

Ochsner in Haiti Today!

Yvens G. Laborde, M.D., Regional Medical Director, West Bank

“For myself who was born and raised in Haiti and for anyone with any connection or ties to the country, you are especially compelled to tirelessly work for the betterment of Haiti and its people.”



4:53 PM January 12, 2010 is a date filled with pain and agony. A 7.0 magnitude earthquake (“Goudougoudou” as Haitians call it) shook the Caribbean nation of Haiti resulting in one of the worst natural disasters seen in the Western Hemisphere. The world watched in horror at the apocalyptic scenes that were being shown on the television. The tragedy hit close to home as the images of Haiti reminded many in New Orleans of the devastation caused by Katrina. With the support of the Ochsner leadership, we were able to quickly establish the Ochsner Haitian Relief Fund (OHRF) to provide health and humanitarian aid directly to the Haitian people. Ochsner, MedAssests and many others have helped make multiple trips to Haiti since Goudougoudou.



Over the past two years much has happened in Haiti from the earthquake, Hurricane Tomas, cholera epidemic, violence, unstable government and contested elections. It has been a painfully slow recovery and very little improvement in the lives of most Haitians complicated with a lack of accountability and measurable results for the large amounts of money that has been pledged and donated for support.



As we approach the second anniversary Ochsner continues to honor its mission to Serve, Heal, Lead, Educate and Innovate on a global scale through its continued support of the recovery efforts in Haiti. In 2012 the country is still in the midst of one of the most devastating cholera outbreaks in modern history.



“Our mission and vision continues to have both a regional and global impact that is recognized and appreciated one precious heartbeat at a time.”

More than half a million inhabitants of the ravaged city of Port-Au-Prince and surrounding areas are still without homes, basic necessities and living in subhuman conditions. However, the images that we are sharing with you from our most recent mission to Haiti are very encouraging. The focus of this trip was to provide health care, education and support to displaced children and orphans in the rural areas of Haiti. The OHRF in partnership with FONDYLSAHH and Fondation de L'Espoir des Enfants Démunis (FEED) until recently has only been able to provide "Tent" classrooms for its orphaned and poor children. On this mission we were able to witness the completion of the Ecole Polytechnique de Mayaya Commune La Victoire. Our continued efforts led by Mackenzie Jean-Francois, Dr. Calssaint Saint-Vil and the citizens of Mayaya La Victoire led to the Digicel Haiti Foundations' support for the construction of this magnificent school. Nearly half of Haiti's 10M people are younger than 18. Only 50% of the children in Haiti never attend school and only 2% finish high school. Haiti's infant mortality rate and rate of death for children under 5 is the highest in the Western Hemisphere and that is before the earthquake. The community is thankful for having the only operating ambulance in the area that continues to serve as a mobile clinic and the occasional school bus. We are also currently using the school site for our medical outreach, clinic activities and are able to provide medical care to over 200 patients during the last trip and are looking forward to being able to include interested Ochsner staff, residents and UQ students to participate as well. We are also especially thankful to the Ochsner family for their support, which allowed us to bring soccer balls, toys, as well as, purchase uniforms, books, etc. to support the mission. All of us at Ochsner should feel extremely proud of our contribution to the recovery efforts in Haiti.



Fondylsahh is a Haitian based non-profit foundation to assist in the betterment of the Haitian people. With a focus on displaced Haitian children and farmers. Established by Yvens Laborde, M.D. for health, education, humanitarianism, as well as economic assistance to promote self-reliance. In partnership with the Ochsner Haitian Relief Fund it can better facilitate the achievement of their goals. Dr. Classaint Saint-Vil serves as the Medical Director and Mackenzie Jean-Francois as Chief Operating Officer.

Ochsner Haitian Relief Fund Activities



Goudougoudou

- 250 – 300K dead
- 300K injured
- 1.5 million homeless
- 1 out of 15 affected died
- 1 out of 16,588 rescued
- 1 million estimated orphans
- 10 + billion estimated for reconstruction

Additional Setbacks in October 2010

- 450,000+ infected, 6,500+ died from cholera epidemic
- 23 deaths Hurricane Tomas, continued setbacks

Ochsner Haitian Relief Fund

- Sponsored Ochsner Clinic Primary Care Center in underserved areas
- Provide basic education, health prevention and screenings for communicable diseases (HIV, TB, etc)
- Provided 350,000 + medications, numerous supplies and an ambulance from Acadian Ambulance Services
- Opportunity for participation of Ochsner Team interested in Global Health and Medicine

Orphanage/Homeless Children Support

- Foyer Des Jeunes Filles De Dieu
- Oeuvres Notre Dame De Victoire
- Centre Des Enfants Perdu Leogane

Ongoing Needs and Future Projects

- Health
- Shelter
- Education
- Sustainability

To Help Haitian Earthquake Relief Efforts

<http://www.ochsner.org/lp/haitianrelief/>

