



HAITIAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

A Charitable Outreach to Neighbors in Need

August 5, 2011

Helping Our Neighbors in Need for 28 Years

Jerry's Corner



Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, DDS, MPH
— Founder and President, HHF

I am planning another trip to Haiti next month—my third this year.

I'm heartened by the progress our staff has made in the fight against cholera, where the incidence and fatality rates have been reduced dramatically since HHF began our cholera education and intervention programs early this year. But this is disease that is still raging in Haiti; it just doesn't garner the headlines that it once did.

I'm also upbeat that our staff has maintained HHF's other longstanding programs in the midst of Herculean efforts for earthquake and hurricane relief last year, and in our current cholera efforts. I am proud of our continuing accomplishments, which are possible only with your support.

I'll provide a more detailed update after my return in September. Until then, I wish you all a healthy summer.

Dear HHF Supporter

HHF Celebrates World Breastfeeding Week in Southwest Haiti

The Haitian Health Foundation celebrated World Breastfeeding Week, August 1-7, in the village of Carrfour Prince in southwest Haiti. "On August 4th we hosted the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Haitian Ministry of Health's Nutrition Section. They dedicated the village as a *Baby Friendly Village*," says Bette Gebrian, PhD, MPH, director of public health at HHF.

Unfortunately, because of the threat of tropical storm Emily, which caused havoc with transportation, some of the representatives of the organizations were unable to travel to this remote corner of Haiti. But the weather didn't dampen the spirit of the villagers or those who were able to make the trek.

Breastfeeding: A Village Concern

"HHF has been educating women here to breastfeed right after delivery and exclusively for the first 6 months. They then wean their babies at 18-24 months of age. Also, the village's health



HHF nurse midwife Nadege Pierre (left) and HHF nurse educator Casimir Alfred (right) receive a plaque of recognition and merit for HHF's breastfeeding promotion from Ministry of Health officials.

For More Information

We regularly update our Web site with information relating to our ongoing efforts to help improve the lives of the people of Haiti. Please [click here](#) to access HHF's home page. Be sure to check out the [News & Events](#) page to see all of the recent updates and information, including upcoming container loadings, cholera relief efforts, and information about all of our regular programs that you've come to know.

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committee and fathers' club support mothers by reducing their workload and giving them more to eat," explains Gebrian. "HHF provides education in nursing, and medical care for any woman with breastfeeding problems. HHF participated in the first baby friendly initiative in Haiti in 1995," she says.

The Haitian Health Foundation's long history of promoting breastfeeding made it an ideal organization to participate in World Breastfeeding Week with UNICEF and Haiti's Ministry of Health. HHF's comprehensive programs in Carrfour Prince—which involve mothers' and fathers' clubs, and the village health committee—are replicated in dozens of other villages throughout HHF's umbrella of care in the Grand'Anse department of Haiti.

"HHF's integrated community-level activities, which include key efforts to promote breastfeeding, led UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MSPP) to recognize Carrfour Prince as a **Communaute Amie Des Bebes** ("Baby-Friendly Village"). HHF is an example to follow as we celebrate World Breastfeeding Week," commented Aissa Mamadoultabou, Nutrition Manager for UNICEF.



This sign, a new symbol of pride, welcomes villagers and visitors alike to Carrfour Prince, proclaimed a Baby Friendly Village by UNICEF and the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSPP).

More than Nutrition

"We've been teaching families for decades that breastfeeding not only ensures proper nutrition for their infant, but it also protects the baby from many illnesses, such as diarrhea and respiratory infections. It also helps to prevent damage to their infant's stomach," says Gebrian. Through HHF's programs and monitoring efforts, exclusive breastfeeding

rates have risen from 30% in 1993 to 80% today, whereas the national rate in Haiti is 41%.

"With such a wide reach to so many mothers and their babies, the Haitian Health Foundation has made a difference in reducing infant mortality and childhood malnutrition," says Marilyn Lowney, executive director of HHF. "We've accomplished this not only out of the hard work of our largely Haitian staff headquartered in Jérémie, Haiti, but also through the generosity of our donors and our partnerships with other organizations that

focus on these common goals to reduce infant illness, mortality, and malnutrition,” she says.

With continued support from the Haitian Health Foundation and its donors, breastfeeding rates will hopefully continue to rise and the children of southwest Haiti will reap its benefits for generations to come.

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Health.

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Sante.

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