



A BETTER TOMORROW STARTS WITH HOPE

## Activities and Accomplishments

### Continuing Our Efforts on the Ground

At Espwa, we seek ways to build partnerships and relationships, rather than just handing out money and moving on. Our work is on the ground, which requires and allows us to stay connected to its progress. We are also grounded in our expectations: we believe meaningful change comes from diligent, sometimes long, effort. In 2018, we and our partners saw many examples of the fruits of this work.



For example, from March 2 to 9, 2018, Espwa's Executive Director, Chris Pfeiffer, brought a team from the Duquesne School of Pharmacy to observe our work first-hand. Along with their instructors, Assistant Professors Dr. Jordan Covvey and Dr. Kevin Tidgewell, six student pharmacists observed and assisted in the varied health clinics,

hospitals, and medical facilities around the Cap-Haïtien area. Working side-by-side with Doctor Rodlin "Roro" Paul at St. Anthony's Clinic, the team helped organize the pharmacy and create a patient intake form that will add accountability and record-keeping in the future. Upon their return to Pennsylvania, the group decided to continue fundraising for both medicine and staff at St. Anthony's, and three students even joined us for the Pittsburgh Marathon Relay in the spring (see story on page 3)!

Later in October, Espwa's Medical Director, Jen Schmidt, made a short medical trip to Cap-Haïtien. The trip included a visit to New Hope Hospital, which has expanded and improved with each month in operation. Jen observed: "It was beautiful from the outside and it was an amazing surprise to see the new patient registration area, the security booth at the entrance, and [Dr. Eugene Maklin's] long-awaited office behind the hospital. The hospital was so tranquil and CLEAN! The progress of the operating room was astounding – they had performed five surgeries that day. It has become such a blessing for so many."

On another day, Jen worked alongside Dr. Eugene and Dr. Roro at St. Anthony's Clinic. Jen reported that many children and parents



approached with big smiles and gave hugs. Returning patients receiving continued care is one of the most rewarding aspects of investing in a single community over time. The team saw several healthy newborns, and distributed children's and prenatal vitamins, plus a few treats.

In July, Espwa's Special Projects Director Brady Cillo convened an informal roundtable of our local partners to discuss how our work has impacted them, and where we can do more. One participant, Frantz Louis-Charles, first connected with Espwa several years ago to start his own tourism company, [Haitian Creole Tour](#). Frantz noted his business "provides jobs and opportunities for all kinds of people. Like when I rent boats, buy drinks for people, hire drivers or rent vehicles, or pay an entry fee on the beach. I think people's donations to Espwa have created job opportunities for the young people in Cap-Haïtien and I hope Haitian Creole Tour continues to grow so I can provide more jobs." We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

## Higher Education Updates

Two of our friends at EBAC Christian Academy, Roseguerline "Rosie" Pierre and Evou "Eve" Celidort graduated in March 2018, an amazing testament their dedication and perseverance! Both hope to pursue higher education with Espwa's support. Relaying the story of a sick friend, Rosie noted, "I couldn't help her because I only had a little money, so I had to talk with others to get the necessary support. If I had a job and my own money, I could have helped her myself. I want to go to school and study hard to achieve my goal to have a job and help others." Wherever Rosie chooses to attend school, she plans to serve Haitians.



In the fall of 2018, our dear friend Anne Lormeus started her third and final year of college. Before long, she'll officially be an accountant, and we're thrilled to see her enter this next chapter! We strongly believe in the power of education to alleviate poverty – not just for individuals, but also for their families and loved ones, and even generations to come. We're grateful to the many supporters who help us pursue this end.



## Peace & Joy Updates

The children of our Peace & Joy Family Project are back in school for another year, thanks to the generous support of our donors. Each child had his or her tuition paid for, and received a new backpack and school supplies. The children continue to receive health care services at [Hope Health Action](#), and their family homes benefit from toilet service provided by [SOIL](#).

During the summer, we took an excursion to Black Sand Beach. It was a great opportunity to catch up with our Project liaison, Paul Guerrier, and we invited other children and neighbors from the community. The families enjoyed mid-morning and afternoon meals, swimming in the ocean, and camaraderie.

Later in the year, one of our Haitian team members, Guilin Registre, decided to teach English to the Peace & Joy Families. Guilin attends EBAC Christian Academy and was looking for ways to serve his fellow Haitians. Each Saturday, Guilin makes a ten-mile trek to Quartier-Morin, where the majority of the families live. Then, with a new chalkboard, he walks through vocabulary and grammar. English is a valuable skill in Haiti, and often increases one's job prospects.



## SPOTLIGHT PROJECTS



### New Roots for Jovenel

Our friend and skilled agronomist Jovenel Kenold was selected to join the team at [New Roots Haiti](#), a non-profit organic farm that's breaking ground with its innovative and sustainable model. Jovenel has responsibility for farm production, raising chickens and pigs, and managing other aspects of daily operations. We look forward to partnering more with New Roots.



### New Hope's OR Upgrade

We partnered with a North Carolina organization to send a shipping container of operating room equipment and supplies to New Hope Hospital. The OR now has a sterile pre-op area, swinging entry doors, and a state-of-the-art anesthesia machine. Espwa's in-country Medical Director, Dr. Eugene Maklin, reported ready use of the supplies, including during New Hope's first C-section.



### Joel & Sony's Family Home Update

Tremendous progress was made on Joel & Sony's family home this year and it is now finished! This picture of the roof being installed gives a quick snapshot of the grueling work needed to complete construction, often in 90+ degree temperatures with extreme humidity. The finished building houses not only Joel and Sony, but also their mother and eight other brothers.

# Stateside Happenings

## Running -- and Biking -- for a Reason

Espwa made another fine showing at the Tenth Annual Pittsburgh Marathon on May 5, 2018, fielding two relay teams (ten runners, including three students from the Duquesne Pharmacy School) and two half-marathoners. Our race weekend started with a get together the night before the event for food and fellowship. The temperature at the race start was more forgiving than last year, and everyone finished without injury. Better yet, we raised more than \$7,500!

Emboldened by our yearly marathon successes, we decided to create our own recreation-based fundraiser, and over the weekend of August 17 to 19, 2018, fifteen fearless bicycle riders set out from Cumberland, MD for the 150-mile trek to Pittsburgh, PA during Espwa's first ever Ride the GAP ("GAP" stands for Great Allegheny Passage). After three days of two-wheel travel, including an elevation gain of 1,700 feet and two overnight stops, our team of riders formed a great bond. To top it all off, they raised over \$16,000. Many thanks to our participants and their sponsors for both events!



**Espwa Recognized by GuideStar!**

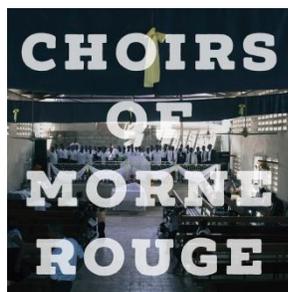


This year, we proudly received a Gold Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.



## Slow Machete Splendor

It's been five years since the last Slow Machete album and, though we admit we may be biased, we think this year's bounty of releases was more than worth the wait. For the unfamiliar, Slow Machete is a music collaboration of Haitian and American artists led by Espwa co-founder and Board Member, Joseph Shaffer. The project began with Joe's recording of choirs and other sounds during various trips, setting up microphones in



churches, schools, on rooftops – basically wherever he could to capture the singular music of Haiti. In July 2018, the product of a few years of effort came to fruition, when Slow Machete released a collection of songs performed by three choirs hailing from the town of Morne Rouge, or "Red Mountain."

As a teaser to the August 2018 release of the full-length album *Ola Mala*, Slow Machete debuted [a music video for a track called "Red Mountain](#)

Choir." To us, *Ola Mala* is full of primitive rhythms and culturally rich hymns, arranged in a structure that makes it possible to find both familiar and unfamiliar elements in each track. While the album includes contributions from a number of artists and places, it is rooted

in Haiti and meant to reflect the country's beauty and wonder.

All Slow Machete albums are available at [Bandcamp](#), and the proceeds from album sales go to Espwa.



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.

# Pastor Benjamin's Ministry

It's been a big year for Pastor Benjamin Fleurant and his evangelism ministry. After handing off the pastorate at EBAC Church and going into ministry full-time in March 2018, the results have been nothing less than remarkable: in the first nine months of Pastor Benjamin's stewardship, 489 people in the Cap-Haïtien area have accepted Christ!



Pastor holds an open air service on the last Sunday of the month, leads a devotional and visits patients at New Hope Hospital twice a week, and on most Saturdays takes teams to various communities to evangelize. He's also organized quarterly "crusades" – nightly music, prayer, and preaching events held over the course of a week in various locations around Haiti. Espwa's Special Projects

Director, Brady Cillo, got to witness the first of these crusades, which was held from July 1 to 8, 2018, at the National School Yard in Cap-Haïtien. Brady said, "My expectations were completely blown away. The high energy and music drew in a crowd of somewhere between eight hundred and a thousand on the final night. It was such a

unique style of worship than what I'm used to in the U.S., but it is something I'll never forget."

After the success of the July crusade, two more events were held in August, one in Limbe and another in Port de Paix. Another crusade took place from November 4 to 9, 2018, at Carrefour des Peres. For that event, Pastor Benjamin partnered with five churches from the area, and forty-seven

people accepted Christ. The final crusade of the year took place in the Trou du Nord community from December 16 to 23, 2018. During the week, a phenomenal 210 people accepted Christ!

We are grateful to all who have invested in this project, and we pray the Lord continues to bless it as we move forward.



## ESPWA FINANCIAL INFORMATION\*

# \$116,805

Gross income in fiscal year 2018

## FISCAL YEAR 2018 EXPENSES

PROGRAM: \$75,519  
 ADMINISTRATIVE: \$7,534  
 FUNDRAISING: \$8,120

# \$25,632

Net income/assets in fiscal year 2018

\* All figures estimates pending fiscal record close



## 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



# THE ESPWA FOUNDATION

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