



Annual Report 2011

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

Visit postponed oncemore

Father Robert Charron, president of Byas Foundation, expected to go to Pilate, Haiti, in January 2011. But the cholera outbreak in October 2010 made it impossible for him to visit the hospital as planned. We can easily understand that the hospital staff could not, at that time, provide complete safety to its visitors. And we will remember January 2010. Father Charron's trip was cancelled that time because of the earthquake that caused great damage in the southern part of the country and all commercial flights to Port-au-Prince were cancelled for months afterwards. So this year Father Charron had to cancel a second trip in a row. Let's hope he has better luck in 2012.



Father Robert Charron,
president of Byas Foundation

Postal fund raising campaign



Year after year, our postal solicitation list is getting longer. As a result, the financial outcome improves accordingly. Thanks to Mr. Louis Paré, webmaster for the foundation and Mr. Alain Charron, treasurer, their constant implication allowed us to collect 13 865\$ with this year's annual postal fundraising campaign. Since the cholera outbreak in Haiti put a halt on new estate projects at the hospital for the time being, the money raised was mostly invested in the good operation of the hospital.

Financial Statement

The foundation recorded income totaling 22 404\$. Sponsors for certain activities (transportation of goods, printing of documents, etc.) allowed the foundation to limit its expenses at 389\$. That is 1.7% of its income. All the rest will be forwarded to Hospital of Hope. We also withdrew money from the emergency fund established by the foundation in 1998. This allowed us to remit a total of 37 500\$ to the hospital in 2011. The use of that money is detailed on the reverse page. See "Retrospect 2011; ... and we repair".

Medical exam tables

Thanks to the quality of the information diffused by the medias in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, the local doctors know the Byas Foundation and the work done at the Hospital of Hope in Pilate. This is why the foundation received three medical exam tables when some doctors renewed their equipment. The crated tables were shipped to Haiti in November (our picture).



The medical exam tables were crated by the Hydro-Quebec personnel and sent by Manitoulin Transport, free of charge.

These metal tables with drawers and storage space will replace the wooden ones. These new tables will allow the hospital personnel (staff and professionals) to be more efficient in their work. One can understand the wooden tables will be of some other use, either at the hospital or in another Haitian hospital that does not benefit from such support.

Walk of hope

The results of this year's Walk of Hope belied all superstitions related to the number 13. Matter of fact, the mild weather encouraged over sixty participants at that 13th edition of this walk on September 17. Financially the walk was also profitable with receipts of 6 560\$. That is 1 000\$ above target.

Ms Denise Caron was our guest speaker for the event. Her speech was entitled *One step for the advancement of women in Haiti*. Ms Caron volunteered 15 years with an international solidarity organization in Trois-Rivières, Quebec. That made her well aware of the situation at Kay Femn, a host organization for women victim of domestic violence in Port-au-Prince, and Reviv, a help center for young girls victim of sexual assault, also in Port-au-Prince.



Mrs. Denise Caron guest speaker at the walk of Hope.

A walk in southern France



Saint-Martin-de-Seignanx commune

A first walk in France to support Hospital of Hope was held on October 16th 2011. This activity was organized by The Friends of Sister Madeleine and Haiti and it took place in Saint-Martin de Seignanx, a commune on the north side of the Basque Country. The area is surrounded by many walking paths. Approximately 100 people participated at that event organized as a rally. The questions of the rally were about Haiti, Pilate and the Hospital of Hope. A write up in a local paper reported that the walkers were afterwards served a hearty snack. Obviously, this is France!

Retrospect 2011

Modernizing the hospital

A better performing laboratory

Following the installation of a new and more powerful generator in 2010, more improvements were possible. The electric circuits were also perfected to meet the quality requirements of new equipment performing more reliable blood tests in the laboratory. The hospital also acquired a new X-Ray machine to replace the one it had, a 1932 model given by a French doctor in the early 70s.



...and repairing

Following the earthquake, the hospital had to solidify its surrounding wall on the south side. And it finally repaired the cracks on the walls of the central pharmacy. In March, it renovated the windows of its early buildings. These works were mostly financed by the Byas Foundation.



About the organizational plan

Let's remember 2003, when Hospital of Hope was one of nine hospitals chosen to apply the World Program to fight AIDS in Haiti. This group of hospitals started organizing a network to improve different services and provide a better global support of patients with HIV/AIDS. Let's presume the 2012 annual report will have much to say about the impact of that network on public health in Haiti.

A year dominated by the cholera epidemic

Unknown in Haiti till October 2010, the cholera bacteria spread unfortunately very rapidly. The contamination was carried by Nepalese soldiers of the United-Nation mission to help stabilize Haiti (MINUSTAH). Precarious sanitary conditions in the country got worse after the January 2010. Let us recall that Pilate is located just north of the Artibonite Valley, the centre of the epidemic. The commune of 65 000 inhabitants was affected very quickly. The quick and massive international response was hosted in Pilate by Hospital of Hope which came in great support to the local and wider population.



The reaction

The hospital staff had to learn the intervention protocol quickly, numerous patients with cholera were arriving every day. Doctors without Borders came to establish a Cholera Treatment Center (CTC). The hospital fully participated by allocating nearly half its floor space (that is almost the full space built since 2003). The CTC also had the support and help of Oxfam, Catholic Relief Services, World Health Organization, Pharmacists without Borders, Unicef and Doctors of the World.

Two objectives

Firstly : save lives

The hospital urgently had to reduce the death rate of patients affected with cholera. From 7% for the first few months of the epidemic (as shown on the chart), the death rate decreased gradually in 2011 to almost nil by the year end, giving an average of 1.1% for the whole of 2011.

Number of patients affected by cholera at the hospital since the epidemic

Période	Beginning to Dec. 31 2010	Jan. To Dec. 2011	Total till Dec. 2011
# of cases	973	1840	2813
Deaths	68	20	88
# of deaths	7%	1,1%	3,1%
Average case/month	360	153	

Secondly : reduce the rate of propagation of the disease. This objective implies massively educating the population. A pediatrician from Quebec started the educational program assisted by a friend and by a nurse from Switzerland. Simultaneously, the Public Health Ministry of Haiti sent 8 persons to help at the Center. The extra staff helped train 72 persons with the mission to rapidly hydrate patients at home in the eight rural areas of Pilate. These participants gave information on basic hygiene and precautions that should be taken. These initiatives have been very successful as the chart reveals. Knowing the epidemic started in October 2010, the hospital admitted 360 patients a month till the end of the year. Then, the spreading of information gradually lowered the number of admissions of patients with cholera. It went from 300 in January to 101 in December, giving an average of 153 patients a month for the year. We therefore can expect a significant drop in the number of patients with cholera in Pilate in 2012, thanks to Hospital of Hope.

