

## 2019 Annual Report

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Patricia Borns photo



### **Under our flag *ANBA DRAPO N***

2019 brought another extreme test of Haitian mettle with months of street protests and political upheaval over massive government corruption that have paralyzed the country. Food, water, and health care have been scarce and transportation treacherous, particularly in urban areas. As in many protests around the world, it is the youth of this country who are voicing their intolerance of a broken, dirty system. Attending a protest rally on Haitian Flag Day, I felt a hopeful lift from this saying on the back of the participants' T-shirts: "Under our flag, let's have a dialogue about change in Haiti".

A lasting source of hope for me is the progress and dedication I see at the Centre de Santé Union de Grand-Gosier (CSUG), the clinic in the remote corner of southeast Haiti that HHP has been partnering with since 2013. The clinic staff, mostly in their 20s and 30s, are

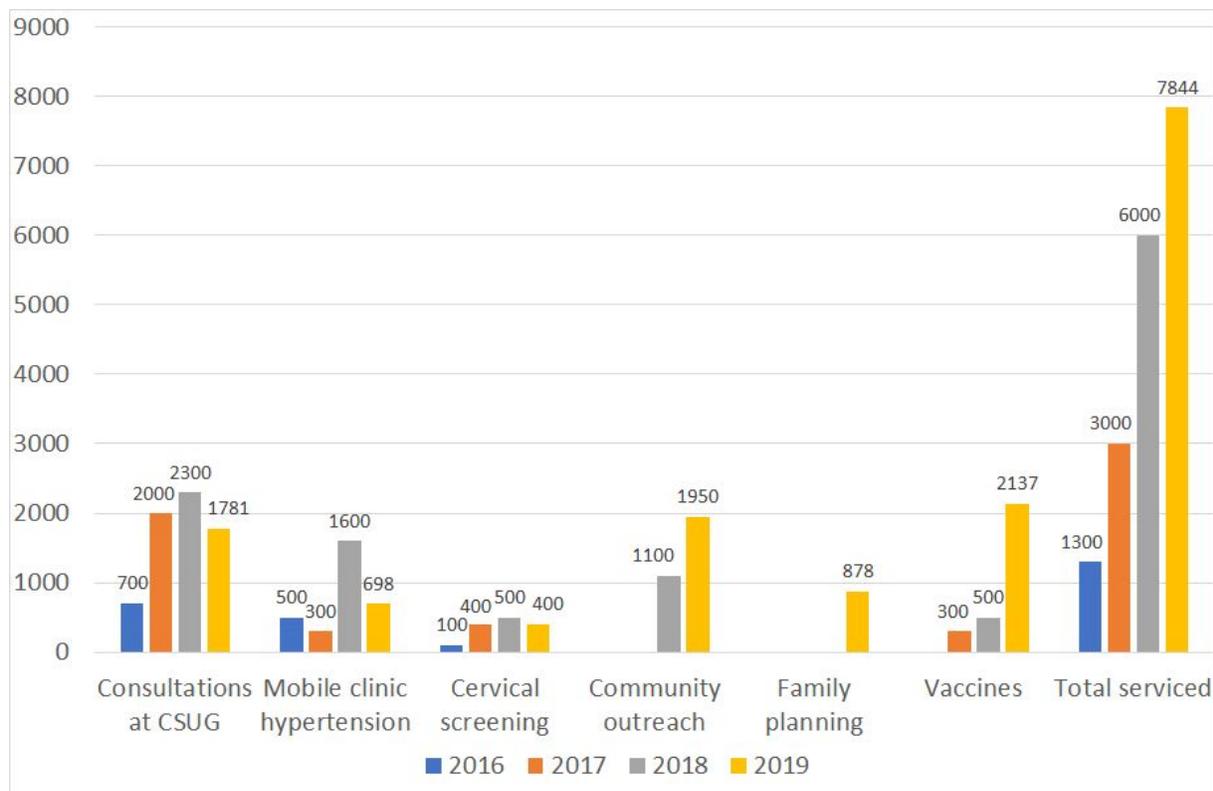
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working every day toward a new vision of Haiti. They are serving more patients than ever before. With programs in hypertension, cervical cancer screening, children's vaccinations, family planning, prenatal care and a *soon-to-be* midwife-driven birth center, we are on fire. We are gaining increasing support from the Haitian Ministry of Health and foundations. We are especially grateful to you, our loyal donors, for the energy fueled by your sustained belief in this little miracle.

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

## HHP is more than just dialogue about change

Despite the challenging political scene, HHP continues to implement its mission. The Commune of Grand-Gosier, our rural region of Haiti, is a remote zone of 90 square kilometers and 19,500 people. This is a region of extreme poverty and subsistence farming and its residents are tucked into hills and valleys accessed only by footpaths. HHP serviced almost 8,000 patients in 2019, up from 6,000 in 2018. The biggest increases were in vaccines and community outreach, as well as in a new service -- family planning.



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## Vaccinations and Vitamins

Before our clinic opened its doors in January of 2016, vaccine campaigns were at the whim of here-today-gone-tomorrow nonprofits and the child vaccine rate was spotty and incomplete. With increasing

*32% of preschool age children in Haiti are vitamin A deficient. Government programs reach only 21.4% of those children with deficiencies.*

*--per the World Health Organization*



Pharmacist Aide Maribel in her new pharmacy at CSUG where she distributes vitamins and medications

investment by the Haitian Ministry of Health, CSUG has taken on a vigorous vaccine effort that has tripled in size since last year, reaching more than 2,000 children with a full menu of necessary vaccines. Women of childbearing age and men at risk are also vaccinated against tetanus. Starting in 2019, thanks to the generosity of Vitamin Angels (<https://www.vitaminangels.org/countries/haiti>), we have provided vitamin A and albendazole (deworming) for children aged 1-5. Childhood treatment can prevent lifelong impairments in immunity and vision. Vitamin Angels also supplies us with prenatal vitamins for the hundreds of pregnant and lactating women we see each year.

## Hypertension Screening and Treating *WI MENM LA*

Our fight against the silent killer marches on with another 841 adults screened, 36% of whom were stabilized on medication in 2019. That makes a total of 2,112 adults screened and treated in the far reaches of our rural zone. We thank



Recent graduate of Wi Memn La, with blood pressure stable at last on 2 medications

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our CSUG doc, Daniel Antoine, and his support team for creating and carrying out this essential program. In 2020, we look forward to helping more people who are in the prime of their lives and crucial to the wellbeing of their families.

### **Cervical Cancer Screening *EDE TÈT NOU***

Ede Tèt Nou, our female cancer program, has been rewarded with another year of funding by a private foundation. We will be using our army of community health workers, led by our nurse Mirese Musac, to reach another 800 women who have never been screened for cervical or breast cancer. The results of HPV self-testing have revealed that women in our zone on the frontier have the highest rate of positive precancerous cervical changes in the country. With over 25% of our women needing treatment, Ede Tèt Nou steps up to the formidable challenge of protecting its sisters in the region.



Mirese Musac is a titan in the fight against female cancer on the border. Patricia Borns photo

### **Birth Center *MEZON NESANS FANMI***

Our new birth center, Mezon Nesans Fanmi (MNF), is to be located in a home near CSUG

*"The best information in Haiti is that for every 270 live births an estimated 35 mothers will needlessly die during or shortly after delivery. However since most births do not occur in a healthcare facility...the actual number of maternal deaths is believed to be much higher."*

--Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

and will open its doors in 2020. At MNF, local women will have access to compassionate and professional perinatal care with licensed Haitian midwives, doctors, and nurses. Women will be seen early in pregnancy and monitored at regular prenatal visits. They will attend classes in parenting, nutrition, nursing, family

planning, domestic violence, and other family topics. Most importantly, the women will have access to local delivery services 24/7.

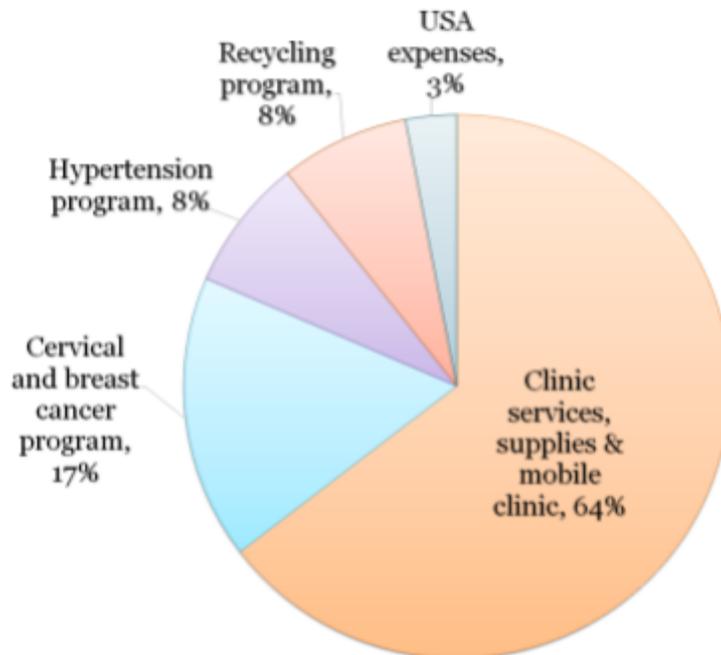
According to a recent HHP community assessment survey of 100 women, 98% of the women birthed at home, either unattended or with a matwòn, a traditional birth attendant. MNF aims to give mothers more options. Currently, the nearest hospital for off-hours deliveries is a harrowing 40-minute motorcycle ride away. CSUG sees 300 women annually for care during pregnancy and we expect that 200 women in the region will use the birth center's services within its first year.



Healthy women, babies, and families are our goal in bringing lifesaving midwifery care to our little corner of Southeast Haiti. Patricia Borns photo

## HHP Expenses in 2019 - \$85,141

In 2019, 97% of HHP's funds were spent on the ground in Haiti.



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## Tidy up to move ahead *NETWAYE POU N AMELYORE (NPA)*

This is a plastics recycling program that was conceived and designed in 2018 by concerned local community members. Anyone who has spent time in Haiti has been discouraged by the vast quantity of discarded plastics in the roads, walking paths, and streams. NPA is a multi-year program that was begun in early 2019 to stem this scourge, educate the population, and promote better health. It is too soon to publish results, but Marjofre is already looking neater, with the use of trash receptacles, an informed community, and a collection center for recyclable plastics. It is HHP's hope that NPA can create a model to be replicated throughout rural Haiti.

## Spotlight on CSUG's Medical Director **DR. ROBERTO PEIGNE**

Dr. Roberto Peigne has been the clinic's medical director since its founding six years ago. His skill, humanity, and leadership continue to inspire the staff of our clinic today. A true son of the borderland, Dr. Peigne's backstory makes him the perfect leader to guide the Centre de Santé Union de Grand Gosier and the rest of the region into the future.

The border region of Haiti and the Dominican Republic is marked with the ambivalence of two passionate cultures that can exist neither with nor without one another. Dr. Peigne's single mother, from Jacmel, Haiti, fled to Santo Domingo, DR, when pregnant with him to escape having to give him up to his father's prosperous family from Anse-a-Pitres, just inside the Haitian border. At age 3 months he was kidnapped from his mom and brought back to Haiti to be raised by his father's family. He did not see his mother again until he left for medical school in the DR. As a Dominican doctor, he returned



Dr. Peigne attends an annual event with Exec Dir Louise Lindenmeyr (left) and Board President Peter Halle (center) at Louise's home, as HHP helps cultivate his skills in fundraising.

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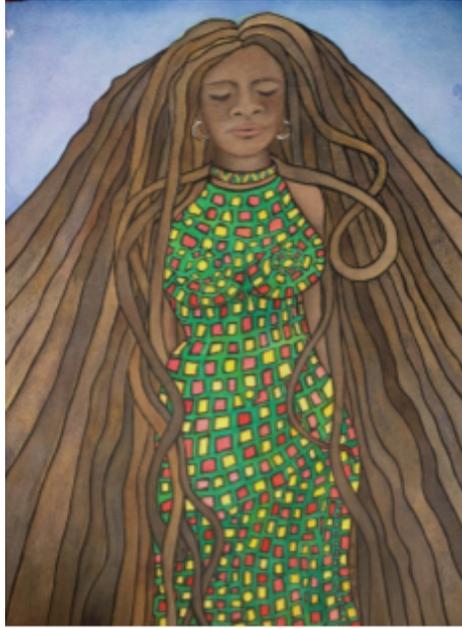
to the border region for the social service part of his residency. It was there, in 2013, where he met Louise, and forged the relationship and partnership with HHP that helped launch CSUG.

Dr. Peigne continued his surgical training at the Hôpital Université de la Paix in Port-au-Prince, becoming a general surgeon in 2018. In addition to his work at CSUG, he is now a fellow in pediatric surgery at Saint Damien Hospital in Haiti's capital. He won a fellowship with Francesca Rava Foundation, which will enhance his training at hospitals in Milan and Pescara, Italy. Roberto specializes in congenital malformations of newborns and children, making him one of four surgeons in this field in all of Haiti.

Dr. Peigne's vision includes providing access to the full range of healthcare throughout the Southeast department of Haiti, including surgical services which are desperately needed. His work with HHP and the clinic in Marjofre is the foundation and heart of that goal, and his leadership will benefit the marginalized people of the border region for decades to come.



Dr. Peigne has been instrumental in providing leadership and medical guidance for HHP's initiatives in SE Haiti. Patricia Borns photo



A healthy woman means a healthy community.  
Watercolor by Vali Valenti.

## HHP Board of Directors

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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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