



## Leogane Family Health & Research Center Announced

November 2008: Family Health Ministries announces the preliminary design for the Leogane Family Health and Research Center for the land purchased in August 2007 in Leogane, Haiti. FHM thanks Hite Associates in Greenville, NC, for their expertise in creating the design.



FHM's vision is to build a center that:

- belongs to the community
- is a model of excellence and sustainability
- researches strategies to improve the health care of families in the future.

### Background

In 1993, a group from Triangle Presbyterian Church visited Hopital Sainte Croix in Leogane, Haiti. At the conclusion of the trip, a member of the team agreed to help Dr. Jean-Claude Fertillien initiate a cervical cancer prevention program in Leogane. This relationship and program grew and eventually evolved into the vision & mission that drives Family Health Ministries, Inc. today.

After seeing the relationship between FHM's cervical cancer prevention program and the community grow for about 10 years, the Leogane community began asking Family Health Ministries to consider building a health center and to begin addressing other healthcare needs of women, children and their families beyond cervical cancer.

Family Health Ministries consulted with the community, the leadership of other organizations working in the area for several years and finally took its 1<sup>st</sup> step by purchasing 3 Carreaus of land (approximately 10 acres) along the Leogane bypass in August, 2007 .

As expected the Center will provide health care to women, children and their families. However, equally important will be a focus on research and education with a mission to learn from the care that it provides and to share what it learns with others. To succeed, the Leogane Family Health Center will need to build even stronger relationships with the community and to tap into the expertise of people living local as well as abroad, so that together we can learn from our experiences.

### **What will the Center look like?**

The new Family Health Center of Leogane will be open, bright, and energy-efficient. It will be located on the Leogane bypass near the bus station so that it will be accessible to the citizens of Leogane and the surrounding communities.

In phase I, the center will include:

- Outpatient clinics for women, children & their families
- Surgical procedure rooms
- Birthing center
- Meeting rooms for staff
- Laboratories (for clinical work & research)
- Information technology center
- Computers & network
- Telemedicine?
- 300 seat auditorium for community meetings and outside speakers
- Classrooms for students
- Guest House for Haitian health care providers and international visitors
- Chapel

In phase II, the center will include inpatient services for women & children

### **About Family Health Ministries' History in Haiti**

FHM has demonstrated commitment to service in several communities in Haiti. The organization's track record includes:

- Leogane, Haiti
  - Cervical cancer prevention program (14 years)
  - Portable colposcope development (10 years)
- Fondwa, Haiti (10 years)
  - Sainte Antoine School (7 years)
  - Partnering with Partners in Progress
  - Fatima Orphanage (7 years)
- Port-au-Prince, Haiti (10 years)
  - Cite Soleil (medical clinic)
  - Partnering with Haiti Outreach Ministries
  - Blanchard (medical clinic) 3 years

FHM has demonstrated commitment to research. Their track record is one of intentionally collecting and analyzing of data, and then developing new strategies to solve problems in:

- Cervical Cancer
- Nutrition
- Public Health

### **Want to Get Involved?**

Foundations, Global Health Programs, and individuals interested in supporting the new Leogane facility should contact FHM at [info@familyhm.org](mailto:info@familyhm.org) or call Executive Director Kathy Walmer at 919-382-5500.