

Haiti Update

“Tired But Good”

Read Sue Lucas' letter home on page two



From the first 11 Vermonters that left the Burlington International Airport answering the call to assist the people of Haiti, through many aftershocks and obstacles, with blood sweat and tears of every individual who

has labored at home and abroad, the positive efforts of every single individual have led to the emergence of a new Vermont based organization: Vermont Medical Response Team.

Read more on page 3.

VMRT stats

Since January 20th, Vermont Medical Response Team has deployed 11 teams - the 12th departing Wednesday, April 14th - totaling more than 100 people.

The majority of those have been nurses. Many providers, physical and occupational, and respiratory therapists have offered their hearts and skills. We have also been blessed from the very beginning to have the expertise of highly trained and effective paramedics and EMTs, as well as non-medical colleagues who have provided critical logistical support and “can do” attitudes.

Just in the first weeks after the earthquake, our teams in Jimani helped provide at least 8000 hours of patient care involving hundreds of surgeries and post op/trauma care. In PaP, our teams have been providing care for hundreds each day.



VERMONT MEDICAL RESPONSE CONTINUES: SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The relief effort in Haiti is in need of medical professionals, particularly providers, including attendings and senior/chief residents.

Please consider volunteering your



skills and time. Attend any weekly Monday night briefing meeting at 308 Pine St. (VFNHP/United Professions office), Burlington, at 7pm. For more information, contact haitirelief@upvaft.org

LETTERS HOME FROM PORT
AU PRINCE

Hello all

I have worked that last 10 of 11 days doing the most valuable work - yes, nursing and medical care - but also that of the touch of humanity. Our presence here alone is precious!

Since I last emailed, I have worked in a clinic on the grounds of a school in a very poor and demolished area. (worked there before).

Yesterday I went with the Haitian MD (female) that I have met out to a small village that was a bit further than the church that we went to on Easter. It was extremely poor but so thankful for our presence and care. The village combined their money and bought us all a coke (in glass bottle) for our lunch! I offered to pay but they would not hear of it. It was their way of paying us back for our service - they were that ones that were least able to afford it but felt that they should do that for us in gratitude - most touching.

Today I worked in a tent city - there are about 200 people living in the tent city & after we saw who we needed to take care of - they asked to tour us through the tents. It poured last night and there was mud, wet tents and bedding. And a lot of people that were smiling at us!

Today alone I worked as a care provider and saw 22 adults and 17 children -

many were pretty sick - and to my friends at work - yes, I do not do kids - except for in Haiti - if not for us there would be nothing. We see things that should be operated on but we know it will not happen as there is no health care system. The other day we saw a kid that should have a CT of his head - guess what - no CT's! Have diagnosed malaria a bunch of times and sent off a woman to the TB Hospital as I was sure that she had TB. Some people with typhoid are in the hospitals already - I am sure this is the tip of the iceberg.

Anyway, I am going to sign off now before I lose this. I can see a hugh rain storm rolling in and the internet connection is lost when it rains!

By the way, we have 2 aftershocks the other night - one around 1am and the other at 4am and all the Vermonters slept through it! We could see evidence of more damage though - some buildings are hanging on by a thread so a little rock and roll and they are gone! All is well - this is one of the best decisions that I have made!

Best
Susan

Last day in Haiti...I hate to leave. Spent final two days doing wound care in children's hospital with Humedica group...an NGO. Will be good to get

home..... Long farewell party with at least five nationalities...has been an amazing time. People caring about people at a global level. Sean Penn is funding an entire tent city and taking lovely care of them. One of the hospitals here had to close because they have not been able to pay their employees for months. We have no idea where the patients that have been living in tents on the grounds will be taken. Continue to consider donations to organizations that are helping. I will post the name of the organization here that has been coordinating all the volunteers here. Can be found on the Vermont Haiti relief page. Night all.

Kate

Haiti hurts. All the good one team can do barely makes a difference in a city reduced to rubble. Today - one young woman loses an arm, but one young woman keeps her arm and two young men will walk again, and... lots of kids got to make fun of our white skin... blanc... missing home, but not very much.back in BTV with an aching heart for all the now homeless patients from CDTI hospital and the staff that has worked tirelessly for them since January 12th.

Meg

DAYS IN THE LIVES OF OUR RELIEF WORKERS AND THEIR PATIENTS

Other quotes:

I spent my spring break week in Port Au Prince Haiti to do relief work after the devastating earthquake. I went with an awesome group of people from the Vermont Medical Response System.

Today: at a clinic way up in the mountains doing primary care for people, and prescribing meds(wish i got MD pay). I cant believe we leave the day after tomorrow! I am truly going to miss it...and the emotions are starting to set in! I am going to start planning a next trip, and I found a family down here who is in desperate need that I plan on "adopting" when I get back to the state.

Facebook friends: Today was about 100F. I identified acute compartment syndrome and saved a 24 year olds arm. I did numerous IV meds, and did a dressing change on a revised amputation. This was all at a "hospital", when I say hospital I mean 12 tents set up outside a hospital. Facebook friends: I am safe. Things are unimaginable here. I was an ER nurse today...and may have found my calling!!!! I potentially saved a life today. 1st day in

6 days no one died during our 7a-8p shift! Our accommodations are wonderful: Internet, a mat to sleep on, and I am inside!!!!

Stephanie Adams, VTC nursing student



The Quisqueya bus



The Vermont community has responded compassionately and vigorously to assist the Haitian people. Because of the support of hundreds who have donated time, money, and their labor and because so many wish to help, a new organization has arisen. The Vermont Medical Response Team has begun the application process

for 501c3 status as a non-profit organization.

Mission Statement:

The Vermont Medical Response Team (VMRT) is an organization, dedicated to providing compassionate, dignified and culturally mindful care to communities in crisis.

The VMRT specializes in the recruitment, organization and deployment of essential resources to those communities.

VMRT began as Vermont Haiti Relief, and soon received strong support from Batey Libertad, a UVM organization. VMRT is currently working in

alliance with the Quisqueya Christian School crisis command center in Port au Prince. We have also been warmly received in alliance with Dartmouth College Haiti Relief, Partners in Health, Northern New England Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and a federal Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT).

From International Medical Alliance Good Samaritan Hospital where we first worked: (of all of the teams from around the world) - "the Vermont teams were by far the best."

YOU CAN STILL MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS



We are very grateful for the assistance of our friends Jon and Pat Erickson from Batey Libertad, working with Haitian migrant communities in the Dominican Republic. Until our non-profit application process is complete, we are sending donations through their account:

checks payable to UVM, with "Batey/Nurse" in memo.

Mail to: VFNHP, 308 Pine St. Burlington VT 05401





FIND US ON FACEBOOK

(Type "Vermont Medical Response Team" in search box.)

- Post your VMRT pics and thoughts.
- Add short essays to the notes page.
- Upload links to movies and articles of interest.
- Connect with previously deployed personnel.
- Find out the latest on the ground.

