was taken, they were still feeling a little sick, but they were standing. They were able to leave the clinic and once again have a chance at life.

"I don't have words to express our gratitude for all you've done to help this clinic," said Edrice, president of Jolitrou Health Committee, to all who have donated to its services.

HELP SAVE JOLITROU

A thirty-minute drive from the nearest city, across a rough terrain, and through a river (four times), lies the rural and isolated community of Jolitrou. Before International Child Care, locals had to walk 4 hours each way to the nearest hospital and once there, many times were told to come back another day or denied health care completely. Once ICC partnered with the community to create a clinic, the infant mortality rate dropped significantly and many lives were saved.

“Words can’t explain all the positive changes ICC has brought,” said Edrice, president of the Jolitrou Health Committee there. “ICC even changed the behavior of people to learn to trust the clinic instead of witchcraft or natural remedies.”

However, the future of Jolitrou is extremely uncertain, as all its funding has been depleted—and your help is greatly needed. This resilient community continues to do what they can without financial resources, but their potential is diminishing. Viergena, a health agent that has been working for the community for 23 years, even now while she is no longer paid, shares her concerns:

“We aren’t able to go out into the community and do vaccinations anymore or educate about diseases and healthy precautions. If we don’t bring back some of these services soon, the community will start to backslide.”

Yet, hope is starting to stir within the isolated community of Jolitrou once again.

When three members of Westwood United Methodist Church heard of this great need, they along with five others from Ohio and Michigan raised funds to start building the clinic back up. In August 2016, they decided to not take their planned mission trip and instead donate all the costs they had raised to give to Jolitrou. Now thanks to their support, the clinic:

- Built a new, stable roof to provide a safe environment for the patients
- Hired a paid nurse for the clinic who is there three days a week
- Repaired and paid for fuel for the motorcycle that serves as an ambulance

In March 2017, two members of this team, Pastor Lee Strawhun and Lloyd Pemberton, were able to visit with the community and see the changes first-hand. “The devotion of the staff and health committee was amazing and very heartwarming,” said Lee.

The workers are dedicated to their community, but their resources are still very limited. Yet, their goals are not impossible. To fully staff the clinic five days a week and provide the tools and medicines to operate the clinic takes only around \$23,000 a year.

“There is no help from Haiti’s Ministry of Health,” said Dr. Laudie, ICC Regional Coordinator. “If ICC doesn’t help, no one will.”



A team from Westwood United Methodist Church donated for a new roof, nurse, and motorcycle for the clinic

“I remember what life was like before ICC,” Viergena said. “So much sickness, so much death. We cannot go back.”

ADOPT A PROJECT: JOLITROU

The community of Jolitrou needs your help! The budget for a year to keep the clinic open and fully-staffed is roughly \$23,000. If a church, or group of churches is able to “adopt” this project together, we can provide hope for this resilient community that so desperately needs it. Please consider today how you can be a part of their healthy future.

Contact iccusa@internationalchildcare.org or call us at 1-800-722-4453 to discuss possibilities or make a contribution.



50 for 50



CELEBRATE GRACE'S GOLDEN PAST AND PROMOTE ITS BRIGHT FUTURE!



We Need You! This year we are celebrating Grace Children's Hospital's golden past—while also working hard to secure its bright future. The last decade has hit Haiti hard with the 2010 earthquake, Hurricane Matthew, and the constant political upheaval. The hospital is struggling to survive. But we know there is still hope.

It doesn't take much to make a BIG difference. To celebrate Grace's 50th year, we invite you to join others all over the country to start your own creative 50for50 campaign. Whether you cycle 50 miles and take pledges, ask 50 friends to donate, host an event for 50 supporters, or sell 50 knitted hats, we challenge you to create a campaign that's uniquely you! If we all do our own small part, together we can create a future that's bright!

International Child Care will help you throughout the process and provide support materials to help you fundraise. **Visit www.internationalchildcare.org/50for50 or call 800-722-4453 to learn more about how to get started.**

ONE BRIGHT IDEA: 50 BOOKMARKS FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY



For Rev. June Franck's 50for50, she decided to sew fifty bookmarks and sell them for donations to International Child Care.

"Early in my life, my mother taught me to be creative through sewing," she said. "After all these years, I am still in touch with her love as I sew and share my creations with others. When Ellen Palmer told me about the 50for50 program, God placed in my heart to be creative."



Rev. June Franck is sewing 50 bookmarks for her 50for50

So far, she has made more than 60 bookmarks and raised almost \$600!

"My hope is that each bookmark will be a reminder to pray for Grace and, when possible, to be generous in support to International Child Care."

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