



**Update on MS from Lady
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Moving Forward

Reflections (Gale Hull)

This week has been a difficult time for me. It has been a very hard year for Haiti and for Partners in Development. Last year with the civil unrest in Haiti, we could no longer send teams, I knew money would be tight. I spoke with the Haitian staff to discuss required budget cuts that would keep the clinic open half time. After our conversation, the Haitian staff took some time to discuss the situation amongst themselves. They then came to me with a proposal. They said, "The clinic needs to be open all day everyday. Our people need us. If you can get us money for medicine, we will work for free as long as this unrest lasts." Since then, that became the working plan. I searched for medicine money and they worked for free. Through the generosity of many donors, staff didn't have to work for free very long, plus we had medicine money. I was afraid most of the time. I spent many days with my door closed crying because I was afraid I would fail. But we made it. The clinic stayed open and saw so many people.

Earlier this year, we began the work of renewing our public health license in Haiti. I was emotionally exhausted from the previous year. With an aging donor base, people squeezing pennies to make ends meet, the never-ending civil unrest in Haiti, and a negative tone in America about helping others (especially foreigners), I was looking at another year behind my closed door, crying. **(cont'd on pg 2)**

Haiti, Guatemala and Peru update (Tali Marcelin)

The Coronavirus has affected our lives in so many ways. Seeing people struggle in new ways is difficult. Not only has this virus changed our lives in the United States, but it has greatly affected other countries - especially where people live in extreme poverty.

While communicating with our Field Directors in Haiti, Peru and Guatemala on continuing programs and giving assistance to the communities we work in, I have learned much about how this virus has affected the lives of those living in extreme poverty in a variety of ways. Even though the number of COVID-19 cases in Haiti is low, the effects of this pandemic are heavy. A large percentage of Haiti's population relies on international support. Many survive off of the income they make selling used clothing and other goods that are sent from the United States. Many have family members living in the US that financially support them year round. **(cont'd on pg 3)**

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Special points of interest

- We have great donors - see A Special Thank You
- Our staff in all locations is very committed - see Haiti, Guatemala, and Peru update
- Update on our Annual Celebration

Reflections (cont'd from pg 1)

Then came the Coronavirus. Team trips were cancelled and many of our donors/sponsors lost their jobs or their retirement benefits and they began calling to say they didn't know if they could afford to sponsor their child anymore.

I listened in horror and disbelief when the US couldn't find supplies or do testing for this new virus. I thought to myself, "this is like working in the developing world." You never have supplies and when you do they are scarce. But isn't this the United States? The world leader? How are we so lost in dealing with this? What exactly is wrong with the US?

Today Tali, Pouchon, Carline, and I had a phone meeting. I really was pushing for a shutdown of the clinic in Haiti. I was afraid for them. The staff said, "No. We have so many patients. We are still one of the only clinics open with free care and medicine."

"What about the COVID-19 virus?" I asked.

The response, "We have already been preparing since Monday. We believe that there are many more people than the 2 cases that they reported. We think many have

had it and have already died. We did the same sort of plan as when we had Cholera. We have a solution of Clorox, soap and water at the front gate. No one can come in without washing their hands. We have a staff person watching so they can't contaminate the wash water. The staff have to wash their hands all the time because we don't have many gloves. We separate those who have coughs and fevers. We know how to make masks. We have a way to make hand sanitizer with supplies we can still buy at the grocery store. **WE NEED TO BE OPEN.** We are Haitian, we know what to do. But we know people will die."

These are not just my coworkers, but they are my friends and many are your friends too. I am worried for them. I am also honored to work with them. They are innovated. They always work with scarce or no supplies. That is the life they have been born into.

As we buy out all of the water, toilet paper, food and medical supplies in the US, remember that people all over the world will be fighting this virus in poverty, with no supplies. (adapted from a PID Facebook post from the beginning of COVID-19 outbreak)

We would like to give a special thank you to those who responded with donations.

A Special Thank You

Because of the generous donations we received in response to the pandemic, we were able to buy masks, gloves, soap, Clorox and Tylenol in Haiti. We installed a sink at the front gate of our complex for hand washing, and we continue to buy supplies as needed. In Guatemala, we were able to purchase food for families who could no longer work to purchase food for their families due to Coronavirus.

We would like to give a special Thank You to:

Zach Barbara, The Helgesen Family, Joann Green, Richard Wagner & Ruth Folchman-Wagner, Peter Deary, Jack Manderson, Billy Secord, Drs. James & Jeanne Leffers, Lisa J. Connelly, Joe & Leslie Musiak, Joanne & Paul Harder, Sherry & Bruce Pierce, Priscilla Bellairs, Kit Kleping-er, Eric Eller, Forrest Shroyer, Faye Kerr & The Beise Family.

John and Jeanne Arana gave "in honor of my friends at the medical clinic in Blanchard, who are working tirelessly to provide quality healthcare."

Gretchen Kossack donated "to help either in Haiti or Guatemala during the on-going Coronavirus crisis."

Alex Chalifoux donated "in honor of all the work Sandra did for years and all the wonderful people of PID Haiti,"

Thank you to all of you who continue to send donations that will not make it into this newsletter.

To all who send wonderful words of encouragement.....**THANK YOU!!**



Glendora News (Lady - MS Program Supervisor)

Since the Coronavirus, things have really changed in Glendora, MS. It really impacted a couple of businesses, mine included. I don't cook as much because of the virus. I'm afraid to let peoples come to my home because you don't know who has it or not. The mayor passed out facemasks to the community. We have a curfew – everyone has to be in the house by 7pm. Police ride through the town making sure everybody is in their houses. Families can't gather together for cookouts or parties because of social distancing. All we can really do is eat, watch tv, play games, and do a little walking before curfew. The kids have online classes from each of their teachers that have to be turned in at a certain time. Sometimes it can be a little frustrating if the child (or you) doesn't understand what to do. Until school opens back up, that's how they will be doing schoolwork. We don't eat out much or go to the stores because of the Coronavirus. We are making the most of it until things get back to normal.

I pray that everybody stays safe - Lady

Haiti , Guatemala, and Peru Update (cont'd from pg 1)

The supply of products that were once being sent, stopped when the airport closed. Family members in the United States have either been physically affected by the virus, or are out of work and are no longer able to send money to family in Haiti. People who were already hungry and struggling are now facing a battle for their lives.

In Guatemala, we are seeing strongly enforced rules put into place by the government. People have strict curfews if broken they will be arrested and fined. Public transportation was ordered to shut down along with most businesses. People who were surviving day to day from selling things in the market are now unable to do so. They are in lockdown with no food.

Peru has over 13,000 cases. Many, including the parents of the children in the sponsorship program, are continuing to go out daily. The risk of being detained by the police or contract the virus is less than the risk of to death. Their kids are hungry, their neighbors are hungry and they are hungry. Many of our PID families won't receive any assistance from the government. They are undocumented squatters from the countryside looking for a better life for their families. The government is not giving assistance to these families. The death toll continues to rise and people who were hungry before are now starving.

Each country is seeing different negative effects of this pandemic, yet the similarities are so great. People that were once struggling and fighting to survive are now told to stay home and not go out. Hunger fills their home. The majority don't have electricity or running water along and have no income. We are seeing an increase in domestic violence within homes and there is nowhere to get help for something as simple as a painful tooth.

Our staff in all locations are continuing to provide services. Our clinic in Haiti is open, Guatemala food distribution continues with gifts of foods added from markets in the community. In Peru, our Director has been able to assist some families enter their information into the computer to see if they qualify for government assistance. All child sponsorship programs are running and helping (more than ever) many of these families survive. Our staff and volunteers continue to do an amazing job.

The AED was installed outside of the Glendora Health and Wellness Center in MS



Our New PR Team

In March, PID created a new Public Relations Team to work on keeping our community connected. We are happy to announce that our team consists of Tali Marcelin, Sami Pinard, and Sadie Cross. Sadie is our current intern in Guatemala, now working in Maine having had to return home early because of the virus. The PR team is very excited to get out community involved and watch it grow.

Follow us on

Instagram (@partners in development)

where we will post fun content, Child Sponsorship photos and pictures from our teams.



All geared up and ready to deliver food In Ixtacapa, Guatemala

Partners in Development joined Ipswich-based Masonry Doctor to give back locally.

Once the CDC announced wearing masks was encouraged for non-medical workers, we decided to give out masks in Ipswich and the surrounding areas. In two weeks, we sewed and delivered 500 masks to our community. Most went to elderly or recovering patients and people with jobs that demanded them to work in public with no protections.

Thank you for being a part of the PID family!

Stay safe and healthy.



Partners In Development
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OFFICE UPDATES:

The office will remain closed as we continue to work from home until further notice.

No physical donations will be accepted until further notice.

Please feel free to call with any questions, 978-380-6132 or email info@pidonline.org

Paul & Ann Saurland donated in memory of Harriet Hammell;

Jim & Caryl Proctor in memory of Caryl's father;

Katy Bennet gave in honor of Charlette Preslar;

Shizuka Hsieh gave in honor of Joan Toomey;

Bobbie Baker gave to the Cleft Palate Program

Thank you for caring!

For more information about our legacy fund call 978-380-6132

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ONE DATE TO UPDATE

Our Annual Celebration will be held a little different this year! We had to postpone our Annual Celebration (normally held in early Spring) due to the Coronavirus. We will be posting a video celebration to update our donors and supporters instead! The video will be posted to our website (www.pidonline.org) and Facebook on May 31, 2020 at 2 PM. Keep an eye out for more updates on our website, Facebook page, and in your inbox. We can't provide refreshments, but feel free to bring your own as you watch!

ONE DATE TO SAVE

Our Annual Benefit is scheduled for October 24, 2020. Please keep an eye out for more updates!