



LEOGANE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

Phase II: Surgical Facility

Supporting Haiti in its efforts to build and sustain healthy families

A project of Family Health Ministries
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Why build a Surgical Facility?

Eighteen years ago, the founders of Family Health Ministries (FHM) began helping a local physician develop a best practice model for cervical cancer prevention that has now been endorsed by the Haitian Ministry of Health, the Haitian Ob/Gyn Society and FOSREF, an internationally recognized Haitian reproductive health non-profit organization. This program was initiated as a response to a call for help from a local Haitian gynecologist who believed that preventing cervical cancer was the #1 women's health priority in 1993.

A few facts about cervical cancer today:

- Cervical cancer is still one of the leading causes of death among women worldwide despite the availability of cost-effective prevention strategies.
- Haiti has one of the highest incidence of cervical cancer in the world at 91/100,000 population (Arrossi S, 2003).
- Countries with limited resources like Haiti shoulder the large majority of the cervical cancer burden, with nearly 80% of global cervical cancer cases (WHO/ICO, 2010).
- The incidence of this disease is still increasing in communities without screening programs.
- Cervical cancer can be prevented with a 10-minute procedure using cryotherapy for women who want future childbearing, and by hysterectomy for women whose families are complete.
- FHM has helped Haitian MDs develop a novel program that overcomes barriers to screening.

Through the cervical cancer prevention program, FHM has screened more than 10,000 women in two clinics, and is beginning to partner with other organizations to expand the network of screening clinics. As a result of the growing success in screening, FHM and its partners are increasingly unable to treat and cure patients with premalignant disease as fast as they are identifying them, creating a bottleneck in care. Therefore, *there is an acute need to expand surgical capacity* so that this growing program can cure the increasingly large number of women with identified high-grade, treatable disease before they develop an untreatable, invasive cervical cancer. A hospital setting that can provide surgery as well as palliative (hospice) care is critically needed.

This surgical facility will also address a second, important community need. *Women in the Leogane area desperately need access to emergency surgery for pregnancy-related complications.* Existing health care facilities are not meeting this need as is illustrated by events that we have experienced in Leogane (read some of the women's stories later in this brochure).

In both the US and Haiti, complications of pregnancy frequently require urgent surgery to save the lives of mothers and their babies. However, in the Leogane area, many communities are only accessible by mountain paths and roads, and once reached, may be 45 minutes from the nearest town, which may or may not have emergency surgery services available. Currently, there are only three operating rooms in the Leogane area (225 square miles) and none of them is staffed 24 hours a day, which leaves the community vulnerable.

A few facts about maternal health in Haiti:

- Haiti has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere with an estimated 630 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- In 2006, only about 22% of births occurred in a Haitian health facility (even fewer in rural areas), and only 26% of mothers were attended by a skilled birth attendant (UNICEF At a Glance: Haiti, 2010)

How will the LFHC be built in stages to serve families and save lives?

The Surgical Facility is the second step in the multiphase, Leogane Family Health Center campus. The 9,000 square foot Surgical Facility will join the 4,000 square foot Nancy Ferree-Clark Guesthouse, now under construction, which will house staff on site 24 hours/day. The larger Center will one day become a \$12 million, 100,000 square foot teaching and research hospital complex.

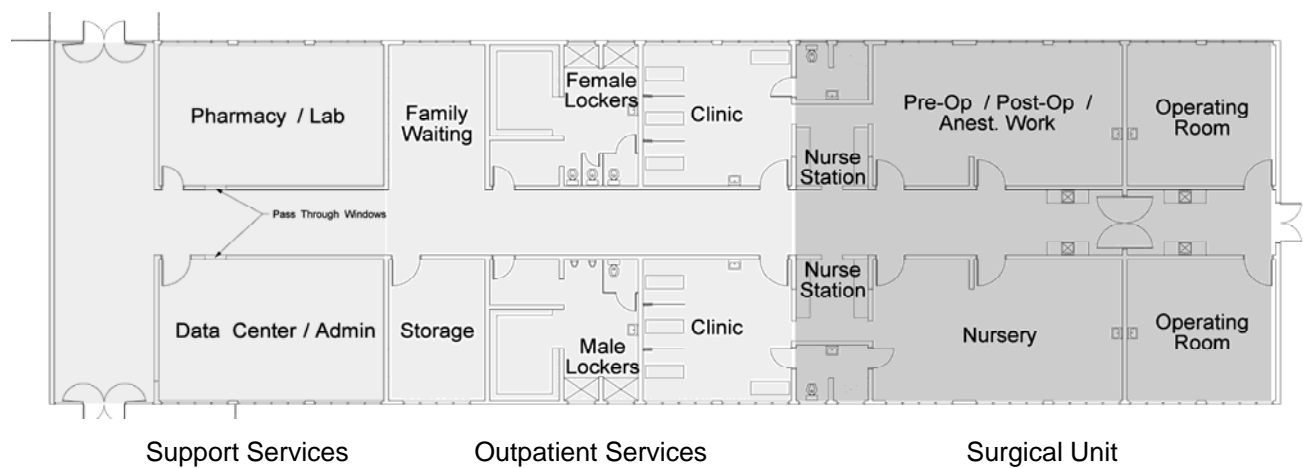
Leogane Family Health Center



Architecture services provided by Hite Associates of Greenville, NC

The Surgical Facility will initially have three multipurpose sections, the Surgical Unit, the Outpatient Services Unit and the Support Services Unit, including a pharmacy/lab, family waiting area, storage, and administrative space. Once the larger center is built, this wing will become a dedicated surgical center.

Surgical Facility



What else will the Surgical Facility provide?

Importantly, the entire Leogane Family Health Center will provide training and education for Haitian and American health care workers.

The Surgical Facility will also provide access for visiting volunteer health care teams from the US.

Who owns the land where the teaching and research hospital will be built?

Family Health Ministries bought the ten-acre site in 2007 with money raised at the annual spring fundraiser.

When will the guesthouse be complete?

The Nancy Ferree-Clark Guesthouse, now under construction, is expected to open in April 2012. The Guesthouse is designed to provide lodging for visiting doctors, nurses, and mission team members.



Groundbreaking at the Nancy Ferree-Clark Guesthouse attended by the US Ambassador to Haiti, second from right

What is the estimated cost of the project?

Construction cost for the entire Surgical Facility is \$1.35M, or \$150 per square foot. Annual operating expenses are estimated at \$100K, including salaries, medicines, and other supplies.

The Surgical Unit will be built first, with the Outpatient Services and Support Services units added as funds become available. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2012.

Proposed Budget – Surgical Facility

Surgical Unit (3053 square feet)	\$450,000
Outpatient Services Unit (3000 square feet).	\$450,000
Support Services Unit (3000 square feet).	\$450,000
Project Total:	\$1,350,000

I SAVED A LIFE

Dr. David Walmer, Chairman of the Board of Family Health Ministries, received an email from his colleague, Dr. Delson Merisier, FHM's Ob/Gyn in Leogane, in the fall of 2008. The note mentioned, along with a number of other news items, "Last week ... I saved a patient's life with nothing at Cardinal Leger."

David read on quickly, wondering what "nothing" meant.

Dr. Merisier's patient had previously had two Caesareans, but had tried to deliver her baby at home with a midwife, probably needing to save every Haitian dollar she could. She arrived at Hopital Cardinal Leger crying in distress, obviously in serious trouble. Dr. Merisier decided to help.

But he couldn't find anyone else on the staff at Cardinal Leger who was willing to provide anesthesia, given the late hour and the dire situation. Others were afraid that the mother would die, and they didn't want to be involved. While this may sound cruel and unusual to American ears, David knew important cultural mores were at play.

Making the Choice

Dr. Merisier's choice was either to forge ahead with local anesthesia or let the woman die. His path was clear. Administering the anesthesia himself had its risks, but he did not have time to think about the pros and cons. The pregnant woman needed help immediately, so he began the surgery. Imagine his surprise when he delivered twins!

More Decisions

The challenges didn't stop there. The patient began to bleed profusely. Her blood type was B+ and the hospital had only two units of blood on hand, one unit of O+ and one unit of AB+. Her hemoglobin was dangerously low. She needed more surgery, so he gave her the O+ and rushed her back to the operating room for a hysterectomy.

Again, Dr. Merisier called for help. Again, his colleagues were afraid and unwilling. So Dr. Merisier proceeded, praying that the patient would not die by his hand, in his care.

At the end of the procedure, the patient was unresponsive, and her blood pressure was very low. Dr. Merisier called to the hospital's nuns to bring him the one remaining unit of blood, the AB+. They told him, "No," understanding the blood type was incompatible. Merisier insisted, explaining that the patient was sure to die without it. He gave her the AB+. She lived!



Follow Up

Early the next morning, Dr. Merisier himself drove to the Red Cross in Port-au-Prince for more blood, and treated his patient easily for her allergic reactions to the wrong blood type given a few hours earlier.

Several days later, a very grateful patient left Cardinal Leger with her healthy twins.

And Dr. Merisier wrote, "God helped me."

What is the Surgical Facility's expected impact?

- To measurably decrease the number of women who die from reproductive disease in the surrounding 225 square mile region known as the Leogane commune, and from across Haiti through partner referrals, by providing LEEP, cervical conization, or hysterectomy to cure advanced precancer. Other surgical interventions could include myomectomies and ovarian cystectomies.
- To measurably reduce maternal mortality in the Leogane commune by providing comprehensive, accessible, quality care for women needing surgical services for difficult births.

How many patients will the Surgical Facility serve?

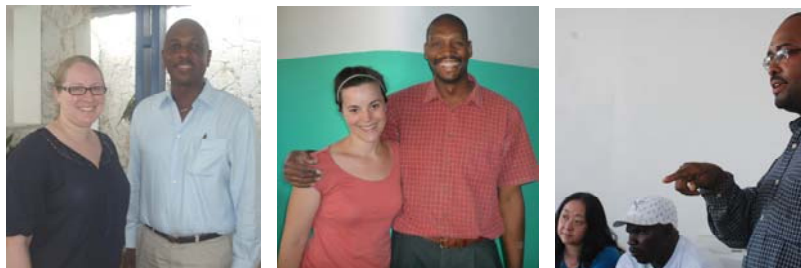
The number of patients served in the new Surgical Facility is expected to be three to five surgical cases per day in addition to three to six deliveries. The average number of patients served per month will be 250 to 300.



Patients at FHM Clinics in Haiti

What kind of training will occur in the Surgical Facility?

Educational and research opportunities will expand for both US and Haitian medical personnel, including physicians, nurses, medical and nursing students, public health practitioners, and corporate and university collaborators interested in meeting the needs of low resource communities.



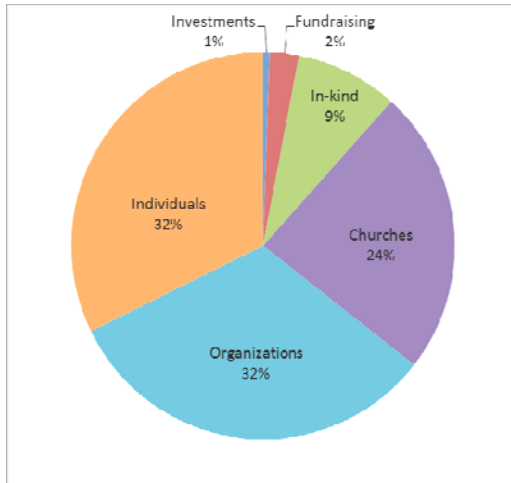
Dr. Beauvais and Dr. Merisier with residents, Dr. McCain during training for Dr. Duliepre

How many Haitians will be employed in the Surgical Facility?

The hospital staff members in the Surgical Facility will include two MDs, a nurse anesthetist, five nurses and a variety of support workers.

What kind of financial capability does Family Health Ministries have?

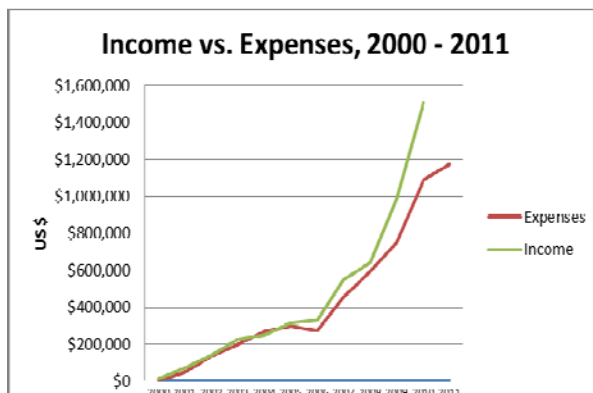
Family Health Ministries' budget in 2011 is \$1.3M, based on income of \$1.5M in 2010. Capital and operating expenses come from individual and church donations, foundation grants, and university and corporate partnerships.



2010 Income

FHM has support from several distinct donor bases that have supported and will continue to underwrite the functioning of the Leogane Family Health Center. Funding has also come from private corporations and universities interested in clinical research in Haiti, including Qiagen Sciences LLC, the University of Florida, and Duke University.

FHM has been able to build significant resources to fund future projects. In 2009, FHM carried over \$545K in assets. In 2010, the carryover was almost \$900K, of which \$290K was allocated to post-earthquake rebuilding. Family Health Ministries has already raised funds for the community well and guesthouse, now under construction on the Leogane Family Health Center campus.



CERVICAL CANCER AFFECTS THE WHOLE FAMILY

Life in Haiti always seems to hang in delicate balance... and nowhere does this precarious balance seem to be more apparent than in the women who come to see our Ob/Gyn physicians for cervical cancer prevention screening and treatment. Cervical cancer affects the whole family. FHM clinics have screened over 10,000 women over the last few years thanks to the many supporters of Family Health Ministries.

A number of women came to the Leogane clinic in Haiti to tell their stories. These women are all poor, mothers, and have a disease that exists in a curable state for years before progressing into an aggressive cancer that leads to a painfully slow death. Here are excerpts from their stories.

Madame Carolyn Piochat, from Carrefour near Port-au-Prince, came to the Leogane cervical cancer prevention clinic in the winter of 2006 with the complaint of weight loss and abdominal pain. She is one of the unfortunate women. Before she left the clinic she learned that she had received a death sentence in the form of advanced, untreatable cervical cancer. She desperately wanted a solution, but understood that due to lack of medical resources in Haiti, doctors could only give her medicine for pain and infection while she waited for the cancer to progress and eventually take her life. Resigned to her fate, she talked to her daughters, educating them about this silent disease and the importance of cervical cancer prevention screening.



Madame Blan Marlin, Madame Marie Yves, Madame Marie Jean Micheau, and Madame Esterfil Immacula are all mothers who came to the Leogane clinic with varying degrees of dysplasia, and with early detection, all received cures from their disease.

These women now educate other women about cervical cancer prevention and the importance of early screening. They talk about how God has sent a trained physician to the Leogane community to provide affordable health care and treatment for a disease that would otherwise take the lives of their friends, mothers, and daughters.

Madame Blan Marlin wants to express her appreciation by saying, "Thank you...we are poor and could not afford to have a screening program without your help." Madame Immacula wants to express her appreciation to the many of you who make the clinic available. She said that she doesn't want Americans to get discouraged by the hard life in Haiti, because through your support lives of Haitian women are being changed.

Currently, Family Health Ministries is responsible for the staffing and operation of two clinics and hopes to spread cervical cancer screening throughout Haiti in partnership with FOSREF. The vision for the Leogane Family Health Center is to be a place where women can receive screening, but also obtain the lifesaving surgery often unavailable to Haitian women, and something we take for granted in the United States.

What is the role of the Haitian government and other Haitian organizations in this project?

Family Health Ministries has received a letter of endorsement from the Haitian Ministry of Health for the Leogane Family Health Center, stating that they believe that the facility will “...add significant value to the infrastructure of the Haitian health care system.” Recently the Ministry of Health also endorsed a new standard of care for cervical cancer prevention developed by Family Health Ministries staff in Haiti and in the US.

Family Health Ministries has over the years formed a number of partnerships with Haitian groups who also support the construction of the Leogane Family Health Center. They include:

- The Haitian Ob/Gyn Society, which has endorsed the new Health Center as well as the new standard of care for cervical cancer prevention.
- The advocacy organization, Groupe de Support Contre le Cancer, based in Port-au-Prince.
- Two large Haitian reproductive health NGOs that have provided letters of support for the construction of the new facility. Based in Port-au-Prince, the NGOs provide HIV/AIDS testing and treatment, and women’s health care
 - Fondation pour la Santé Reproductrice et l’Education Familiale (FOSREF). FOSREF is collaborating with Family Health Ministries to develop a country-wide, cervical cancer screening and treatment program; two FOSREF screening sites opened in January 2011.
 - Haitian Group for the Study of Kaposi’s Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections (GHESKIO)
- The Leogane Women’s Group, an advisory group of 70 local leaders.



Leogane Women’s Group



Architect’s conception of the completed Leogane Family Health Center

What US partners are supporting the construction?

Family Health Ministries has an ongoing partnership with Duke University to provide experiences in Haiti for undergraduates, graduate students and faculty doing research; medical students and residents completing training, and students from global health classes. Other key partners include:

- University of Florida, doing drug-resistant malaria research.
- Qiagen Sciences LLC, conducting clinical trials for their new fast and inexpensive assay for the human papilloma virus (HPV).
- Many church organizations who provide hundreds of volunteers as well as a large percentage of FHM’s financial support.
- Individual donors.

What are some of Family Health Ministries’ most significant accomplishments?

- Screening of more than 10,000 women since 2002 for HPV, in partnership with Qiagen.
- Development of a portable, battery-powered, inexpensive colposcope called the CerviScope for use in cervical cancer prevention.
- Development of a screening and treatment protocol for cervical cancer, recently adopted by the Haitian Ob/Gyn Society and the Haitian Ministry of Health.
- Construction of an outpatient clinic in January 2009, enabling the continuation of the cervical cancer prevention program.
- Support of more than 70 health care students in global health, public health, and obstetrics/gynecology.
- Immediate response to earthquake with emergency relief teams to repair and rebuild damaged facilities and homes.



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About Family Health Ministries

Family Health Ministries of Durham, North Carolina, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, providing critical medical services to women and their families in Haiti since 2000. Family Health Ministries' budget in 2011 is \$1.3M, based on income of \$1.5M in 2010.

Haitian employees currently total 71, including 24 health care workers at two Family Health Ministries health care clinics. The staff includes three Haitian doctors and five Haitian nurses. The clinics are located in the Port-au-Prince community of Blanchard and in Leogane, a southern coastal community about an hour and a half from the capital. Family Health Ministries' clinics provide cervical cancer prevention, prenatal and well-baby care including immunizations and general family health care. They are regularly supported by visiting health care providers from the US.



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