

THE ESPWA FOUNDATION Annual Report

2016

A BETTER TOMORROW STARTS WITH HOPE

Activities and Accomplishments

March Medical Mission

An Espwa medical team set off to Haiti on March 9, 2016, carrying more than 19 suitcases of medications, vitamins, and medical supplies valued at over \$22,000. Five members of the Espwa leadership team (Jen, Chris, Joe, Brady, and Kristin) were excited to be back in country, and we were privileged to assemble an amazing team of medical professionals, including two Nurse Practitioners, four Registered Nurses, and an Occupational Therapist. Another member arrived midway through the trip, bringing our team total to thirteen individuals. Our primary goal for the trip was to serve Haitians through medical care, with a secondary goal of meeting with liaisons for our other projects to check on their progress.

The medical team worked side-by-side with two Haitian physicians, Dr. Eugene Maklin



(Espwa's in-country Medical Director) and Wislyn Avenard, and began by serving for two days at the Blue Hills community. While there is no clinic in the small community, our team was able to set up shop in a school building run by Thomas Dieuseul and his wife. Patients began arriving first thing in the morning in order to reserve a spot in line to be seen by the team, and the waiting area was soon filled to capacity. Over two days, the team saw more than 300 patients, treating them for conditions ranging from dehydration to skin abscesses.

The team took a break from medical duty over the weekend, but was back at it on Monday morning, this time serving at St. Anthony's clinic, which Espwa has been part of since its inception. Dr. Maklin sees patients there every Monday, and it's been great to see the relationships unfold with members of the community over the past several years. The team served at the clinic for two and a half days and saw more than 400 patients in all. Espwa's Medical Director, Jen Schmidt, summarized the week's medical mission by saying, "We all worked so well together and everything fell perfectly into place, allowing us to treat over 700 patients! God is good!"



Welcome

If you're new to Espwa, thank you for wanting to learn more, and if you're already a friend, thank you for your support. We're Chris, Jen, and Joe, and we started Espwa in 2010 to work with local partners in Cap-Haïtien on Haiti's northern coast to identify needs and develop projects that empower and inspire hope. 2016 was a great year, and these are some of its highlights. The work is never easy, but the generosity of our sponsors gives us the faith and courage to keep going.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER PFEIFFER

MEDICAL DIRECTOR: JENNIFER M. SCHMIDT

CREATIVE PROJECTS & FARMING DIRECTOR: JOSEPH SHAFFER

TREASURER: GARY MOLINARO

SECRETARY: KRISTIN RUMCIK

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR: BRADY CILLO

Peace & Joy Family Update

We are happy to report the continued ministry of and support to our dear families in the Peace & Joy Family Project.

June 2016 was the four-year anniversary of our involvement with the children. When we first found them, they were in a very unsafe environment, living at an orphanage that turned out to be a facade. We helped place them back with their families three years ago. It's a long story, but God has been faithful throughout. It's been a blessing to be part of these families' lives.

During our September 2016 trip, we again had the chance to visit and spend time with the families. Long-time Espwa supporting family, the Richardsons, joined us on the trip. This Pittsburgh-based family has supported the Peace & Joy children from the very beginning in countless ways, including buying swimsuits for the annual beach day, packing gifts, raising funds for schooling, and expressing consistent concern for the children's well-being. It was such a special moment to introduce the Richardsons to the children and families. We were also able to deliver school supplies that were generously donated by the Jacobson Elementary (Chandler, AZ) CATS program.

SPOTLIGHT PROJECTS



Espwa Bracelets

In March of 2016, we commissioned Waiky, Ricardo, and Dophka, a few of the teenagers at EBAC orphanage, to produce a bulk order of bracelets to sell on our website. We received two custom color schemes with the word "Espwa" prominently displayed on each bracelet. This endeavor could lead to future small business opportunities for the students at EBAC, and other youth in the community.



During our June trip, we met with longtime missionaries Alice Wise and Kathy Gouker, whose stories never fail to captivate, as well as our pastor to the Peace & Joy Families, Benjamin Fleurant. Our time with Pastor Benjamin strengthening the relationship and getting feedback from his time with the children and their families was much needed. (See also the margin story on the Pastor.)

Thanks to the care and support of our numerous donors, the Peace & Joy children are all enrolled in school again this year. We also continue to support Pastor Fleurant as he visits with and ministers to the families.



Anne Goes to College

If you've been on a trip with Espwa, you've likely been impacted by the loving smile and warm personality of Anne Lormeus. An EBAC graduate, Anne has translated for our teams, assisted on medical trips, and been part of several Haitian choir albums. Anne now embarks on a new journey, pursuing an accounting degree in Port au Prince. Espwa wants to see Anne succeed and has raised enough funds for her first year of schooling. We'll be taking this project a year at a time and monitoring Anne's progress, but we expect big things.

After our visits, we prepared to take the children and families back to the beach for our third Annual Family Beach Trip. On the way, our bus ended up getting a flat tire that was beyond repair, so a tap-tap army came to the rescue. Nothing was keeping us from the beach!



We had a fun day filled with sun, swimming, relaxation and two meals, and are so grateful to all who made it possible.



Pastor Benjamin's Welding Generator

Pastor Benjamin has provided valuable and nurturing Christian ministry to our Peace & Joy Families, and we wanted to show our appreciation by blessing him with something we believed would make him a more effective pastor. So in December of 2016, we helped the Pastor purchase a welding generator that has had a meaningful impact on his life.

Pittsburgh Events

Running for a Reason at the Pittsburgh Marathon

On May 1, 2016, Espwa fielded a relay team of five to participate in the 8th Annual Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon. Two half-marathoners also ran for Espwa, and the team together raised over \$4,500 to support New Hope Hospital. (See story on page 4.)



OUR MISSION AND VALUES

Espwa exists to develop projects that empower the people of Haiti, alleviate poverty, build relationships, and ultimately encourage hope through Christ's love.

In carrying out this mission, we observe the following values:

1. We are Christ-focused.
2. We are committed to the poor.
3. We believe everything begins with relationships.
4. We act as good stewards.
5. We recognize partnerships are critical to accomplishing our mission.
6. We work with local leaders and indigenous churches.
7. Our goal is to create sustainable solutions for poverty alleviation.
8. We strive for excellence in all we do.

Poverty, Inc. Screening

On May 13, 2016, we hosted more than 115 attendees at a screening of *Poverty, Inc.* at Northgate Church. The movie illuminates some of the reasons why Espwa operates how it does: namely, that those in poverty are capable, worthy individuals who want to work and provide for their families, just like all of us. They want to raise their families to be the best they can be and face struggles with faith along the way, just like all of us. Many times, the "poverty" industry has intervened in ways that have ignored these facts and caused detriment to those it was trying to help.

At Espwa, we've tried to embrace a better approach, helping our Haitian friends realize their potential and empowering them to impact others. We've always wanted to be a "hand up," not a "handout." This documentary should cause each and every one of us to pause and consider how we think about the materially poor.

Following the screening, Mark Weber, one of the film's co-producers, spoke more about the driving principles behind the film and answered audience questions.



New Hope Comes to Cap-Haitien

On Thursday, October 27, 2016 Dr. Eugene Maklin's grand vision came to life, as New Hope Hospital officially opened its doors. Only eighteen months before, we were standing on a newly poured foundation, with rebar everywhere and not much else. It was a Herculean effort in a short amount of time!

The beauty of this project is that only Haitian labor was used to construct all three floors, all the way down to the finishing touches of tile work and painting. Some American teams did donate their engineering talents (such as the non-profit, Dlo Geri, which added a working water system throughout the hospital), but day in and day out, Haitians made this hospital what it is. It's been very exciting to see Dr. Eugene's dream become a reality.

In its opening weekend, the hospital saw fifty-one patients on Friday and eighty on Saturday. During our September 2016 trip, we delivered a microscope and centrifuge we were able to purchase for the hospital using funds from our generous donors.

For a community that has never had access to legitimate health care, the hospital is a game changer. We want to ensure it has the tools it needs to remain sustainable for the long haul.



ESPWA FINANCIAL INFORMATION

\$83,406

Total income in fiscal year 2016

FISCAL YEAR 2016 EXPENSES

- PROGRAM: \$62,531
- ADMINISTRATIVE: \$5,873
- FUNDRAISING: \$4,962

\$22,893

Net income/assets in fiscal year 2016

THE ESPWA FOUNDATION
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