



N'AP Kanpe Ansanm

"We Stand Together"

FALL 2022

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- Dr. Mary White
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- Dr. Pierre Marie Woolley
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

The Rev. Inel Duveaux
Director

Our Mission

The mission of SVC is to provide children with disabilities in Haiti special opportunities, support and resources to learn, grow and reach their full potential in their young life's journey toward adulthood.

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St. Vincent's Has Potable Water — Finally!

Two years ago the Diocese of New Hampshire and St. Andrew's Church (New London, NH), blessed us with the funds to purchase a potable water system for the Santo 17 campus. This system will not only provide an increased supply of safe drinking water, it will also remove our reliance on erratic water delivery.

Père Duveaux contracted for the



work at a cost of \$13,000. As violence increased and COVID-19 hit, the initial firm was unable to do the work due to supply chain issues. A second firm was engaged. It also could not obtain the necessary parts and had to back out. Finally, Culligan Water was contracted (for \$27,000 - double the original cost); and in late July of 2022, the final parts were delivered and installed!

We share these details, because they are fairly typical of the extra work, higher costs (inflation is 29% this year in Haiti), work-arounds, and dogged persistence required to get a job done.

There is also another water project in the planning stage at the Santo campus. Food for the Poor has agreed to dig a much-needed second well. This will cover our organic fruit and vegetable garden in the dry season, and, perhaps, enable us to expand it. The fresh produce enriches the diet of students, residents, and staff, and any extra is given to hungry neighbors. As SVC strives for environmental sustainability, this is a major step in that direction.

One line from the new water system flows to the showers, kitchen and bathrooms, a second with ultraviolet treatment is used for drinking. Here resident Judith Telus samples the new, fresh water.

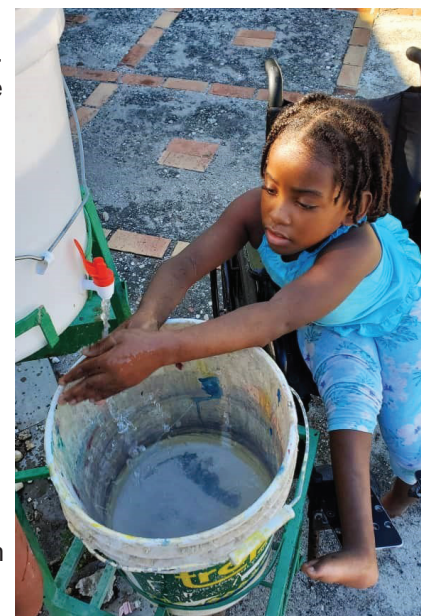
St. Vincent's Takes Precautions Against Cholera

St. Vincent's Center at Santo 17 is taking no chances regarding the recent outbreak of the highly contagious disease of cholera in Haiti.

The Rev. Inel Duveaux, Director, placed washing stations with Clorox-treated water throughout the campus and requires everyone entering the campus to thoroughly wash their hands. In early October 40 people died from cholera, most living in the slum of Cité Soleil. Cholera last appeared in Haiti 10 years ago and nearly 10,000 people died.

The lack of fuel for transportation to a hospital and protests in the streets kept the sick people from getting to a hospital for critical medical care. These same issues have curtailed the delivery of clean water to many neighborhoods.

Thankfully, in July St. Vincent's installed a water treatment facility on our Santo 17 campus that allows the school to produce its own potable water from its well.





Work Continues on the PT Space at the Medical Center

In *Cinderella*, a pumpkin becomes a coach. In downtown Port-au-Prince, two shipping containers are becoming an air-conditioned, solar-powered Physical Therapy Clinic and pharmacy. Construction of the project has been delayed because of gang activity in the area and the lack of transportation. Nevertheless, the project continues.

Generous "godparents" making this transfiguration possible include The Episcopal Foundation of North Dakota, the Diocese of Olympia, Virginia Theological Seminary, St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Williamsburg, VA, two SVC trustees and a sister of one of them, a family foundation, and a loving husband who made his contribution as his wife's birthday present!

When complete, Sophia Lainé, our new physical therapist, will have a much larger physical therapy room at the downtown Medical Center.

Retrofitting work continues on the containers at the Medical Center in spite of the gang violence in the streets and problems with transportation because of lack of fuel. Here our physical therapist works with a student at Santo 17 earlier this summer.

The Medical Staff Receives Electronic Medical Records System

Manila folders will disappear as our Medical and Brace Shop staff begin to use the 11 iPads with software designed to hold all the critical information about patients at the downtown Medical Center. The staff have been requesting this equipment for several years; and in 2021, Trinity Church (Wethersfield, CT), partnering with the Diocese of Connecticut, provided the funding. Extensive Zoom calls between *Backpack EMR*, the

Clinic staff in Haiti, and the Medical Committee of the SVC Board resulted in consensus of the kind of information required. *Backpack EMR* even created new software fields as requested by our pediatricians.

With all of that done, the search was on to find the safest way to transport the equipment to Haiti. As we pondered the possibility of Agape Flights, protesters burned one of their

planes in Les Cayes. Assured of full replacement insurance, we ultimately shipped with DHL. With them, everything, except a few lithium batteries that they would not handle, arrived in late July. Those batteries will be transported by an SVC Trustee. They will ensure charging capability when the power is off, a frequent occurrence in downtown PaP. Next step: *BackpackEMR* will train the staff to become fluent with the system.

St. Vincent's Builds a Low Vision Learning Center at the School

Knowledge of Braille is a critical tool in the learning and rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired. It is also necessary for sighted people who are called upon to give instruction and help to those who have this disability.

St. Vincent's is expanding the teaching of Braille to all students and teachers. To meet this obligation, all SVC teachers must master Braille writing. Prior to the 2010 earthquake, SVC had a Low Vision Room that was entirely dedicated to the teaching of Braille.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church (North East, MD), we will have one again!

St. Mary Anne's gift will furnish, equip, and air-condition an already-identified room at the school. Tables, with "protection" edges, chairs, touchscreen tablets, cubes, slates, letters, and numbers - all available in-country - will make this room an essential resource for all SVC teachers and students.



Blind students learn how to use a manual typewriter since it is the means used to take their national exams.

SVC Doubles Security at the School and Medical Center



Additional guards at Santo 17 protect the school and its undeveloped land from gangs who vie to take the land by force.



Left: Guard stands on duty in the new security tower at Santo 17. Above: The new replacement wall at Santo 17 makes sure everyone understands who owns the property behind the wall. Gangs broke through this wall and illegally claimed the open land at Santo 17 as their own. Legal action taken by St. Vincent's and support from the police enabled us to secure the property and show force against future incursions.

If you follow the news on Haiti ([Google Alerts-Haiti](#) provides daily reports), you are well aware that since the assassination a year ago of President Moïse, gang activity has dramatically increased. These gangs are better armed than the police, and they battle for control of territory. Entire sections of Port-au-Prince live under their reign; and the populace lives in fear.

Early this summer a gang broke through the wall at Santo 17 gaining entrance into the undeveloped area. They claimed the land as theirs. Only after a sustained effort by Père Duveaux were we able to gain hear-

ings before a magistrate, judge and meet with the Minister of Justice.

Having gained support from the police, we were able to rebuild the wall and construct a new, second guard tower on the site. We have since hired two additional guards.

While the Medical Center has been spared violence thus far, we have had to increase our vigilance. We now have a night watchman and new sentry box.

While there are neither patients nor medical staff present during the night, there is nonetheless expensive equipment to protect: a generator which provides our daily electricity, a state-of-the-art x-ray machine (gifted by the Japanese Embassy), Electronic Medical Records (EMR) hardware, and all of the materials required to create prosthetics - to cite just some of the items.

This unfortunate consequence of gang violence has increased our operating expense. But we are committed to ensuring the safety of our people and property. We are also the beneficiary of local respect for our 75+ year history of serving the poorest of the poor in Haiti. The people joining gangs come from communities across the country, and many sadly join or create those organizations out of necessity for the *relative* physical or financial security they may provide. Even within this harsh dynamic, many recognize the importance of, and benefit from, institutions like SVC that serve the common good.

Diocese of Haiti Being Investigated for Arms Smuggling

On July 14, 2022, Judicial Police in Haiti discovered a container of weapons, ammunition, and counterfeit U.S. dollars on the wharf of Port-au-Prince, received under the franchise held by The Episcopal Church of Haiti.

Since then, several diocesan leaders have been arrested or are under investigation. No one has yet been convicted of a crime; however multiple similar shipments were received by the Diocese over the past 18 months and perhaps longer. They are suspected of providing illegal arms for gang warfare.

While St. Vincent's is not directly affected by these arrests, the reputation of The Episcopal Church in Haiti

is deeply affected and consequently our reputation as an institution of the Diocese.

Fortunately, our support for St. Vincent's flows directly to a checking account at Unibank in Haiti that St. Vincent's alone controls. We receive monthly reports from the controller at St. Vincent's for all income and expenses of the institution that our Finance Committee carefully monitors. We also receive copies of the Unibank monthly statements. A recent audit of our U.S. non-profit confirms that the bank received and accounted for all funds sent for St. Vincent's.

We hope and pray that new leadership will emerge to restore the integrity and reputation of the Diocese.

St. Vincent's School is Closed for Now; Medical Center Reopens

The government (which decrees both the opening and closing school dates) postponed the opening of all schools from September 5th to October 3rd.

Père Duveaux writes: "Yesterday, October 3rd, was the date for the opening of classes. However, the situation of the country marked by: insecurity, blocked roads, scarcity of fuel, paralysis of both public and private transport, inflation, negligible purchasing power of the majority of the population, paints this picture unfavorable at the opening of the classes.

Across the country, no educational establishment has functioned. In Saint Vincent, two members of the administration were present because the others could not find transport to come to their place of work. The doors of the administration are open and we are waiting for the signal from the government and the Ministry of National Education to follow suit. Such is the current situation. We hope improvement of the situation. May God bless you all."



Our downtown medical center is located in a highly-contested gang area. In spite of the danger the clinic has remained open most of this year with monthly visits ranging from 250 to 325. It was closed briefly in early October, but has now reopened.

The Medical Clinic in downtown Port-au-Prince, closed briefly because of the gang activity, but has now reopened.

We continue to serve the 17 adult residents and 19 children resident at the Santo 17 campus and feed approximately 60 people each day. Hunger and malnutrition are widespread and have increased in Haiti. Our faculty and medical staff are often the only providers for an extended family. Given their training, competence, and dedication, we desire to keep them. Thus, we continue to pay their salaries, so our expenses in that area remain the same

What St. Vincent's Has in Common with the Ivy League

Aside from the fact that we are educational institutions, **we all rely on income from an endowment** to support our annual operations. And that endowment has been built largely by bequests - bequests of cash, appreciated securities, insurance policies, homes, gift annuities, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), royalties. (Dr. Seuss left all book royalties in perpetuity to

Dartmouth College. Imagine!) The income from bequests received by SVC in the past few years provides about one half of our operating budget.

With inflation, both in Haiti and the U.S., market volatility, and decreased patient visits, income from our endowment has, quite literally, and no pun intended, been our lifeline.

Bequests mean our giving, our legacy, and our priorities forever outlive us. And the children with disabilities in Haiti grow, learn, and gain opportunities for a better life year after year. Bequests ensure St. Vincent's future.

Please prayerfully consider remembering St. Vincent's Center, Haiti in your estate plans.

Support for St. Vincent's Center

Please make checks payable to St. Vincent's Center and use the enclosed envelope or mail your check to:

St. Vincent's Center, Haiti
925 Hertzler Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Or, go online to our website www.stvincentshaiti.org and click on the *Donation* button. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. To make a gift of appreciated securities or mutual funds please contact Ken Quigley at khquigley@comcast.net or call him at 717-645-2989.



Blind students/residents share a meal on the veranda of the administration building.