

Mitchel Wazembeck



Mitch was approximately eight years old, when he first was seen by Dr. Vaval Dardignac over ten years ago in the clinic. At the time, he lived with his elderly grandmother in Jacquesyl.

Mitch presented with swollen knees and Dr. Vaval referred him to a clinic in Cap Haitian for hemophilia testing. The tests came back negative but Dardignac was not convinced that it was not hemophilia. Mitch took the long trip to Santo Domingo and this time the tests came back positive for Hemophilia.

Unfortunately, in the first couple of years before treatment meant that Mitch has suffered permanent damage to his knees (where blood chronically collected) and now he has difficulty walking. He prefers to move around by wheel chair.

Mary Lou Larkin, PNP and medical director of Haiti Marycare sprang into action not only connecting with the hemophilia society for free clotting factor 8, also, helping to find a benefactor who pays for his schooling and stipend for housing and food.

Mitch is now approaching his twentieth birthday in March 2018, attends high school in a nearby town and lives by himself. He is charming, always has a big smile on his face and speaks excellent English; which he learns from a CD player which is always by his side in his wheelchair. His physician describes him as “very smart, smarter then me...” Dr. Vaval says about his patient. Dr. Vaval is more than a personal physician for Mitch, he is a father figure and protector and life saver.

We our fortunate to know Mitch who has taught us always to have a positive outcome even during life’s most difficult challenges.