



Hope for Haiti®

— April 2009 —

Happy Healthy People

As **Hope for Haiti's** Administrative Director, I helped organize an April 2009 medical mission team consisting of Kathleen Broderick, MD, Steven Shukan, MD, Mary Lesperance ARNP, Candace Thompson, BSN, Virginia Lesperance BSN, photographer Kelly Rose and me (an OR nurse many years ago).

On our first foray into Haiti, we examined 35 kids at Fr. Luc's orphanage then visited Fr. Rick's Hospital in Tabarre where babies with cancer were hooked up to intravenous and the pharmacy shelves were filled with medications provided by Hope for Haiti.



Day 2 & 3 - Up at 5:00 am, we took a three hour, 4 wheel drive over rough terrain, through river beds, past mountain goats, past people making signs to us that they were hungry, into the mountains of Baraderes. Over 300 people lined up at clinics for two full days, some bare footed, some malnourished, almost all with worms and over 50% with high blood pressure. Some of the patients had never before stepped on a scale or had their temperature or blood pressure taken. A 17 year old had a cyst/ tumor on his spine causing paralysis and a 95 year old lady who wanted to know why she was so tired because she needed to work, were seen. All were

given vitamins, some pain medication, blood pressure medications, and several referrals were made. Hopefully we can report on some successful outcomes in the near future.

Day 4 & 5 - Every moment was cherished by the team especially being part of the inaugural group to see patients at the newly opened **Hope for Haiti** Dispensary. Folks lined up at the crack of dawn and we were able to examine over 150 each day. Again high blood pressures, worms, blindness, diabetes, skin lesions prevailed. Two of our team members donated a unit of blood so that an emergency, life saving, surgery could be performed that night on a young mother of three.

Because of the generosity of the many **Hope for Haiti** supporters we were able to dispense medication, treatment, referrals, love and tenderness to over 600 of the poorest of the poor in Haiti. Many thanks to all of you and to Tiffany Kuehner and Mikey Stewart (**Hope for Haiti** Directors of Programs & Operations) who transported, fed and housed us in Haiti. Together WE really can make a difference. (As told by Elizabeth Davison)

Anpil men, chay pa lou.
With many hands a load is not heavy.

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