

AHDH's Mission Report: Summer 2022 ,

Preparations for Fall 2022 Mission

(Version française, après l'anglaise, pg.15)

Dear Members, Volunteers & Friends of AHDH & Haiti:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of AHDH, Inc., we take, once more, an immense pleasure to share with you our latest mission report, AHDH's **Summer 2022 Medical** & Educational Mission Report, in the Motherland, **our 80th since 1986**, which took place from June 24 to July 9, 2022.

It was another big challenge, of the kind we have been painfully facing over the last two - three years with quite some frustrations, which forced us to limit our usual crowd of 20-25 of multiple specialties to provide the most diverse services for our less fortunate brethren, to a reduced team of 8 volunteers, joined by 4 valiant local ophthalmology practitioners, and an engineer:



(The empty chair, the photographer)

We could find some consolation in the quality of care we were able to provide, for the precarious conditions some patients were in, as mortal outcome was around the corner (*see little Cameron story, below pg. 3*) or further deterioration of an easy to fix condition (*see below, pg. 3, bilateral cataract from electrocution*)

Ophthalmology: The bulk of the services were in the ophthalmology division, with a total of **87**

cataracts surgeries and other types; 400 were examined with 300 glasses dispensed.

Below, left, (*pink top*), the untiring leader of our ophthalmo program, Anika M.MD, strategizing her next move with system supporter (Claude V.), and, below right, some of her faithful team: Benjeil E.MD (*orange top*) , Shakespeare S. MD,(*green top*), while Yolande P-B, once more, in charge of translation....



While Yvrose V., (*below, left, yellow stripe*) is busy dispensing glasses prescribed....



And Nicole V.M, MD, (*above right, brown top*), with CODEVA staff, Marie Paule B.G., LPN, white top, are processing the crowd (*below left*), while Marly M., *below right, black top*, waiting for processing...



While the large OR's 3 Operating tables were buzzing with activities under the leadership of our dynamic partner, Drs. Ritza E., MD, *below right*, and Yamilee C, Valencia R., (page 1, 1st and 2nd from right), assisted once more by AHDH's RN graduates from UNDH/Jacmel, Jeanne D. RN, Rosena N., RN, and Francine N., RN.

Where an extraordinary feat occurred, another highlight of our trip: A blind man with bilateral cataracts from electrocution at work. Paste and google link below for full story:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16L-eQWy8BH179Tqh-HyBGdILDZ9SDw6F/view>

Performance which caught the attention of Drs. Anika M. and Benjeil E.'s institution, in NY, who praised them with a big accolade: Go to page 10.

General Surgery:

As mentioned above, given the chaotic political situation organized by both internal and external "the powers that be", we couldn't afford the luxury to bring along a full staff, as we used to.

But the community needs will not wait for their irresponsible "leadership".

As we welcome the consultation sought by a distressed mother of a **4 months old baby**, born prematurely in the Dominican Republic, next door, where they took refuge, and as if this wasn't enough, mother and baby were chased out. Upon evaluation we became concerned that the baby was developing an strangulated inguino-scrotal hernia. We promptly resorted to our contacts in Jacmel, among the surgeons who graciously have been joining us for years, and the transfer was possible and the baby's life saved.



Little Cameron will hang with us a little longer

Thanks again to the young Valléens in New Jersey, who, under the leadership of Ms. Mirlande A., who stood by AHDH, to defray the cost of the baby's surgery.

Ob-Gyn Clinic, Imaging (ultrasound), NST etc

Once more our Ob-Gyn services were drastically reduced, mostly the gynecology side, as we can't resume yet our cervical dysplasia/cancer program so much needed, as the last 25 years have proven it, while the roads are blocked by the gangs supported by "the powers that be" (internal and external, as a former Minister of Justice recently denounced it), and the only access between the capital and the 4 provinces of the so called "Grand Sud" is by air.

On the obstetrical side, we provide the routine services: physical exams, ultrasound studies, NST (non-stress tests) etc.

We pray normalcy will resume, as it is hard to imagine the moral gain for those in power.

Power / Electricity:

We can't go too far without that "benevolent Power": Our untiring, **Georges L., Mech. Eng.** (below and page 1,3rd on left), over the last 15 plus years, never misses a day in HIS field, shedding continuously his "light" on AHDH's mission. Hat down, Georges!!!!



Riviere Froide (RF) and Grand Boulage sites:

As many of you are familiar with the other sites where AHDH has been active over the last two plus decades, R,F under the leadership of AHDH's Past President, Dr. Yvelyne G-M, and Grand Boulage, under the leadership of current AHDH's President, Mrs. Fenelle G-G, in the Mirebalais area, have suffered also of the limitations imposed on us by the on-going political chaos.

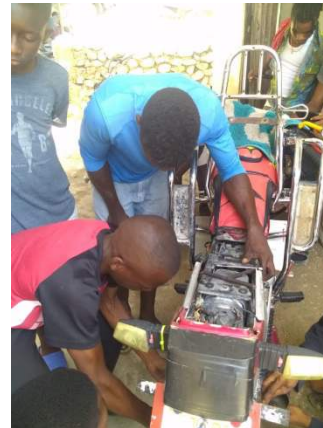
But despite it all, Yvelyne, thru some youthful groups managed to accomplish quite some activities: For approximately one month, each day for 3-4 hours, we had:



1-Photography Camp teaching students how to use state of the art cameras



2-Moto Repair Camp of used cycles that needed repair, to teach students the basics for handling tools, fixing flats and repairing a motor



3-Arts and Craft Camp teaching student how to use plastic bottles, paper, and yarn for creative projects.



4-Craft Dance Class: And nutritious food for 24 days.



Keeping our kids happily engaged is the best ways for keeping them away from participating in gangs, and they appreciate it (*see photo below*), like a desert welcoming some rain (*terre sèche qui ap tend la pluie, in créole*)



We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate and thank Yvelyne G-McC's family, church members (UU Church) and friends.

Outpatient Clinics (OPC) current status: CODEVA

(*Coude à Coude pour le Développement de La Vallée*) :

By now, most of you are familiar with the tight relationship AHDH has developed over the last **36 years** with CODEVA, despite the ups and downs in bringing our support to that progressive community, with the off and on political nightmares, but together we remain a team focused on the ball.

As a routine, we just reviewed together the state of our **infrastructural progress**, and reassessed the needs.

As we are very pleased with the quality of the works of the first floor of the **Outpatients Clinics**, mainly its **anti-seismic** features, (*see photos below*), but it is heart breaking to see that they still can't acquire supplies from Port-Au-Prince where they must be bought, just

like under the dictatorship of the 60 thru 80's, while a port in Jacmel remains idle, and now everything, including the roads, are under gangs' control, operating under the watch of a "government", God knows why, materials ordered to complete the interior, and start the 2nd floor.



We reviewed with the CODEVA Executive committee, (below left, left to right: The V.P., Former Mayor, Mr. Ivrance J., The engineer, Mr. Theodore P, Charles R., AHDH's, Mr. Joseph P, Treasurer and The Secretary, Mrs. Marie Rose P.), and brainstormed together over the next steps once done with the Outpatient Clinic, **the ER** to complete, below right.



Mission Support Angels (MSA):

Some of our MSAs who can't make it for the mission but dedicate so much effort to its success...medical supplies and equipment, RNA's stipends.

We take great pleasure (and pride) for your friendship.

A few to mention for this trip:

1- Nicole V-M., MD

2- Elaine Langley, RN, (who provided us a large stock of insulin)

3- Anika M., MD

4- **AND** so many more, for their donations, **prayers and good wishes.**

And to ALL of you, **praiseworthy volunteers**, thank you for your many supports.

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.

And I am sure you all know **HE/SHE** is taking ample note of your acts (*James 2:20 and Mat. 25:14 on*) and His /HER blessings will be visiting you and yours– but most of the time in very subtle ways...

Un grand merci encore à tous !!

Très Cordialement,

Charles

(Charles René, M.D., F.A.C.O.G

Co-Founder, **Treasurer, Director** of Missions in Haiti

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P.S: Fall 2022 Medical Mission, # 81th: November 5 → November 19, 2022

Please, send us **a note ASAP**. We have already some solicitations but we will try to accommodate as many as possible, under the current circumstances.

Some preliminary info we obtained:

There will be flight from Miami and JFK (AA) and FLL (JB) to PAP **at an accommodating time, for our charter PAP-JML (Jacmel)**,

See some of you soon.

Version française

La Nouvelle-Orléans,

Le 10 aout 2022

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

Un gros Bonjour à tous !

Au nom du Comité des Directeurs de l'AHDH, Inc., je prends plaisir à partager avec vous cette brève note qui adressera notre dernière mission médicale et éducative, **Mission Été 2022**, notre **80ème** depuis 1986, qui vient d'avoir lieu du 24 juin au 9 juillet, 2022.

Difficile de trouver un mot qui puisse traduire notre déception de n'avoir pu amener toute l'équipe de 25-30 plus pourtant prête à servir nos moins fortunés, mais la réalité sur le terrain étant ce qu'elle est, la sécurité de nos volontaires dut primer.

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

Cordialement,

Charles
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Drs. Anika Michael and Benjeil Edghill lauded by their institution, AdvantageCare Physicians

Aug 01, 2022, 12:38 ET

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--Doctors from AdvantageCare Physicians travel abroad to provide medical care to Haitian communities in need --

NEW YORK , Aug. 1, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Ophthalmology specialists from AdvantageCare Physicians (ACPNY), one of the largest primary and specialty care practices in New York City, traveled to Haiti in July on a medical mission of mercy. Doctors Anika Michael and Benjeil Edghill spent a five-day care

mission in the Caribbean country, where they evaluated and treated more than 400 patients and completed approximately 90 surgeries.

AdvantageCare Physicians' Dr. Anika Michael and Dr. Benjeil Edghill sit with patients they cared for on medical mission to Haiti

"We are proud of Dr. Michael and Dr. Edghill for their outstanding charitable work and sense of compassion both at home and abroad," said Dr. Navarra Rodriguez, M.D., President & Chief Medical Officer of ACPNY. "Extending empathy, clinical services, and a sense of global community is how many of ACPNY's medical team members give back and stand out."

Given the infrastructure challenges and political turmoil Haiti has faced, access to medical care, especially ophthalmology, is often limited. Over the last fifteen years, Dr. Michael has engaged in these twice-yearly missions to the country to provide life-changing patient sight-restoring procedures, including cataract surgeries.

Among the many stories the doctors shared from their latest visit was one of a young man in his thirties who came from over four hours (by car) away but arrived too late for that day's clinic. Rather than turn back, he decided to stay overnight and camped on a bench to be first in line for the following day's clinic. The ACPNY team returned his sight that same morning upon examination and treatment. Before this visit, the gentleman was blind for three years after suffering a work-related injury.

"It's stories like this that make all the hard work worth it," said Dr. Anika Michael, M.D. ACPNY Ophthalmologist. "In the face of the pandemic, natural disasters, and political turmoil, seeing such resilience in the people of Haiti fills me with hope for the future."

"The reward of making an impact has me excited to go back," said Dr. Benjeil Edghill, M.D. ACPNY Ophthalmologist who made the trip for the fourth time this year. "We are not only returning the sight of our patients, but we are also giving them and their caretakers their lives back."

For more information on care services provided by ACPNY, please visit the website ACPNY.com.

About AdvantageCare Physicians

AdvantageCare Physicians, one of the largest primary and specialty care practices in the New York area, provides quality, personalized care that is focused on the whole patient. With more than 40 medical offices across the five boroughs and Long Island, serving more than half a million patients.

AdvantageCare Physicians takes a team-based approach to care where physicians work with nurses, social workers, nutritionists, behavioral health specialists and other professionals. Visit www.acpny.com to learn.

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