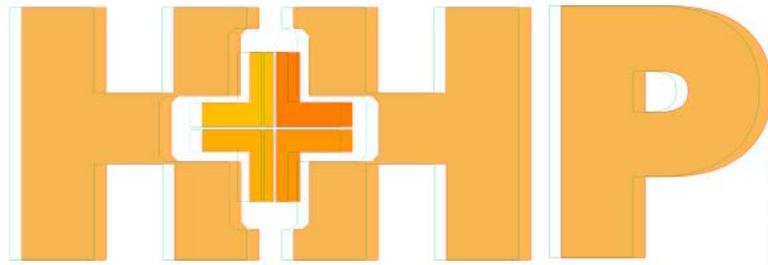


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# Annual Report



HISPAÑOLA  
HEALTH  
PARTNERS



2021

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## A BIRTH CENTER IS BORN *Our family of services expands*



*Staff (lower row) and matwòn at their graduation ceremony at new birth center*

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Hispañola Health Partners celebrates another year of success despite the harsh realities of 2021 in Haiti. A long awaited dream came true when we opened our “family birth home” (Mezon Nesans Fanmi - MNF) in November 2021. MNF is a place where safe, compassionate perinatal care with licensed Haitian midwives, doctors, and nurses is now available. It also provides a residence for medical professionals doing their volunteer year of social service.

Hispañola Health Partners began working in Southeast Haiti in 2013, when we were invited to partner with the community to complete the only healthcare facility in the region, Centre de Santé Union de Grand-Gosier (CSUG). Women’s cancer screening and prevention started a few years before the clinic was finished, provided from site to site by motorcycle. Construction was completed in January of 2016 and primary care and mobile clinic services began with a fulltime doctor and nurse and a small pharmacy. In 2017, a laboratory, a hypertension outreach program, and a growing staff provided more essential services to the subsistence farmers, fishermen, informal merchants and their families that reside in this region isolated by rocky ravines and high mountains.

Today a staff of 13 provides 24/7 emergency care and birth services, along with vaccinations, family planning, in-patient observation, a large pharmacy, perinatal mobile clinics and several innovative programs designed by CSUG staff. 18 traditional birth attendants have graduated from a training course and join us in improving care for birthing mothers in the region. Over 4,000 women have been screened and treated for cervical cancer who would otherwise have had their lives threatened. Hundreds of families have been instructed on how to protect themselves from Covid-19 and other infectious diseases.



**Mile Markers 2021**

Total patients seen in clinic: 3,376  
Total patients seen in community: 2,877  
Births: 216  
Family Planning visits: 1,770  
photo by Patricia Borns

Allow us to share with you the victories your support has made possible. Against the present backdrop of political instability and lawlessness in Haiti, the strength of what we have created together prevails and thrives.

***Louise Lindenmeyr, Co-founder, Executive Director***

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## **MEZON NESANS FANMI – A closer look at our new birth center**

Haiti has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Americas. The CDC states: “The best information in Haiti is that for every 270 live births an estimated 35 mothers will needlessly die during or shortly after delivery.”

The danger of losing the mother increases the deeper one moves into the Haitian countryside. Without training and equipment to predict high-risk pregnancies, and far from support services should things go wrong during labor and delivery, traditional birth attendants and birthing mothers have few options. As tragic as the death or grave injury of a mother may be to the family, the repercussions are also felt socioeconomically throughout the area, since the Haitian woman is the cornerstone of her community.

The 1,600-square-foot Meson Nesans Fanmi (Family Birth Home) was built by the community, with local labor and resources. Funds for MNF have come from a variety of revenue streams: a generous grant from Women International Leaders <https://www.wil-gp.org/>, HHP's private donors, and a \$4,000 contribution from CSUG itself.



*First baby and staff at MNF*

### **Highlights of MNF:**

- *A comfortable, safe, and welcoming environment for women as they wait to give birth, along with space for key family members and birth attendants.*
- *Includes a large room with five beds, kitchen, garden with pavilion, bath with shower, two bedrooms for medical staff with kitchen and bath, and a women's health exam room.*
- *Families attend classes in parenting, nutrition, lactation, family planning, intimate partner violence, and other essential family-centered topics.*
- *The women's health exam room provides privacy for gynecological exams and procedures, including our female cancer screening and treatment services.*

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## Synergistic partnerships and the August 14 earthquake



*Surgery in action*

Since 2013, HHP has been building partnerships with other public and private healthcare organizations in Haiti. Sharing best practices, networking opportunities, sources for support and even travel tips have helped us feel less isolated as one of the very few NGOs in our remote region. The devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake in the Les Cayes region of the Southwest was our call to arms. Although our clinic, 100 miles away, was spared, we felt compelled to lend a hand. Immediately, CSUG's Haitian staff received pleas for aid, while HHP's donors asked how they might help in the disaster. HHP came up with a multi-pronged approach:

- *Initiated a GoFundMe campaign specific to earthquake disaster relief.*
- *Immediately wired funds to our colleague, Dr. Marie Dina Civil, in Les Cayes for purchase of medicine and supplies and launch of pop-up clinics around the earthquake zone.*
- *Sent funds to network partner Maison de Naissance in Tourbeck, which was significantly damaged in the earthquake.*
- *Provided funding for our Country Director, surgeon Dr. Roberto Peigne, to travel to the epicenter to bring surgical supplies and assist with procedures.*

The GoFundMe campaign quickly raised over \$8,000, enabling us to send \$10,000 to the disaster area. Emergency food and hygiene kits were distributed to over 100 families, and Dr. Civil attended to 98 patients. Dr. Peigne assisted in 15 surgeries at Immaculate Conception Hospital in Les Cayes.

### Mile Markers 2021



Vaccinations: 2,788  
Doses of Vitamins A, D,  
prenatal/postnatal and antiparasitic  
medication: 275,644  
(courtesy of Vitamin Angels)  
photo by Patricia Borns

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## **FANM VANYAN** – “Valiant Women”



*Nurse Musak examines a Fanm Vanyan patient in her home*

Fanm Vanyan, or “Valiant Women,” brings cervical cancer screening and treatment to over 200 women living with HIV/AIDS in the Southeast Department of Haiti. Women living with HIV are almost five times more likely to develop invasive cervical cancer. “To save a woman’s life by ensuring that she has access to antiretroviral therapy for HIV, yet to have her die from cervical cancer, is unacceptable,” said Shannon Hader, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director.

There is no national program to screen or treat women for cervical cancer in Haiti. HHP first brought its cervical cancer prevention program to the community in 2013, providing access heretofore nonexistent. To date, HHP has screened 4,000 women in rural southeastern Haiti and provided hundreds of follow-up treatments.

Fanm Vanyan, conceived of and developed by our staff at CSUG, connects HHP/CSUG with the international HIV/AIDS PEPFAR services at a nearby clinic. Using village health workers who work with women receiving antiretroviral therapy, this liaison connects vulnerable women in the district to the vital cancer prevention services of HHP. This program was initiated during the last three months of 2021 and 114 women were seen. 67% of the women screened were positive for precancerous changes and received treatment.

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One hundred more are enlisted for testing in the coming months - and more women ask to join every week.

Haitian women with HIV feel stigmatized and fearful, resulting in a reluctance to access health services. However, by using a well-established network of village health workers, known and trusted by the women in the program, this barrier can be eliminated in order to deliver cervical cancer services.

### ***ANN BAY LAVI JARET (ABLJ)*** “Give Life a Helping Hand,” HHP’s Training Program for Traditional Birth Attendants (matwòn)



***Gustav Cherinor, matwòn on the job***

As he walks up the twisting mountain paths on his way to visit a mother and her newborn, matwòn Cherinor softly greets everyone he meets with “fanmi” (family). Gustav Cherinor is 42 and has been delivering babies in the high rocky mountains of Bouley since the age of 18 when a vision came to him in a dream. Integrating folk medicine with natural kindness and patience, he has mixed his intuitive skills with the curriculum of ABLJ. ABLJ’s mission is to bring more successful

birth outcomes for women where the harshness of their remote region requires them to have home births.

CSUG’s midwife, Ruth Lafleur, has trained 18 matwòn throughout our zone over the past year and a half. Groups of six matwòn meet weekly for a five-month course to learn the basic principles of hygiene, safe birth practices, recognition of high-risk pregnancy and more. Ruth and the matwòn make prenatal and postnatal home visits to each pregnant woman, observing the pregnancy’s progression and collecting metrics to evaluate outcomes. Monitoring an average of 15 births per month in the countryside, we are seeing improvement in the perinatal health of our mothers and babies and anticipate a comprehensive report in the next year.

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## HHP Receives GuideStar’s Platinum Seal of Transparency

In 2021 HHP earned the Platinum GuideStar Profile Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by the world’s largest source of nonprofit information. GuideStar’s platinum rating is meant to provide transparent reporting of an organization’s actual impact in the world beyond simplistic financial ratios.

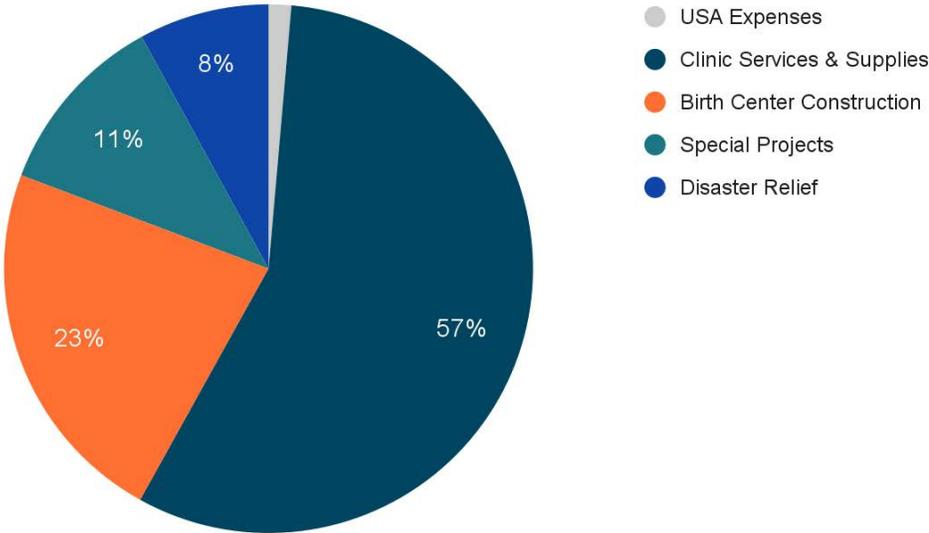


To reach the Platinum level, HHP added extensive information to its “Nonprofit Profile” on GuideStar, including in-depth financial information and qualitative information about goals, strategies, and capabilities as well as quantitative information about results and progress toward its mission.

## HHP Spending

In 2021, we spent \$125,585, with 99% spent on the ground in Haiti and only 1% in the USA. CSUG, our partner clinic in Haiti, generated 20% of its own operating expenses.

HHP Expenses



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## HHP Board of Directors

Peter Halle, President, Treasurer  
Amesville, CT

Phil Wolf, Vice President, Co-founder  
Frisco, CO

Louise Lindenmeyr, Family Nurse Practitioner  
Executive Director, Co-founder  
Salisbury, CT

Patrick Howell, Co-founder  
Washington, DC

Helen Scoville, RN, Women's Health  
Salisbury, CT

Erin Quinn, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner  
Encinitas, California

Ellen Ratigan, Esq.  
Philadelphia, PA

Nemour Melidor  
Dacula, GA

Patricia Borns  
St Thomas, USVI

Fritz Regis, Co-founder, Emeritus Board Member  
Marjofre, Haiti

*Hispañola Health Partners is a non-profit organization incorporated in Colorado, USA, in July of 2013. You can help with a tax-deductible donation through our website or at the address below. Many thanks!*



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*wil* empowering  
women globally



 Global Force for Healing  
*love is the force*