






March 25, 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We have once again completed what we consider to be a successful trip to Fouban, Cameroon and want to update you on all that has happened. It was a pleasure to have a team of five people who participated this year, four from the U.S. and a dentist from Canada. Below are their pictures and biographical information on each team member:

 <p>Raphiatou Noumbissi – HIV Case Worker originally from Fouban, working in Philadelphia, PA.</p>	 <p>Patty Hewson – Pediatric Nurse Practitioner working in Philadelphia, PA.</p>	 <p>Germaine Molu – Dentist originally from Fouban, now living in Toronto, Canada.</p>	 <p>Kathleen Mahoney – Adult Nurse Practitioner working in Philadelphia, PA.</p>	 <p>Ted Lewis, Social Worker, a Pastor of Living Word Community in Philadelphia, PA.</p>
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Once again we completed a week of medical consultation, seeing about 400 patients and providing many of them with medications supplied through Americares. Having two providers was key as the advertising and word of mouth reports yielded such a large number of people requesting health care that we literally had to turn people away due to lack of time and eventually the depletion of our medications! It was a joy to see two of our HIV positive patients that we had assisted last year doing well and looking much healthier this year. This included Kaissa, an HIV positive orphan that we assisted last year, and Honorine, the mother of a 2 month old that we were able to supply with formula to decrease her risk of acquiring HIV through breast milk. The little 2 month old has grown up into a healthy 1 year old!

The medical outreach identified 9 new HIV positive patients which Raphiatou was able to refer to a local physician who will follow them for their ongoing care. Unlike patients in the U.S. these people all returned for follow-up care on the date we set for them. Our funds covered some of the related costs of patients such as Zenabou who was unable to procure funds needed for blood testing and transportation which were necessary for her prior to being able to access the necessary HIV medications. We covered the cost of a week long hospitalization of a 13 year old HIV positive orphan named Françoise who was very sick and wasted from her disease. We are continuing to provide funds to pay for her follow-up care which involves periodic lab work since she has begun to take the HIV medications supplied by the government.

The addition of dental care during the medical outreach was also very successful. Germaine saw a total of 75 dental patients, which mostly involved filling cavities and doing extractions.

In addition to the medical outreach, the team spent a day at a public high school in Fouban. The entire day of classes was devoted to HIV preventive education and testing. Our team for the day also included professionals from Fouban that volunteered their time to participate in seminars such as:

- How to develop healthy relationships without sex.
- Empowering women within a relationship.
- Preparation for HIV testing.
- Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
- Local Resources for HIV.



The students were respectful and interested in the topics.

Altogether, we provided testing and post-test counseling for 280 students and staff from the school. Maurice, the principal was very enthusiastic about the day and had very positive feedback from all involved. He has introduced us to the principal of another high school which would like to have us come next year if possible.

Altogether we have visited and identified seven orphans who we have agreed to sponsor with the provision of school fees, uniforms and school supplies. Raphiatou spent an entire day with three of them shopping in the market place for their school supplies. This was one of the more pleasurable parts of our time there!

As already described in part, opportunities to further our work there continue to abound. When we return, we would like to do more group visits and classes with patients who have chronic diseases such as diabetes or hypertension as people seem more open and receptive to this health education oriented approach. We would also like to bring with us an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or other physician to allow us to expand our education and provision of critically needed services. Finally, we are looking for someone who can come along side our efforts to provide Afro-centric education in business and economic development , a critical need that if addressed would also significantly improve the overall health of the community. If you know any such people who you think may be interested in joining us, please let us know!

Thank you for your part in making this grassroots work possible. While there are many risks and heart aches that go with it, there are also many rewards in seeing the Fouban community learn, grow and become more empowered. What little we give through our service and support is returned to us through the many stories of renewed hope for the future. Thanks again for being part of this remarkable adventure.

Sincerely,

Raphiatou Noumbissi

Patty Hewson