



## The Haitian Health Foundation: A Multi-Faceted Resource for Rural Haitians

For over 20 years, the Haitian Health Foundation has been supporting the rural communities of Haiti by providing desperately needed medical care, as well as providing education and developing housing within these communities. Dr. Lawrence Kane spoke with us about this organization and its impact on the medical needs of these communities.

### ***What is the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) and its mission?***

HHF is a humanitarian outreach, a 501(c)(3) NGO which has taken on the mission of providing health care and human services to the sick and the poor of Jeremie, Haiti since 1990. The emphasis is on child survival and maternal health.

### ***How did you get involved with HHF?***

In 1989 I was looking for a way, an avenue, to 'give back,' and when I found Dr. Jerry Lowney and his nascent HHF organization, I discovered not only 'something to do' but something that I could commit to – and something that wound up changing my life.

Being in a position to assist some very needy neighbors is a very rewarding privilege.

### ***Describe your experience at HHF and how it differs from your current practice.***

My experience as a volunteer general diagnostic radiologist has been to obtain a basic x-ray room and ultrasound from my local New Hampshire hospitals, to teach these modalities to the Haitian doctors who staff this clinic, and to organize yearly, one-week visits to the HHF clinic of groups of medical colleagues in various clinical specialties. (I have retired from my local radiology group practice.)

### ***Describe the area the Haitian Health clinic provides care to.***

HHF provides its Healthcare and Human

Services to the 200,000 people of the city/township of Jeremie in the Grand Anse province in the western tip of the country. This is about 140 miles west of Port-au-Prince. Jeremie is a seacoast town surrounded by mountainous countryside. Our main HHF Klinik and the separate Center of Hope campus are in town. HHF provides services to 104 surrounding mountain villages utilizing 4-5 satellite clinics and village healthcare agents.

### ***What are the long-term goals of the HHF?***

Long term goals of HHF would, no doubt, be to continue its exemplary and successful service to the sick, poor, and needy of Jeremie. Over its 26 years of existence, many projects have been born, grown and/or changed as needed and such openness and flexibility will continue, as will its excellent cooperation with the Haitian staff – as they continue to assume responsibilities for Haitian Health Foundation's multiple enterprises.

### ***Are there any immediate radiological needs that interested volunteers or donors can help with?***

HHF has a very basic x-ray room, and has portable ultrasound units. HHF is funded



Dr. Kane assisting Dr. Bourdeau at the HHF main clinic in Jeremie.



Lawrence Kane, MD scans a pregnant patient at a mountain area clinic.

**Making a Difference since 1982**

- HHF services over 200,000 residents of Jeremie and the Grand Anse in Haiti
- HHF has done over 26 Years of service to the region, which spans over 100 villages
- “HHF has received the highest rating—four stars—by Charity Navigator for 5 consecutive years.” (source: [www.haitianhealthfoundation.org](http://www.haitianhealthfoundation.org))

through grants and donations. Any donations are valuable and appreciated. Volunteer radiologists and technologists are apt to have a very positive experience.

***Would you recommend service in a country like Haiti? Why or why not?***

Haiti is an excellent example of a place for a physician, including a radiologist, to do volunteer ‘service work.’ Port-au-Prince is only about 90 minutes from Miami. While the entire country is in need, this capital city probably offers the most possibilities. The Haitian people, especially out in the countryside, are friendly and appreciative. Most of the Haitian doctors have pretty good English. The problem in assisting in a third world location is the necessity of finding the right organization to work with and through.

***What things should folks think about before getting involved in a radiology international outreach project?***

People need to realize and accept that any truly needy country or setting has only very basic imaging equipment available. A visiting radiologist needs to be able to maximize what is at hand. One must be sensitive to the culture of the populace, and be gracious in cooperating with the local healthcare providers. A volunteer needs to vet thoroughly the organization/facility in order to be confident about them; their philosophy,

their history, etc. One needs to ensure their own safety, have an accurate understanding of “what you’re getting into,” and what you are going to do.



Dr. Kane scanning a patient in the mountains surrounding Jeremie, Haiti.

**For more information about [Haitian Health Foundation](http://HaitianHealthFoundation.org) contact Lawrence Kane, MD at [lawrencerobertkane@comcast.net](mailto:lawrencerobertkane@comcast.net).**

**Connect with Haitian Health Foundation!**



# RFS International Outreach Subcommittee Updates

## >>> Blog

In the latest blog posts by the [RFS International Outreach Subcommittee](#), Amana Akhtar, MD of the Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania, tells of her [experiences](#) in the 6-week rotation through Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone, Botswana. Here, Dr. Akhtar handles patient cases that, as she describes, are of "topics I had only come across in textbooks."

Mindy Licurse, MD writes on her experiences during outreach in Tanzania in "[Fueled by Frustration in Africa](#)." Dr. Licurse outlines how her frustration is an underlying motivator to solving problems by providing help to international communities in need.

Both residents write about the impact of the lack of resources on the patients of the African communities they visited, and the lasting impression of these volunteer opportunities on their lives. Stay tuned for more resident outreach stories in upcoming posts.

The RFS International Outreach Subcommittee blog was created to facilitate discussion on issues involving radiology outreach in developing countries. The blog is a place for residents to ask questions, add experiences, respond to inquiries, develop program initiatives and ideas to share. Check it out and share your experiences: <http://acrsioc.blogspot.com/>.

### RFS International Outreach Subcommittee

<b>Chair: Mary Huff, M.D.</b>	Supriya Gupta, MBBS, M.D.
Amana Akhtar, M.D.*	Mindy Licurse, M.D.*
Summit Shah, M.D.	Shreya Sood, M.D.
Michael Dominello, D.O.	Adam Prater, M.D., MPH
Benjamin Johnson, M.D.	Jessica Stewart, M.D.

**\*featured in this issue**



TOP: Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone, Botswana where Amana Akhtar, MD participated in a 6-week rotation.

BELOW: Mindy Licurse, MD in Tanzania during her 3-week visit.



*To learn more about the RFS International Outreach Subcommittee visit their website:*

<http://bit.ly/RFSIOC>

# News & Announcements

## International Volunteers Raise Your Hands!

If you are volunteering in Haiti or other parts of the developing world, we would like to hear from you. The ACR Foundation International Outreach Program seeks to find ways to facilitate volunteerism, donations and collaborative projects. In 2013, the ACR Foundation launched the [International Facility Profiles](#) to provide potential volunteers, donors and organizations with access to facilities in the developing world. If you have volunteered, we would like you to fill out a [Facility Needs Assessment Survey](#) about the facility you worked with. The survey provides the basis for the information contained in the International Facility Profiles.

In addition, the ACR Foundation is interested in making sure volunteers are coordinating their efforts where possible. If you have been a long-term volunteer in a developing country, please contact Brad Short at [bshort@acr.org](mailto:bshort@acr.org), Lauren Alfero at [lalfero@acr.org](mailto:lalfero@acr.org) or Catherine Jones at [cjones@acr.org](mailto:cjones@acr.org) to ensure you are included in our network.

## Portable Ultrasound Needed

Hôpital Saint Damien/NPFS, a pediatric hospital located in Port-au-Prince, Haiti is looking for a new or used (in good condition) portable ultrasound machine for its high-risk prenatal care clinic. The machine does not need to be new but should include appropriate transducers to do a broad range of scanning. For further information, please contact Dr. Marie Lina Excellent at [ml.excellent@gmail.com](mailto:ml.excellent@gmail.com).

## 2014-2015 ACRF International Outreach Committee

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Need an announcement made?  
Want to share your experience?

Let us know! Announcements are a great way to get the word out about your program or need for donations. We'd also love to hear about your experience volunteering and may share it in a future edition of *Interlink*. Email Lauren at [lalfero@acr.org](mailto:lalfero@acr.org) or Catherine at [cjones@acr.org](mailto:cjones@acr.org) with your announcement or story.



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