

Financial Support Provided for Haitian Medical Clinic Serving the Rural Poor

Posted by Ed Kolybaba on May 28, 2015



The Organizasyon Sante popile (OSAPO) clinic in Haiti, a non-profit organization co-founded in 2007 by Dr. Jean-Gardy Marius, will receive financial assistance from the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise to assist the organization in constructing reinforcement of a riverbank that is in danger of collapsing onto the OSAPO

Medical Clinic due to a change in the course of the river that flows through the rural town. The financial assistance, amounting to \$1200, reviewed and recommended by the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise International Subcommittee, was approved by the members of the club on May 22, 2015.



The mission of OSAPO is to enhance the quality of health conditions of women and men in rural areas without doing harm to the environment. OSAPO is promoting reproductive health and family planning methods, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) as well as the fight against mother and child mortality, paludism, malaria and tuberculosis.

The OSAPO clinic is located in Rousseau, 100 kilometres north of the capital Port-au-Prince. The clinic provides the only medical service for a poor rural population of 50,000 people. Dr Marius and his medical team of doctors, nurses and other professionals working in the field of community development in Haiti have adopted a holistic approach to health care. The team does more than run a health clinic in

Rousseau. OSAPO's staff have trained and deployed health educators into the community to teach people about feminine hygiene, sanitation, immunization, and family planning. They have dug latrines, constructed wells to provide clean drinking water, and trained midwives to recognize signs that a particular childbirth might require medical intervention, so that women who live hours away from OSAPO's clinic will arrive in time to save the mother and child if complications arise.

Linda Frandsen, the club's International/Foundation Service Director, accompanied Judy Douglas, a nurse from Vernon, BC for a four week volunteer experience in 2014 where she recognized the plight of Haitians and the need for financial assistance. Judy has volunteered there for four months per year during the past five years and is a one of a group of nurses and friends from the Vernon and Calgary areas who have committed their service to helping the poor through OSAPO. In 1914, Rotarians from the club contributed financially to a building project to build a decontamination area for the OR.

The Vernon/Calgary area volunteers are hosting their 2nd Annual Fundraising Event for the OSAPO Clinic, a "Wine and Appy" and Silent Auction on Saturday, June 06th at the Kalamalka Country Club in Coldstream. Dr. Jean-Gardy Marius will be present to share his story and vision of how best he, a Haitian, can help his fellow countrymen. Those wishing to support this cause, are invited to purchase tickets for the event for \$25 per ticket, consider providing a donation which will be receipted and/or providing items or certificates towards the silent auction. For further information, contact Judy Douglas at 778-212-8877 or visit www.osapo.org.