

"N'ap Kanpe Ansanm"
is the quarterly newsletter
of Saint Vincent's Centre
(SVC)

SPRING 2017

N'ap Kanpe Ansanm

"We stand together"

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Thank you for helping us be good stewards of our resources!



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MISSION TEAMS VISIT SAINT VINCENT

During the first week of March, a team of 16 people visited SVC from the West Tennessee Haiti Partnership (WTHP) and Friends of Saint Vincent (FOSV). Bringing 30 suitcases of donations with them, the group consisted of doctors, nurses, researchers, medical and pharmacy students, an educator, pharmacist, occupational therapist, an artist, and other enthusiastic volunteers. While on site, the group ran a general medical clinic for the students and staff. In the afternoons, team members led art activities for the children.

During their visit, the medical clinic provided care for 214 patients, 44 of whom were adults. The children were given wellness assessments and treated for issues like ear, skin and respiratory infections. The adults were screened and treated for high blood pressure, diabetes, and arthritis. Several children identified with more serious medical issues were referred to local Haitian medical facilities for follow-up and further evaluation. Most of the medications and supplies were purchased locally in an effort to support

the Haitian economy. (A reflection by team leader Dr. Susan Nelson is on p. 3.)

The art activities gave the blind and deaf students an opportunity to make more than 100 pairs of earrings for all the female staff members at SVC. Sonya Yencer (FOSV) says, "Working one-on-one with an interpreter, each student chose a set of earring components. In each set, one earring was pre-strung so they could feel the beads and their sequence. The loose beads were placed into trays where students searched for the first bead. For some, this was a BIG challenge, but their perseverance won!"

Both the FOSV and WTHP have been supporters of SVC for many years. We continue to be grateful for their partnership and look forward to the future. Thank you to all who so generously donated their time and expertise to this venture!



SAINT VINCENT'S CENTRE

FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Partnership With CMMH

In a memorandum of understanding with the Saint Vincent Centre's Board of Directors, the Children's Medical Mission of Haiti (a 501(c)(3) charitable organization) has agreed to function as the fiscal agent for SVC. All donations received for the benefit of SVC are tax-deductible, and gift acknowledgements will be provided by CMMH. Funds sent to SVC by CMMH go directly to the Centre's bank account in Port-au-Prince and are used to pay salaries, buy food, electricity, and cover other operating expenses. Both CMMH and the SVC Board of Directors receive regular financial reports from the Centre detailing funds received and payments made.

Address Change

Note that our U.S. mailing address has changed. If you wish to make a donation by mail, please make your check payable to CMMH and send it to:

**Saint Vincent's Centre
c/o CMMH
P.O. Box 771142
Memphis, TN 38117**

SVC BOARD SETS AMBITIOUS GOALS

All the latest information about the board of directors, strategic plan and future move

On March 7-8, 2017, the SVC Board of Directors held its spring meeting at the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince. The board currently has six Haitian members and four members from the United States. They schedule two face-to-face meetings each calendar year, with additional meetings taking place as needed via conference call.

Agenda items included updates on new construction in the Santo 17 neighborhood, and reports from the finance, medical, education and development committees. The strategic plan for Saint Vincent's was reviewed in detail, with board members reaffirming their commitments to a number of key areas, including:

- Offering quality education to children with physical disabilities, both as a day and boarding school.
- Strengthening enrollment policies to align with the SVC mission, with careful attention paid to all potential students' physical, educational and financial needs.
- Providing all students with medical and dental care, nutritious food, and the necessary resources to help them be successful.
- Improving teacher standards and establishing an educational plan for each student enrolled.

- Continued strengthening of the organizational structure, including improving staff alignment, training, and accountability.
- Solidifying formal financial procedures, reliable budgets for each program, and firm financial controls.
- Achieving a fundraising goal of \$245,000 to support critical daily operations and the unfolding needs of the Centre.
- Completing a successful relocation of all school programs to the new facility at Santo 17 by September.

"This is a ceremony of hope."

—Bishop Duracín

Also on March 8, board members joined a number of SVC supporters at a blessing and dedication of the new school property in Santo. Calling it a "ceremony

of hope," Bishop Jean-Zaché Duracín opened a service which included prayers, presentations about the new school, and special music by a group from Saint Vincent's. Tours of the property followed.

The SVC Board of Directors continues to work diligently on all aspects of the Centre. They look forward to the changes coming in the future, mindful of the need for stability and a strong sense of community. With their guidance and strong leadership from the staff, 2017 promises to be an exciting year for Saint Vincent's.



Change a Life!

\$2:
one meal
per day per person

\$3:
consultation
for brace or prosthetic

\$12:
medical consultation

\$13:
day school tuition
for one month

\$130:
day school tuition
for one year

\$300:
resident costs
for one month

\$1260:
average salary
for one year

\$3600:
resident costs
for one year

“THINGS DONE AND LEFT UNDONE” by Dr. Susan Nelson

Medicine is said to be a humbling profession. That is never more true than in Haiti.

Awake early this morning, I run through yesterday’s events in my mind. We have seen about half of the children so far, and about 20 adult staff. Yesterday during Morning Prayer we prayed the General Confession, asking God for forgiveness for things done and left undone. I told my team then that I always have this feeling of regret as the last day at the school approaches. I realize that we won’t be able to evaluate every child. I pray that the truly sick children will find their way to the clinic. I recognize my own limitations in the face of so much need.

We all bring our best to this work, our particular skills and knowledge. Whether a doctor, a nurse, a retired paramedic, a graphic artist, an occupational therapist, a deacon, or a sign language teacher, we all pour our mental, physical and emotional strength into the week at St Vincent’s. It is never enough, and yet it is more than enough. We have only our best to offer, and the grace of God makes it enough.

ALMOST HOME...

Our facility at Santo 17 is almost complete! Surrounded by a security wall, the seven-acre property in Port-au-Prince has abundant space for a library, music room, classrooms, medical clinic and more. Current SVC residents will move to Santo in the next few months, and classes will begin at the new site this fall.

We are grateful for the generous gifts we’ve received from CMMH, Episcopal Relief and Development, and the Episcopal Church in order to help this happen.

Additional donations are still needed to help cover the cost of relocation, furniture, supplies and other items to help the community establish a new home. How can you help?





MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS!

Saint Vincent's is blessed to be supported by a number of individuals and organizations from all over the world. We are most grateful for the ongoing care and commitment they make to the work of Saint Vincent's. Here are just some of the groups who supported us in 2016:

UNITED STATES

- 100 Gardens
- All Saints' Episcopal Church, (Corpus Christi, TX)
- Calvary Episcopal Church (Cumberland Furnace, TN)
- Children's Medical Mission of Haiti
- Christ Episcopal Church (Big Stone Gap, VA)
- Christ Episcopal Church (Stratford, CT)
- Colorado Episcopal Foundation
- Episcopal Church of the Ascension (Seattle, WA)
- The Episcopal Church (USA)
- Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
- Episcopal Relief and Development
- Friends of Saint Vincent's, Inc.
- Grace Episcopal Church (Yorktown, VA)
- Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Memphis, TN)
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (Auburn, AL)
- Jacob's Color Link Initiative
- Presbyterian Church at Woodbury (Woodbury, NJ)
- Redfield Artisans Gallery (Mount Desert, ME)
- Rhode Island Conference, United Churches of Christ
- Society of the Transfiguration (Cincinnati, OH)
- Southern College of Optometry (Memphis, TN)

- St James Episcopal Church (New York, NY)
- St. John's Episcopal Church (Roseville, CA)
- St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church (North East, MD)
- St. Philip's Episcopal Church (Durham, NC)
- St. Simeon's Episcopal Church (North Wildwood, NJ)
- St. Thomas Episcopal Church (Tupper Lake, NY)
- Trinity Episcopal Church (Wethersfield, CT)
- West Tennessee Haiti Partnership

INTERNATIONAL

- CMMB (Haiti)
- Fondation Lucienne Deschamps (Haiti)
- Fondation Rose et Blanc (Haiti)
- Food for the Poor (Haiti)
- Haiti Rehabilitation Foundation (Haiti)
- Handicap International (Haiti)
- Int'l Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (Switzerland)
- Medi for Help (Haiti)
- Save the Children (Sweden)
- The Society of Saint Margaret (United Kingdom)
- Team/ Equipe Canada Healing Hands (Canada)

How You Can Help

Many students and clinic patients are unable to pay for the services they receive at Saint Vincent Centre, so we depend heavily on the generosity of others to help us fulfill our mission. Ongoing financial support is always needed to help the Centre provide food, water, classroom supplies, transportation, salaries, utilities, medicines and other items.

Please consider making a one-time or regular gift on behalf of your household, business or organization. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Jennifer Wickham, the Development Coordinator for Saint Vincent Centre. You may reach her at info@stvincentshaiti.org.

Please send your tax-deductible donation (payable to CMMH) to:

**Saint Vincent's Centre
c/o CMMH
P.O. Box 771142
Memphis, TN 38117**

You may also make an online donation by visiting <http://stvincentshaiti.org> and clicking on the "Donation" tab.