



# Annual report 2019

Established to support the humanitarian efforts of the Hospital of Hope, Pilate  
Department North, Haiti  
[www.cegepat.qc.ca/fondationbyas](http://www.cegepat.qc.ca/fondationbyas)

## Difficult return to Pilate



To keep a close link with Hospital of Hope, Mr. Robert Charron, president of the foundation, went to Pilate in February 2017. This year he went back in February with Ms Lucie Dumont, director of the

Pontifical Charity of the diocese of Joliette, in Quebec.

This visit gave them a measure of how intense was the political dissatisfaction that spread in the country. They could see how the road blockades paralyzed education, work and commerce. All this resulted in food shortages, which caused hunger to spread in the population. Hospital of Hope suffers fuel shortages, giving operating problems. Then the blockades also generate absences at work, thus multiplying human resources management problems. Luckily, Sr. Louisa and her team's managing talent made it possible for the hospital to accomplish its mission.

## Financial re\$ult\$

The Byas Foundation revenues in 2019 totalised \$24,622. Since the Foundation administration is entirely volunteer, its expenditures remained under 4.65% of its revenues, totalling \$1,145, mainly for stationary, ink and postal stamps.

On the other hand, the Foundation sent only \$2,000 to the hospital at the beginning of the year. This was because the hospital already had \$9,000 from last year that was meant for its walls enlargement project that was delayed. And that could go on for another year. So the hospital applied \$6,000 of that money on hand to the surgical mission held in March and the rest of it went to the salary of the head nurse for the Cholera Treatment Centre. Thus the foundation now holds, in Canada, an annual financial reserve of \$9,000 that will be applied to finance the hospital expansion

when time comes. This financial reserve provides an interest rate that protects it against inflation.



## “Expand to help”

### A theme for the walk of hope

On September 21st the annual Walk of Hope was held in the Rouyn—Noranda botanic park. Twenty-five supporters could appreciate the late summer garden setting and contributed over \$4,000 to Hospital of Hope. That money will help finance the project meant to enlarge that hospital directed by Sister Louisa Bélanger from the community of Barraute in Abitibi, province of Quebec.



Before the walk, participants attended a presentation by Gérard Laquerre, secretary of Byas Foundation. On the theme “Expand to help better” he described how the people's growing confidence in Hospital of Hope partly explains its growing lack of space inside its surrounding walls. So the walls must be enlarged in order to expand some departments such as the emergency room.

Actually the hospital owns a wide enough lot outside its walls that can be enclosed inside enlarged security walls. Then patients will be served better and the doctor on service will have his quarters.

## Cholera defeated :

### the foundation congratulates the hospital

During the last six months of 2018, not a single case of cholera showed up at the hospital. This victory confirmed itself in 2019 with absolutely zero case during the year. Another victory for Hospital of Hope. **Congratulations!**

## Fund raising postal campaign

### First the planned projects...

This year again, the foundation paid the salary to the head nurse of the Cholera treatment Centre (CTC) at the hospital. Although no case showed up during the year, the CTC had to be ready in case of an emergency. So while the CTC remained empty, the head nurse brought help to other departments, namely the emergency, the paediatrics and the intern medicine service, according to where help was most needed. But in 2020 salary will become available for other important projects.

Then the foundation supported again the annual surgical mission jointly held by the French organisations *Édé Ayiti* and *Les Amis de Soeur Madeleine et d'Haïti*. To help this initiative to set another record (see Retrospect 2019) the foundation paid \$120 per surgery of 50 patients, adding up to \$6,000.

Finally, since 2018, the foundation accumulates \$9,000 a year in order to help finance the hospital enlargement project. This project could be achieved in 2020 or the following year, depending on the coming social and political context in Haiti.

### Then the postal campaign

Thanks to the constant implication of Mr. Alain Charron, the treasurer, the 2019 campaign totalled \$20,400. To that amount was added a planned donation of over \$3,000 and some donations through the Internet.

# Retrospect 2019

## Another rally in southern France



*Édé Ayiti*, a charity of Saint-Martin-de-Seignanx, just North of the Basque country in France, cooperates with *Les Amis de Soeur Madeleine et d’Haïti* in helping to sustain Hospital of Hope. It held, on October 6, its ninth pedestrian rally. It registered eighty-nine participants, including ten kids showing a generational transmission of interest for international development. The activity, on the theme of “nature and pedestrian trails”, brought in € 2,041 that will be added to the 2020 budget for the surgical mission planned to be held in March next year.

## Reconnect the running water

Mr. François-Xavier Ramade, from Toulouse in France, came to Pilate each year since 2012 to build an aqueduct to supply drinking running water to Hospital of Hope and to fountains for the people in the community of Pilate. In early 2018 he thought and trained two young Pilate citizens that can now supervise and assure maintenance and occasional repairs of the aqueduct. So when a breach did happen later that year, the young men fortunately managed to repair the aqueduct by April 2019, bringing back drinking water to the Hospital.

## Then a lightning struck

In July, came a violent storm and lightning struck the hospital central electric board supplied by solar panels. So the generator was then the only power for the light in the hospital. But then again, the roadblocks made it difficult and costly to buy fuel. Luckily a young man from Pilate had the right training and was able to get the



replacement parts to fix the solar panels. Since it is obviously important to protect the hospital’s electrical system, a team of “Electricians Without Border” came to the hospital to complete a first evaluation of the system.

## Chaos in Haïti

In 2018, following the end of grants on fuel, political protests generalized against the Haitian government, leading to mass protests throughout the country. The United Nations Mission for Stability in Haiti came to an end in 2017 and was replaced by the UN Mission for Justice in Haiti. Then that Mission ended in October 2019, to be followed by the Integrated Bureau of United Nations in Haiti, an organization meant only to advise the Haitian government.



The country is now left to itself and without structures capable of keeping social order. Consequently, the people’s dissatisfaction accumulated to strikes, roadblocks and repeated violent demonstrations. All this slowed down the economy, brought up prices that, in turn, increase poverty that resulted in spreading malnutrition. This partly explains an increase in the hospital’s admissions. And, for the hospital, fuel is scarce and its price tripled, crushing operating time for the laboratory and facilities at the staff’s residence.

## The surgical mission



Since 2018 the social and political context in Haiti inspired safety. But since the news given by Hospital of Hope in February 2019 stated a calm atmosphere in the valley of Pilate, the surgical mission team, organized by *Édé Ayiti* (in Southern France) achieved its mission as planned, from March

8th to 25th. The team had two surgeons, Dr. Michel Dombritz and Dr. Tania Labbes who is also gynaecologist, two anaesthetists, Pierrette Caussade and Didier Lorelle, and a post-surgery nurse, Cécile Devrière. A retired Air France worker also teamed up with them.

On the first day, an electrical problem came out but the hospital electrician soon fixed it. Fortunately that did not stop the team from setting a record of 148 surgeries of which 128 were under general anaesthetics. Among the surgeries were two caesarean births, a peritonitis found in extremis, many fibroses, some hydrosols and hernias.

The hospital asks the patient a contribution ranging between \$15 and \$20 (from 1,200 to 1,600 Haitian gourds) according to the case. The financial contributions of Byas Foundation (\$6,000 CA) and the organisation *Édé Ayiti* (€ 8,300 or \$12,000 CA) covers inherent costs of the surgeries, namely hiring two Haitian nurses and some personnel to wash and sterilize the surgical instruments and clothing. That money also covers the fuel for the generators that run non stop during the whole mission. The surgical team’s luggage included analgesic products, surgical threads, gloves and masks supplied by private and public establishments in Bayonne, showing a strong solidarity of that part of Southern France with Haiti. Moreover the team brings toys for the children while they are waiting for their surgery and it paid € 1,044 for their stay and meals at the hospital. On top of this the team also gave the hospital € 1,000 to supply milk for the children.

## A family doctor

Since the month of July, a family doctor comes every Monday to Hospital of Hope to examine assigned patients. The hospital appreciates the quality of his work and his particular training that abeles him to use the scanner and the foetal monitor (purchased by the hospital in 2012), thus offering pregnant women a complete examination. The hospital is trying to convince that doctor to join the medical team on a permanent basis.