



Annual Report 2008

Established to support the humanitarian efforts of the Hospital of Hope, Pilate, Department North, Haiti
www.cegepat.qc.ca/fondationbyas

Summary

An annual Walk of Hope and a postal fund raising campaign are means by which Byas Foundation helps sustain Hospital of Hope in Pilate, Haiti. That general hospital has been supplying health care and community health programs to a growing population (now over a hundred thousand), badly stricken in 2008 by a series of four hurricanes in less than a month (August-September). Also, Hospital of Hope is in charge of delivering the Global Fund's program to fight HIV/AIDS which brings daily 12 new patients for that alone. For full account with pictures see www.cegepat.qc.ca/fondationbyas.

Postal fund raising campaign

Great thanks to our treasurer, Mr. Alain Charron, and our Webmaster, Mr. Louis Paré, the Foundation, by means of its annual postal fund raising campaign, received \$10,835, surpassing the previous year's efforts by \$2,335. The donor's generosity somehow rewards the excellence of management at Hospital of Hope under direction of three sisters of Holy Cross.

Financial Statement\$

Preliminary 2008 financial statements of the Foundation show total donation revenues of \$19,485. Operating expenses were kept low at \$365 or 1.9% of collected sums, thanks to institutional sponsors supplying paper and ink. The Foundation sent \$16,000 to the hospital, and added \$3,000 to its emergency fund. This latter amount might be needed within a short while. The operating costs of the hospital are climbing as malnutrition (among other factors – see below, "Price hike of food and commodities") is spreading in the population of Pilate.

Holiday Season Wish Card

Intending to express gratitude to the largest possible number of people that showed an interest and support to Hospital of Hope, Byas Foundation sent a virtual wish card for Christmas and New Year to nearly 180 individuals. The drawing is from a Haitian artist.



Annual visit from our chairman



Back from his journey in Haiti, Father Charron shares his impressions during a talk with the walkers at the 10th Walk of Hope.

This year, it was only in September that our President, Mr. Robert Charron could free himself to go to Pilate for his annual visit to Hospital Of Hope. Difficult to say if mere chance or Providence should get credit for the perfect timing that scheduled his arrival in Haiti just after the road to Pilate was repaired well enough to get through. On his arrival in Pilate, Mr. Charron could see and take pictures of the visible consequences of the four hurricanes in less than a month that have swept through the landscapes of Pilate, crushing vegetation, including gardens, washing away top soil, destroying houses schools

etc. The photos may be seen on the Foundation's website. Mr. Charron came back just on time to meet all participants at the annual Walk of Hope.

Walk of Hope

The Foundation held its 10th annual Walk of Hope on September 20. Over 70 participants turned it into a success. The \$5,500 collected that day was used to help Hospital of Hope assist a badly stricken population. After the walk, Mr. Robert Charron, our chairman, addressed the participants, describing the disaster he had witnessed in Pilate after the hurricanes. He insisted on the courage shown by a population so hard-hit.



Ms Pauline Champagne from Malartic, Québec is an active supporter of Walk of Hope. This year, she and her young pupils walked and raised over \$400.



Some of the participants were there to complete their 10th annual solidarity walk with the Foundation. One absence however was sadly noted: that of regretted Jules Arseneault who died at 62 of pancreas cancer. He had actively participated at all previous Walks of Hope and was honorary president of the very first walk in 1999. His death is a great loss for all groups of our community.

Mr Jules Arseneault in September 2007 during the March of Hope

Retrospect 2008

Providential help from Doctors of the World

In early 2008, Doctors of the World had planned a surgical mission at Hospital of Hope in October. But it had to cancel it because of the hurricanes in August and September. Let us recall here that Hospital of Hope now has a cell phone. During a phone call from Doctors of the World, the hospital expressed its distressed situation. As a result, the medical organization arranged with the World Health Organization so that a helicopter from the World Food Program could fly to Pilate with the shipment of drugs and medicine stuck in Port-au-Prince, together with some bags of rice. The helicopter was able to land on a football field nearby the hospital.

A permanent will for progress

Progress has its requirements. Eight years ago, the hospital greatly improved its sanitary facilities by building a bloc of latrines. Then, modernizing its operation room, it installed washbasins with push faucets according to international sanitary standards. These factors have increased the general level of the hospital's public health, but also increased the level of water consumption. The next step is now to efficiently manage disposal of used water. Consequently, the hospital's directors (Sister Lucie Laquerre and Sister Louisa Bélanger) are now expressing the need for technical plans in order to build a collecting tank to treat the used water before releasing it back clean in its environment.



Sanitary equipment for better health. Backside, Sister Lucie Laquerre, one of the hospital's directors.

Price hike of food and commodities

We all remember the hunger demonstrations and even riots that spread amongst the Third World countries during Summer 2008. Pilate was not spared. Sharp rise in basic food prices like grains and rice have worsened the toll of malnutrition, mainly among children. Also rise of prices of fuel and medications has boosted operating costs at Hospital of Hope, delaying thus most projects designed to improve its health care services.



Tremendous damage caused by the hurricanes

Four hurricanes in less than a month

First Gustav, then Hanna, and then Ike followed by Faye. Those names will never be forgotten in Pilate, because of the damage they have caused to vegetation and gardens, the household's main food supply. At Hospital of Hope, the wards were full with sick people. A minimally reduced personnel was striving to supply food and medication to a growing number of needy patients. Working days stretched to 16 or 20 hours. Torrential rains washed out both roads, north and south. Food supplies were drying up. A drug and medicine shipment for Hospital of Hope was stuck in Port-au-Prince.

Some building projects after all Some cases for children

Erosion of arable soil, fractioning of the land and the sharp rise in food prices all contributed to an even more increasing number of cases of child malnutrition. As the pediatric wing was getting crowded, the hospital built a pavillion for young malnourished children. Hospitalized, these children are regularly cared for, fed and weighed. The parents receive basic dietetic information on food requirements for children to grow healthy. On another front, Hospital of Hope has finally put screens at the windows of the personnel's residence. To appreciate this, only need to recall the incidence of malaria in Haiti.



Sister Louisa Bélanger attending a sic child.