



Thanks to you, Konbit Sante is sending:

- *infant incubators*
- *oxygen concentrators*
- *ultrasound machines*
- *warming and resuscitation tables*
- *breastfeeding chairs*

...for families and their newborns in Northern Haiti.

Equipment is Readied for New Pediatrics Facility

As the new pediatric facility at the Justinien University Hospital (JUH) nears completion, Konbit Sante has been working to prepare for the move. One important project has been to determine the medical equipment needed in the new space. These have been identified during the monthly mortality reviews that we hold with JUH pediatric staff and volunteer experts who participate remotely. When the death of a newborn could have been prevented via increasing access to equipment, then we look to procure those items, and help the staff learn to use and integrate it.

Our friends and supporters have really helped us progress. When it was clear that some premature babies could have been saved if they had access to bCPAP (breathing assistance especially designed for newborns), our friend, Dr. Galit Sacajiu from the **Haiti Medical Education Project**, sponsored the purchase of the first one. A team of our own volunteers from **Connecticut Children's Medical Center** (two pediatricians, a nurse, and a respiratory therapist) came to Haiti and did a training on its use. When the respiratory therapist, Lisa LeBon, RRT, returned home and shared her experience with her work colleagues, they decided to use a fund that they had available to them to sponsor the purchase of two more of these expensive machines. And more recently, we used funds that a generous anonymous donor dedicated to supporting this effort to purchase two more. So now, the pediatric services will have five breathing machines for newborns along with the consumable products health providers need to use them.

When the service felt that they would benefit from access to quicker diagnostics right at the bedside, David Carson from **Mercedes Medical** in Miami met with us to determine the priorities tests and feasible

approaches. His company procured and donated a number of pieces of equipment and diagnostic supplies appropriate for the setting, including a blood analysis machine, and then helped us get wholesale test agents. The nurse that came with the Connecticut Children's group, Tracey Proulx, RN, talked to her husband, Ron, who works for **Dräger Medical**, and they generously donated a new piece of equipment that can measure the seriousness of jaundice a newborn is experiencing.

With the help, support, and advocacy of people and partners such as these, we have been able to procure incubators, oxygen concentrators, ultrasound machines, warming and resuscitation tables, chairs for breastfeeding mothers, and many other items that can result in improved outcomes for these children. As of this writing, there is a team of biomedical engineering students from **The Polytechnique Montréal** working with the service to implement an electronic program to track the maintenance and repair of all of these things that will facilitate their active management for a long and useful life.

As we prepare to send this equipment, we will steward the funds from the **P.W. Sprague Memorial Foundation**, and **Amitie Hispaniola**, a rotating group of Swiss Medical students sponsoring projects through campus fundraising since the earthquake, that are designated to sending our 18th shipping container from Maine to Haiti.

We can only imagine the meaningful impact of these supporters on the lives of the thousands of children who will soon receive care.

It really takes a *konbit* to make it all work!



Angelina Lainé remembrance

We are sad to share the sad news that our longtime friend and colleague Mme. Angelina Lainé, RN, MPH, the director of the public School of Nursing in Cap-Haïtien, died unexpectedly while visiting her family in Miami in May. Angelina was among the first people we met in Cap-Haïtien. She warmly embraced us, and always welcomed opportunities to collaborate to improve nursing education and practice. Remembrance services were held at the large Cathedral in the center of the city, and it was completely full; a testament to her importance to the Cap-Haïtien community. Konbit Sante nurse volunteers, in particular, came to know her as a personal friend, and we all extend our condolences to her family and her local community.

Falmouth High School Interns Support Haiti Year-Round

Daisy Parker & Naomi Radke-Rowe, two students at Falmouth High School, have been volunteering through the school year as well as this summer and supporting Haiti in many ways:

Daisy is currently in Haiti volunteering with our friends at St. Boniface Haiti Foundation's (SBHF) hospital. SBHF received emergency supplies from Konbit Sante after Hurricane Matthew. "I had always wanted to be a teacher, but after going to Haiti multiple times, it made me want to become a doctor, because I could see how much could be done, how much of an impact can be had by serving so many people who are in need of health care." When Daisy returns from Haiti, she will be working to send furniture, supplies and medical equipment on Konbit Sante's upcoming shipping container to Cap-Haïtien.

Naomi is everywhere at once, volunteering at our office, warehouse and recent events. "This summer, I helped launch a Konbit Sante Instagram account, where we post updates and stories and I am working with staff to post images of the work they do. And as a Service Leader at Falmouth High School, I am working on creating a stronger relationship with the Falmouth community and Konbit Sante. Naomi stated. In the coming school year, I want to help provide clean birthing kits for the Traditional Birth Attendants that Konbit Sante support. Konbit Sante needs over 500 birthing kits, and I think it would be amazing if my community could help provide these for mothers in Haiti. "

Konbit Sante benefits the most when volunteers can commit over a longer period of time, and Daisy and Naomi are two exemplary examples of volunteers who are determined to have an impact.



A nurse welcomes and cares for a mother and her newborn in the maternity ward at partner facility HCBH. Konbit Sante collaborates with HCBH to improve maternal and child health in the area.

Meet Daniel Fabian

Community Health Worker

Daniel works out of Fort St. Michel Health Center, and covers a neighborhood of over 2000 households near the airport in Cap-Haitien. While this is many more than ideal, he works tirelessly in his own neighborhood to meet the health needs of his neighbors. Daniel provides education focused on maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other health issues relevant to the community through home visits and community gatherings. He also offers preventive services by distributing micronutrients for malnutrition, condoms, and vaccines.

Like all community health workers, Daniel acts as a bridge between the health center and the community. “I maintain a list of all the pregnant women in my community, and encourage them to seek prenatal care. I closely follow-up with those diagnosed with complications, and I try to ensure that all attend their minimum required visits.”

“Recently, I was serving a pregnant mother of three who is also HIV positive. She delivered all three children at home. I am working closely with her to ensure that she not only gets appropriate prenatal care, but also that her next delivery occurs in a health facility, where the chances for good outcomes for herself and baby are much better.”

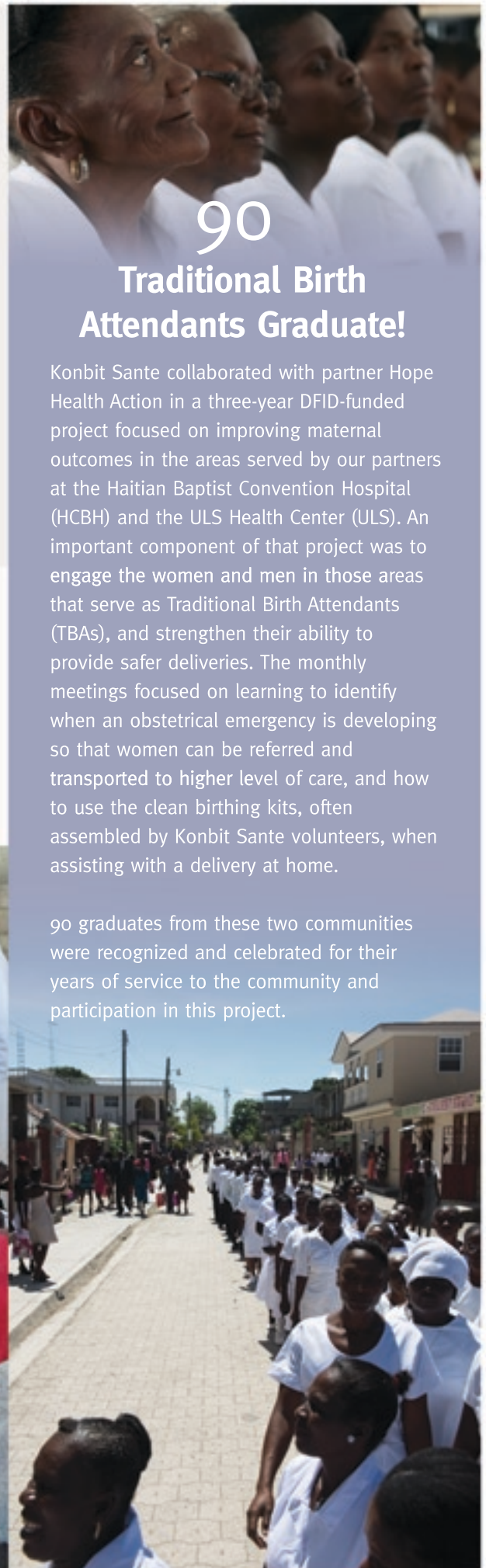
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I stay motivated by the relationships I've developed with community members over the years, and the sense of appreciation they have for my work.”

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DANIEL FABIAN
Community Health Worker



90 Traditional Birth Attendants Graduate!

Konbit Sante collaborated with partner Hope Health Action in a three-year DFID-funded project focused on improving maternal outcomes in the areas served by our partners at the Haitian Baptist Convention Hospital (HCBH) and the ULS Health Center (ULS). An important component of that project was to engage the women and men in those areas that serve as Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), and strengthen their ability to provide safer deliveries. The monthly meetings focused on learning to identify when an obstetrical emergency is developing so that women can be referred and transported to higher level of care, and how to use the clean birthing kits, often assembled by Konbit Sante volunteers, when assisting with a delivery at home.

90 graduates from these two communities were recognized and celebrated for their years of service to the community and participation in this project.

Maine Walks with Haiti Raises Over \$75,000 for a healthier Haiti



When Miss Saint Jean, Konbit Sante's Community Health Manager came to Maine to speak to the audience at Konbit Sante's 8th Annual Maine Walks with Haiti, she welcomed the crowd and spoke passionately about how their involvement and solidarity with people in Haiti has an enormous impact on the lives of many.

We wish to thank all of the participants, volunteers, sponsors and supporters who helped us reach a new fundraising milestone!

Interested in volunteering?

We have updated volunteer opportunities both in the United States and in Haiti! There are many ways you and your community can further our work. Please call us at **(207) 347-6733** or visit **www.konbitsante.org/volunteer**