

# Haiti in our Hands

Compassion and solidarity for the people of Haiti



## Monthly Newsletter

February 2018

### Meet Our Interns!

We are so lucky to have these two amazing young women helping us! Masters of Public Health students Meghan Sovocool and Katie McDonnell are our current interns. Meghan will start a Physician's Assistant program in August and Katie is an established Nurse Practitioner.

Meghan enhanced our orientation program for our medical mission volunteers and spent a lot of time searching for grant applications for funding for the school lunch program and other projects. It became apparent that we needed data to prove the need, so Meghan began reworking our Community Health Survey.

Katie has lived and worked in Haiti. Together, Meghan and Katie were able to use their knowledge from their coursework and life experience to recreate the Community Health Survey into a really useful tool. Read more about it on the back. Their compilation of the data and computing of our food insecurity number will be finished this May.



*Our public health interns, Katie McDonnell (left) and Meghan Sovocool, at the clinic in Haiti.*

Katie and Meghan also improved the clinic encounter cards we have been using during the medical missions. Katie translated the cards into Haitian Kreyol. Patients now keep their cards after their visit so that they have a health record. Katie's knowledge of Kreyol was extremely useful when we started working on public health videos for the clinic.

### News from Chauffard:

Father Raymond wrote on February 6 that the 100 marriages event will take place on March 4. The new Archbishop of Port-au-Prince is going all the way out to Chauffard to preside over the ceremony! "Measures are underway to make sure everything goes well. There will be a three-day retreat that will aid people in going over everything again. A number of priests will be available for confessions and continuing education." Over \$1,000 has been donated to buy the couples nice clothes and fund a reception.

### Upcoming Events:

February & March: Collection for Sea Container Shipment, all donations needed by Easter Sunday

March 3, 4-7 pm: Chicken & Biscuit Dinner in Church Hall

March 23 - 25: Book & Bake Sale in Church Hall

For more information, call  
Kate McMahan (315-492-2378).

**Supporting the Church of the Immaculate Conception,  
Chauffard, Haiti, Father Raymond, Parish Priest**

## Community Health Survey

The original purpose of the Community Health Survey was to help us get a better picture of the public health situation of the Chauffard community. The various questions asked about housing (how many people lived in your home and what the home was made of), water and sanitation (where you collect your water and where can you go to the toilet), and about their food (what can you grow and what can you buy). Grant applications, however, demand certain data sets including a food insecurity number, a calculation determined by asking more specific questions on how often family members go to bed hungry or eat less than they want to, and how frequently you cannot buy what you would want to buy to eat. We also still wanted some basic public health information from the community about water and latrines.

Katie and Meghan started rewriting the Community Health Survey to fit our needs. You can understand how this deals with personal, sensitive issues. We talked a lot about how to best phrase the questions and how the survey could fit in to the medical mission. Where and when could these questions be asked to make the patients feel most comfortable? Katie's cultural knowledge and understanding of the Kreyol language were essential as the survey was improved.



*Medical mission volunteer Joseph McCullagh works with local translator, Dony Pierre-Louis, to interview Chauffard residents in Kreyol for our Community Health Survey. We will use the information from this survey to apply for grants and to guide our efforts on future medical missions.*

## Handwashing Video

The first short video Katie and Meghan developed focuses on proper hand washing and its importance. Katie rewrote a script for a health clinic worker training that talked about germs and translated it into Kreyol while Meghan searched the internet for appropriate pictures. We recorded local Haitian nurse Darline Brown (who worked in Chauffard on Medical Mission 2016) and Katie demonstrating proper hand washing with a pitcher of water, a bucket and a clean towel. Darline read the Kreyol script and Michael McMahon fit it all together. Two donated laptops were set up in Chauffard to show the hand washing video in the clinic during the medical mission. (See photo on the right.)

Other public health videos in the works will cover such topics as ringworm, food preparation, and avoiding mosquitoes.

