

# CHILDREN'S HEALTH ministries

Healthy Kids ♡ Strong Families ♡ Hope in Jesus Christ

September 2015 - Volume 2, Issue 3

**If you pour yourself out  
for the hungry, and  
satisfy the desire of the  
afflicted, then shall your  
light rise in the  
darkness and your gloom  
be as the noonday.  
Isaiah 58:10**



*The Haiti branch of the CHM team!*

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## **Join us!**

Come alongside CHM in the fight against malnutrition in Haiti by becoming a sustaining monthly partner! Make a deposit toward God's kingdom work and you will be richly blessed!

[www.chmhaiti.org/how-to-help/](http://www.chmhaiti.org/how-to-help/)

## Malnutrition Ministry Update

We are seeing so many malnourished children! We have been consistently seeing over 100 children weekly since our April Screening Clinics! We believe that the word is getting out that we are here and that the need is greater due to a persistent three-year drought. Food is scarce, money is scarcer and jobs just don't exist. Haiti's children are paying a high price.

We admit approximately 15 children to the program each week. This is up almost double from this time last year!

There are no other options for these sick and malnourished kids in our area. Without CHM's malnutrition program many of these children will die and others will become permanently stunted both physically and intellectually.

Our monthly cost to run the malnutrition program is \$4000-5000 at our current number of kids. This comes out to approximately \$125 per child.

We continue to send our sickest children to our friends at Real Hope for Haiti. We are inexpressibly thankful for their continued friendship, support, and partnership as we each pursue God's calling to help the malnourished children of Haiti.

## Child Spotlight

### Miline

Miline was brought into the malnutrition clinic by her grandmother and a neighbor. They came from a four-hour walk out in the countryside from a village called Anjibo. Another neighbor had told them about our clinic for kids.

The second week in the program, Miline's grandmother and neighbor told me they had found a place that we could hold a screening clinic as soon as we wanted! They were so excited about the care they saw Miline receiving they wanted to share it with the rest of their community. We plan to go out to Anjibo the next time we do screening clinics.

Miline did extremely well in the program and is now a healthy one-year-old! Her family continues to send many malnourished children, babies, and pregnant women down to us.



## A Miracle for Neika

Neika's mom brought her to our mobile medical clinic in May of this year. She had very severe pneumonia, very severe anemia, and malnutrition. She very nearly died on the way to the hospital and when we got there had a hemoglobin of 1.8!! The doctors told us they would do what they could but they didn't think she would make it. God has big plans for this little girl, though, because she is not only alive, but thriving!

Neika is now back home with her mama and doing great! She is up from 9 pounds at 7 months to 17.5 pounds at 11 months!!! Our God is the God of miracles!





## Prenatal Program Update

God had done SO MANY great things with the prenatal program since our last newsletter! We are continuing to provide women with prenatal vitamins, folic acid, and iron supplementation from the first visit through six months of breastfeeding. But God (and you with your faithful partnership) has greatly expanded the services we are able to provide to these pregnant women!

We have been able to purchase rapid tests for measuring the hemoglobin of pregnant women. This allows us to monitor anemia, which in Haiti causes many deaths during and after childbirth. Severely anemic women now can be closely monitored through their pregnancy and sent for other services if necessary.

We are now checking blood pressures and blood sugars on all pregnant women to screen for gestational hypertension and diabetes, as well as preeclampsia.

We have also recently purchased rapid HIV and syphilis tests. This allows us to screen for these diseases. We have thankfully not discovered any HIV-positive women, but have had 8 test positive for syphilis. We have been able to provide appropriate treatment for these women (and sometimes their partners) so that their baby can be born without congenital syphilis. Without this testing, these babies probably

would have contracted syphilis at birth and, without treatment, died.

Additionally, we have been blessed to receive a treatment algorithm for treating women with sexually transmitted infection. It was developed by respected American physicians (including Paul Farmer) for use in Haiti. This has allowed us to successfully prevent many cases of gonorrhea and other diseases from being passed on to babies at birth.

Most women in our area give birth at home and almost none have a trained medical person at their birth. We are excited to now be giving out home birthing kits to our expectant mothers! These kits include many important items to help the women are able to have a safe and sterile birth at home. The kits provide gloves, alcohol wipes, hand sanitizer, a new razor blade and cord, etc. We need individuals and groups to assemble and ship these kits to us in Haiti. See insert on the next page for more information!

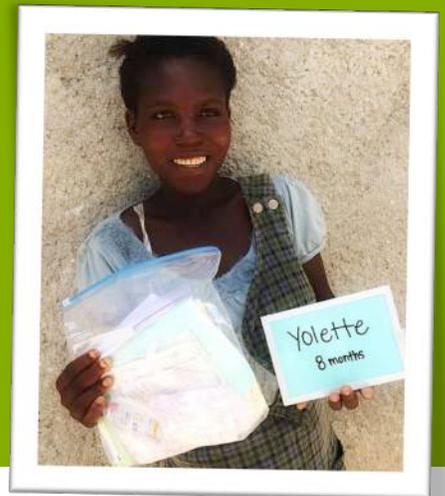


We are beginning to see healthy babies being born to the mothers we have been following. It is very exciting!!!! We have been blown away in these first few months at how eager pregnant women in our area are to be receiving prenatal care. The average cost per mom to provide vitamins, testing and treatment is \$30. We need your ongoing partnership to continue providing these life saving services to pregnant women. You can learn more about giving on the last page of the newsletter!!

## Birthing Kits

We would like to be able to provide ALL pregnant women in our program with birthing kits but are limited by supply. We need YOU to help us pack and ship them!

Birthing kits are easy to package and they make a great community service project for groups, Bible study groups, friends, or family! If you would like to get involved and help mothers in Haiti have safe and sterile births, please contact us at [info@chmhaiti.org](mailto:info@chmhaiti.org). We will provide you with the “recipe” and you can get started!!



## Baby Program Update

A few of the 131 babies we are following in our baby program were born to moms in the Prenatal Program. Unfortunately, many were born to women who had not been treated pre-delivery, who had not been taught the importance of breastfeeding and come to us only when they know their baby is in trouble.



For new babies that come in we often treat for fever and infection. We also do a lot of coaching with mothers of small, not thriving infants about the importance of breastfeeding and how to do it successfully. Many don't know how important it is, and even if they want to, have no one to assist them being successful.

In some cases we provide rice packets to moms who literally have no food to eat so they are able to breast feed. We occasionally provide formula, most often in the case of twins or when the mother has died or abandoned the baby. We do all we can to keep babies and moms healthy during that critical first 6 months of life.

We are still shocked and horrified when we see a one-month-old weighing 6 pounds, or a 4-month-old baby weighing only 8 pounds most likely with a high fever. We have sent 4 babies to the hospital or Real Hope for Haiti in the past month because they were so ill with fevers, diarrhea and malnutrition that they required inpatient care to live.

For the many mothers and babies that are now healthy and successfully breastfeeding, this program provides frequent well-baby checks. Babies do occasionally get sick and these moms now have a place they know they can get free, quality care for their little one. There are not other programs like this in our area, and the hospitals nearby often



*discourage* the mothers from breastfeeding! It is a critical and much needed program for this area. The average cost per baby in the program is \$20.

## Partners

We thought you might like to know about some of the amazing partners we work with that allow us to serve these children and mothers in Haiti. We could not do this without every single one of our partners and supporters! YOU ARE AMAZING!!!

### Monthly, recurrent and one-time financial partners



You are the people of God who know His heart, listen to His voice and respond to the need knowing that treasure on earth will rust and decay but your treasure in heaven will not. Every penny you give goes into our programs to purchase Medika Mamba, medicine, do testing, get medical care and much more. We have four paid Haitian staff and four volunteer American staff. Only our Haitian staff are paid, and they are critical to doing this work. You are a critical piece of the puzzle - THANK YOU!!

### Feed My Starving Children



This faith-based ministry sends us boxes and boxes of 'manna packs' of rice, protein and vitamins every month so we can keep those moms breastfeeding those babies!



### Harvest Pack Alexandria

This faith-based ministry sends us nearly all the food packed in Alexandria, MN and we send it to a school in the area where the kids often go all day without eating if a meal is not provided in school.

### Haiti Water



This organization has provided us with albendazole (an anti-worm and anti-parasitic medicine), vitamin A supplements (deficiency can cause blindness) and prenatal vitamins in 2015. We have treated approximately 2300 children in 2015 to eliminate worms and other parasites that can be life threatening. We have dispensed vitamin A to 500 children in our screening clinics. We long ago dispensed all of the 2700 prenatal vitamins we received from Haiti Water.

### Meds and Food for Kids



Meds & Food For Kids

We cannot forget our partners at MFK. If it were not for them, there would be no Medika Mamba in Haiti. They work with local farmers to produce peanuts, hire local people to make and package Medika Mamba and to transport it throughout the country. They are a huge blessing to Haiti and CHM!

### Real Hope for Haiti



We send our most critical patients to RHFH for inpatient care. They have taught us so much over the past few years about malnutrition and Haiti and we certainly wouldn't be where we are without them!

## New Board Members

We are excited to announce CHM has two new board members, Nancy Wagner and Scott Covington!!! Nancy and Scott both love the Lord and Haiti and each is bringing new gifts, talents, and perspectives to CHM's leadership! Welcome to the team, friends!!



### Nancy Wagner

Nancy has worked in international relief and development for the past 15 years in both paid and volunteer positions with Feed My Starving Children, Compatible Technology International and several other non-profits. She has a heart for Haiti, particularly Haitian mothers and children. She and her husband, Dale, live on their farm in southeastern Minnesota and have two grown children.

### Dr. Scott Covington

Scott is a general surgeon and Chief Medical Officer for Healogics, the US's largest provider of specialty wound care services. Scott has a passion for helping to bring quality medical care to under-served populations in Haiti. He lives with his wife Donna and their four children in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.



## How to Help

Is God touching your heart for the least of these in Haiti? Here's how you can help!

1.

Come to the front lines in Haiti with us by becoming a monthly sustaining partner of Children's Health Ministries! No gift is too large or too small! Visit [www.chmahiti.org/how-to-help/](http://www.chmahiti.org/how-to-help/) or send a check to:

Children's Health Ministries  
8049 White Sands Blvd  
Navarre, FL 32566

2.

Are you a prayer warrior? Want to be? Join our intercessory prayer team!  
E-mail [info@chmhaiti.org](mailto:info@chmhaiti.org) if you're interested!

3.

Do you have time and talents you would like to donate to Children's Health Ministries?  
We'd love to hear from you!



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