



A COMMUNITY IN NEED OF HEALTH

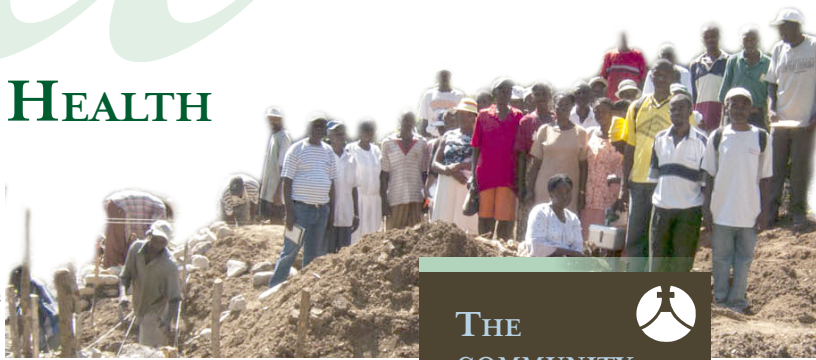
Nearly 14 miles from the bustling city of Cap-Haitien, International Child Care's (ICC) clinic in Jolitrou quietly sits along a steep dirt road serving the approximate 14,000 residents. The green and white cement walls of the clinic welcome an isolated community with extremely limited medical alternatives. Before ICC, locals had to walk three to four hours each way, across shallow rivers and rocky roads, to reach the nearest hospital. Many times, after the long journey, those in need of health care were sent back -- told to come back another day, or denied care completely because they had no money to pay for services.


Limited access to a healthcare facility wreaked havoc on the rural community. Maternal and infant mortality rates were alarmingly high. With no access to health education, residents of the community did not understand illness or how to prevent it. In their culture, sickness was a result of witchcraft or a curse. Turning to voodoo, not medicine, was their only solution to recovery. Coupled with extreme poverty, the people of Jolitrou were left struggling to survive.

In this newsletter we will explore the Integrated Community Health and Maternal Health programs which have empowered and transformed the Jolitrou community.

ICC's health journey with Jolitrou began in 1994 when the organization expanded its community health outreach. Targeting health education and maternal and infant mortality, ICC became a community partner. In 2007, the community recognized a need for an ICC clinic -- a centralized place where the community could address its healthcare needs. The women in ICC's Micro-Enterprise Loan Program, with the help of the Valparaiso University Social Action Leadership Team, purchased land for the clinic, and the community built the structure.

For nearly 20 years, ICC has been working alongside the community, with Jolitrou clinic now an official project of Grace Children's Hospital. Our partnership grows stronger day after day as we both work toward a sustainable and healthy future for Jolitrou.




**THE
 COMMUNITY
 IN 2007
 PREPARING
 TO BUILD THE
 CLINIC.**





INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH

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Remote villages of rural Haiti, like Jolitrou, are breeding grounds for disease; the result of poor sanitation, inadequate nutrition and overcrowding. One in 12 children in Haiti will die before the age of five from a preventable disease. ICC sought to change this reality for Jolitrou through child vaccination. ICC inoculates against highly contagious childhood diseases, including diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles and tuberculosis (TB), through ICC's national TB program.

Community health workers, like Viergene Duvot, act as health advocates. "I make 20 home visits everyday to follow up with patients and counsel them on their health concerns," Viergene says. "Once a week I go to schools and churches to spread health awareness and encourage people to visit the clinic." Every second Monday, Viergene and her fellow health workers have community meetings where they distribute food and educate the community about pressing health issues, which has helped to change the local culture surrounding sickness. "Now, instead of visiting voodoo priests, the people in the community will come to us," says Viergene.



*ICC Community Health Worker
Viergene Duvot.*



The prevention of cholera through proper hygiene and sanitation has also been an important part of their health education, as nearly 10,000 Haitians have died since the 2010 outbreak. "Water is still the biggest health concern in the community," says Viergene. In Haiti, 29% of Haiti's 2.3 million people do not have access to safe, drinkable water. ICC has provided the only well in the community.

"I remember what life was like before ICC," recalls Viergene. "So much sickness, so much death. We cannot go back."



WELCOME ANGELA TO ICC!

ANGELA LIRIANO HAS JOINED THE ICC TEAM AS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR!

ANGELA IS FROM SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND HAS HER MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FROM WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY.

"BEING FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THE WORK OF ICC IS VERY CLOSE TO MY HEART," SAYS ANGELA. "I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTRIBUTING TO THE MISSION OF ICC AND HELPING THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THAT ICC SERVES IN HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC."

YOU CAN EMAIL ANGELA, ANGELA@INTERNATIONALCHILDCARE.ORG, OR CALL THE OFFICE TO WELCOME HER TO THE TEAM!



BIG NEWS!

ICC is excited to announce its collaboration with Caribbean Biotechnologies, Inc. (CBT) to conduct clinical studies to test CBT's new technology for the instantaneous detection of tuberculosis (TB) at Grace Children's Hospital, beginning fall 2015.

CBT technology represents a breakthrough for instant detection of airborne transmitted diseases, including TB. The system is an optical based, non-invasive instrument designed to detect active TB in seconds, compared to current methods which require days for an accurate diagnostic. This technology has the potential to dramatically reduce rates of infection and transmission for TB.

TB has a worldwide mortality rate of 2 million per year, according to the World Health Organization. Haiti has the highest rate of TB in the western hemisphere. "Grace Children's Hospital was highly recommended by the US Center for Disease Control, because of their pro-active program in TB detection, and dedicated and experienced personnel," explains Dr. Jorge E. Gonzalez, President of CBT. "This proved very correct after several meetings with [ICC Haiti National Director] Dr. Bijou and her staff."

ICC has a long history of leadership in the Haitian healthcare community for the treatment/prevention of TB. We look forward to continuing this role as we collaborate with CBT to bring more effective and affordable tubercular detective technology to Haiti.

JOIN A WORK TEAM ICC is now open to hosting work teams in Haiti! Volunteers are needed for tasks like painting and basic upkeep (installing door knobs, light switch covers, etc), as well as professional electric and plumbing projects. If you, your employer, or your church are interested in helping with general maintenance and improvement projects around Grace Children's Hospital and local ICC clinics, contact the ICC USA office today.

Maternal Health



When ICC first came to the community in 1994, it immediately began to tackle maternal and infant mortality. Pregnancy and delivery related complications, and a lack of access to professional medical services, had immersed pregnancy and childbirth in a culture of death. “When a child was going to be born they would start building a coffin,” recalls ICC Maternal Health Coordinator Madame Sam. “Because of ICC, they don’t need to do that anymore.”

ICC trains local women to become Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). Eighty percent of all births in Haiti occur at home, and fifty percent are without any assistance. TBAs are the principle source of care for pregnant women in Jolitrou. They are trained in the techniques of delivery and the importance of proper hygiene. They are taught to recognize signs of complications in pregnancy or delivery, and the dangers of certain traditional Haitian birthing practices. Once formally trained, a TBA receives a certificate and a delivery kit, and is required to attend regular refresher courses. They provide prenatal clinics, called “mothers’ clubs,” to monitor the women’s health throughout pregnancy, and educate women about the importance of diet, nutrition and breast feeding, as well as prepare them for child birth.

Cillianise Shise with son Davidson.

In developing countries, especially in rural and secluded communities like Jolitrou, women do not have the luxury to give birth in a hospital due to financial and geographic barriers. In 2008, however, ICC purchased an ambulance so that women in the community could be taken to the hospital for child birth, especially women with high risk pregnancies like 50-year-old Cillianise Shise. Cillianise’s eldest son, Ermison, who is now five years old, was born with the assistance of a TBA. However, for her second pregnancy, Cillianise was advised to give birth at the nearest hospital in Grand Riviere du Nord because of the complications that arise for older mothers. Cillianise signed up for the ambulance during her mothers’ club meetings. When her contractions started, she had a friend use the clinic phone to call the ambulance driver. She was then transported to the hospital where she safely delivered her healthy baby boy, Davidson, now one-year old.



“Every time I look at Davidson, I feel so lucky,” she says. “I never thought I would have a second child, and if I didn’t go to the hospital, maybe I wouldn’t.” From 2008 to 2014, with the addition of the second ambulance, the amount of hospital births have increased from 20 to 60 births per month. “For 2008 up until now, we have only had three maternal mortalities,” says Madame Sam. “Three. God bless ICC. It has been a God-send to mothers in this community.”

Future of Jolitrou



Together, ICC and Jolitrou have transformed a community in need of health into a health community. The future for this resilient community, however, is uncertain. Over the last several years, a lack of sustainable funding has made it very difficult for ICC to support the rural clinics of northern Haiti, including Jolitrou.

Due to the completion of some major funding, ICC Haiti was forced to cut its northern staff from 93 employees to 11. This does not include the 12 health agents that volunteer to serve their communities without salary, three of which are assigned to Jolitrou.

ICC can no longer provide consistent healthcare for this community. We need your help. The people of Jolitrou need your help. Remember the words of community health worker Viergene about life in Jolitrou before ICC: "So much sickness, so much death. We cannot go back."

ICC, as well as the Jolitrou community, is searching for ways to maintain the clinic. It is in need of monetary and developmental support to become sustainable and to continue to empower its people and the community. For one nurse to staff the clinic in Jolitrou it would cost an estimated \$4,500 per year. To completely staff and support the clinic the annual estimated cost is \$11-13,000.

With your generosity, we can continue to build toward a healthy future for Jolitrou. As the Haitians say: Bondye do ou, Fe pa ou, M a fe pa M. "God says do your part and I'll do mine."

**PLEASE,
DONATE TODAY.**

As the Haitians say:

*Bondye do ou, Fe
pa ou, M a fe pa*

M. "God says do

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**"SO MUCH
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SO MUCH
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Advance: Grace Children's Hospital: 418520



FIND YOUR PLACE IN GRACE

Help bring health and hope to suffering children by becoming a Partner in Grace with International Child Care.

PARTNER IN GRACE

(\$31/month, \$372/year)

Brings everyday blessings -- food, medicine, clean water and healthcare -- to people in need at GCH and throughout Haiti and Dominican Republic.

PROMETO PARTNER

(\$35/month, \$420/year)

Provides at-home rehabilitation for children living with disabilities in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

AMBASSADOR FOR GRACE

(\$60/month, \$720/year)

Improves health and supports community health rehabilitation outreach work in the Dominican Republic.

GRACE CORNERSTONE MEMBER

(\$100/month, \$1200/year)

Ensures the health services can continue without interruption by providing a firm foundation of financial support for ICC's programs in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

BED FOR GRACE SPONSOR

(\$300/month, \$3600/year)

Provides care for a child in the inpatient ward at Grace Children's Hospital every day for one year.

VISION OF GRACE GIFT

\$10,000 (or more)

One-time or recurring commitment

Supports both the present and future needs of ICC with a gift that is split between current program activities and ICC's endowment fund.

*Contact ICC USA office to become a partner.

9TH ANNUAL RACE FOR GRACE is quickly approaching! On August 29th Race for Grace riders will hit the streets of Wichita Falls, Texas, riding increments of 10k all the way up to 100 miles to bring health and hope to the children of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The Race for Grace raises money for ICC's health projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Money raised from this event helps to support children whose families cannot afford the medical services that their children desperately need. Race for Grace also helps families with disabled children receive at-home rehabilitation in their remote communities. As the biggest fundraiser of the year, the success of Race for Grace is critical to the children and families that depend on ICC. For most of the population that we serve, ICC is often their only resource to receive the treatment and services that their health demands, regardless of their ability to pay.

You can help ICC save and change lives by donating to the Race for Grace fundraiser. Look on our fundraising page at www.razoo.com/team/Race-For-Grace-2015-1 to support one of the teams pedaling for Grace. Or contact the US office and find out how you can help promote health and hope in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



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Advance:
• Grace Children's Hospital: 418520 • Integrated Community Health (Haiti): 418847
• Community Health Development Program (D.R.): 410215 • Child to Child Health Promotion: 418242