From the Corner Office:

The year 2017 was a most rewarding 12 months for Haiti Marycare as we made substantial progress on a number of fronts. The highlights included:

- Welcoming three new board members with different kinds of expertise—Rev. Frantz Augustin, director of the clinic and school in Jacquesyl, Haiti; Bill Doescher, president and CEO of the Doescher Group, a marketing communications firm, a member of the Jackie Robinson Foundation Board and a member of the Session of Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, and Beau Elias, a practicing attorney in Haiti and the United States.
- Erecting a playset in Pilette as well as doing maintenance on wells. Continuing our newly dental program with Dr. Jack Binder.
- Hosting in Haiti four visiting members from the Hitchcock Church—Rev. Pete Jones, pastor, Lesley Pella-Woo, director of Education and Youth ministry, Dr. David Chong, Director of Critical Care, Columbia University in New York City, and Dr. RyaLynn Carter, obstetrician-gynecologist from Norwalk, CT Hospital. During their visit they made invaluable suggestions for improvements in the clinic and its staff in Jacquesyl as well as to the school there.
- Increasing the number of patients seen in the clinic from 10-to-15 to a hundred a day.
- Attracting over 100 mothers in our birthing program, up from 35 the same time last year.
- Improving fundraising efforts that brought donations into our coffers. Thanks to all who made donations, including the Hitchcock Church and its Presbyterian Women and Community Outreach groups that together provided a total of $20,000.
- Completing architectural plans for an on-call room next to the clinic and for second-to-sixth grade classrooms while adding a seventh grade in Jacquesyl.

Even with all the progress we have made in 2017, much still needs to be done to keep the inhabitants of Jacquesyl and neighboring areas safe, healthy and educated.

We are committed to making further advances in those areas in 2018, as well as producing a permanent website and registering as a non-profit in Haiti in 2018.

Ansanm, Ansanm
Tracey Tsai
Executive Director
Haiti Marycare.
Volunteer Extraordinaire

Honoring Sherman Malone

The decision to honor Sherman Malone at a gathering of about 50 at the Scarsdale, NY, home of Tracey Tsai, Executor Director of Haiti Marycare, in November 2017 was the easy part. The hard part was getting her to show-up because she’s not one to covet honors.

Sherman would rather be helping others, such as Haitian mothers and children and juvenile offenders and girls on the streets of New Haven, Ct., like she’s been doing for nearly 40 years.

But honor her we did.

She’s one of a kind and has been the heart and soul of Haiti Marycare since its inception in 1999. In 1995, Malone started the ball rolling for the non-profit when she helped the St. Martin de Porres Church in New Haven establish and maintain a twin-parish relationship with Father Dorcin in a parish in Jacquesyl, Haiti.

In 2006, Malone made it official when she co-founded Haiti Marycare Inc., a New Haven non-profit, to provide healthcare, education and community development in Haiti.

Sherman, a licensed clinical social worker and clinical director with New Haven Family Alliance, has also been a tireless volunteer, secretary, and agent for Haiti Marycare.

It was while working as a licensed mental health worker in New Haven when she founded a non-profit, “No Place Like Home,” to provide permanent homes for orphaned babies and young children who were HIV Positive, that led Malone to an interest in the plight of Haiti refugees.

And, as they say, the rest is history.

“We couldn’t have gotten this far in our development and programs in Haiti without Sherman’s leadership and dedication, “says Tsai. “She has literally transformed the lives of so many in Haiti.”

A Heartbeat for Haiti November 2017 Page 2

Hurricane Harvey Couldn’t Stop Births in Haiti

500 Haiti Marycare Birthing Kits sent to Jacquesyl.

A life-saving experience:

Dr. Chong to the rescue.

Dr. David Chong, Director of Critical Care at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, NY, and Dr. Ryalyn Carter, OB/GYN from Norwalk, CT, Hospital, recently were invited to visit Jacouesyl in Haiti to help train the clinic doctors on how to use an ultrasound machine that had been sitting idle without being used since the winter of 2014.

Around the time of their visit, a 36-year-old, eight-week post-partum mother, who was unable to walk or talk, was transported to the clinic, and Dr. Carter was asked to evaluate the patient. Upon examination, it was apparent that she needed a hospital and a critical-care specialist.

Although he was in the middle of his ultrasound lecture, Dr. Chong was asked to see the patient being treated by the clinic physicians, Dr. Vaval Dardignac and Dr. Paul Rodlin. After examination, followed by an ultrasound procedure of her heart, Dr. Chong explained to the group that she was in heart failure, her heart was functioning at about 10 percent, and she needed to be transferred immediately to a hospital; otherwise, she was in danger of dying.

In Haiti, hospital patients don’t have it easy when going to a hospital. They must bring their own hospital supplies as well as their food, and they must pay for the medicines before doctors will administer them. If they are unable to pay for their stay, they are imprisoned in the hospital until family comes to pay their bill. This particular time the bill was paid before she left!

Upon arrival at the Baptist Convention Hospital near Jacouesyl, she was transferred by wheelchair to the emergency room. The ER doctor and nurses immediately evaluated her and admitted her to a room. She was administered with the correct medicines and the attending physician was grateful for a phone consultation with our expert, Dr. Chong, about the medical plan for the patient.

The following morning, Dr. Chong said that he “had prayed for her all during the night,” and was very concerned that she would still die even with the proper medical care.

On Sunday morning, Dr. Chong visited the patient, her heart function had improved, she was sitting-up, talking and more aware. On Tuesday, before leaving for the airport, the team visited her once more; her blood pressure was remarkably lower, her heart function better, and miraculously, she wheeled her IV pole and walked with us to the car.

Dr. Chong was never able to finish that interrupted ultrasound lecture, but he did save a life - a small price to pay!

A round of applause for Dr. Chong please.
Making School Improvements

The old Notre Dame School building in Jacquesyl needed a new roof badly, and Haiti Marycare stepped-up and provided the funds to replace it at a cost of $3,800.

In addition, the organization also funded painting the whole school for $200.

Frantz Augustin, the school’s director, said “The school is beautiful and the whole town is happy that the school has a new paint job and a new tin roof.”

And equally important, the students will no longer get wet during the rainy season.

Augustin also reported that all nine 6th graders, five girls and four boys, had passed the stringent 6th grade examinations.

With partial financial help from the governing board at the Hitchcock Presbyterian Church in Scarsdale, NY, the Notre Dame school has added a 7th grade class. Weekly instruction includes French grammar, literature and writing, Haitian Creole language, Civics, English, Spanish, Physics, Chemistry, Algebra and Geometry.

Haiti Marycare hopes to help the school add 8th and 9th grade classes in the future.