

Haiti Healthcare Advocates

MEDICAL TEAMS

Dessalines Rural Healthcare Project (DRHP), also known as Claire Heureuse Hospital, is a 60 bed community hospital. The hospital has been designated as a “UCS” hospital which means we are 1 of 8 hospitals in the country given a specific district or zone for which we are a referral hospital. Our zone of coverage is the Artibonite Valley area in which reside approximately 250,000 people.

The economics of operating a hospital in a country such as Haiti is “prohibitive”. Haiti, as a 3rd world country with limited economic opportunity for the average Haitian, does not have a system for adequate healthcare delivery even for many basic things such as vaccinations, clean water and proper nutrition.

Despite the difficulty of working where there is such a chronic shortage of healthcare opportunity, we have found over time that “free” is not always the most appropriate system for healthcare delivery and that the problems of “dependency” can lead to an ever worsening situation. We do not pretend to believe that “self sustainable” is a process that will work with healthcare delivery on the present scale. It is impossible for the average person in Haiti to afford the true cost of their care at the Dessalines Hospital. To this end, DRHP does charge fees but these fees are heavily subsidized.

Presently the hospital is able to earn 50-60 % of its needed income with fees for service. The other funds, hospital equipment and improvements come from outside donations. The current annual budget is approximately $400,000.

It is important to understand how the hospital works financially otherwise you will experience situations that are very troubling. You will meet people who simply cannot afford to pay. If the hospital operated on a “free for service” system, however, we would close within months.

We ask that each medical team coordinate among themselves for fund raising in 2 areas. The first is to bring supplies as per the request list. Many of these may be found as donations from pharmaceutical and medical supply companies. The second is to bring extra funds with the team to assist paying for the care of those who are entirely indigent.

We would ask that you involve your friends and church in raising these funds. Every medical team will have patients arriving who have no funding available to pay for even part of their care. The hospital administration will evaluate each patient and some will receive care at no charge, but not all can be received this way. On the average, $1500-$2500 per team is a sufficient amount for patient care assistance.

As you plan to come to Haiti on a medical team, you will be part of giving and receiving. You will give your prayer time, work time and financial assistance to the hospital. Above all you will also be treating people in the name of Jesus and delivering care at the highest level. The healthcare training you bring with you is the best in the world. On the other hand, you will receive the thanks and appreciation of all who you come in contact with. You will find the Haitian people to be kind and thankful. You will find their culture to be intriguing. And you will find they have a faith in Jesus in the face of insurmountable difficulties that will touch your hearts forever.

Ongoing Medical supply needs

1. Biaxin, cipro, rocephin, augmentin, keflex, vantin
2. Hydrocortisone creams-ointments
3. Childrens vitamins, Tylenol, Ibuprofen
4. Adult vitamins
5. Antacids, PPI’s, H2 blockers,Peptobismal
6. Analgesics ( T3, vicodin)
7. Digoxin, atenolol, nifedipine, capoten, lisinopril, lasix, hydralazine ( or equivalents)
8. Inhalers-ventolin, combivent, advair,steroid inhalers (with spacers)
9. Suture: bowel surgery, Vicryl & Chromic 0/1/2 for Obstetrics
10. Sterile gloves sizes 6-7.5
11. Non-sterile gloves
12. Scrubs, plastic washable aprons
13. Surgical blue towels, drapes, lap sponges, gauze 4x4
14. Face masks, head covers, foot covers
15. Stethoscopes, BP cuffs
16. Umbilical ties-clamps, neonatal suction bulbs, blankets ( birth items)
17. Spinal anesthetics, dextrose, epinephrine
18. Head lamps for the staff. ( sport-hunting-medical portable battery lamps )

We have never had a “HIV needle stick” with a visiting team but want each team to bring at least 1 needle stick kit.

The medical needs list, except for the above, is an ever changing list the needs of which can be communicated to the team for each trip.

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