

HAITI...

This all began with a story on NPR one Saturday morning in March 2010. That January, nearly 250,000 people died in the earthquake which had devastated Port Au Prince. Dr. Patrick Jeudy



2010—Temporary clinic

was being interviewed as he cared for patients in the make shift tent that would serve as his

clinic for months to come.

I made contact with Patrick and he arrived in my home in May for a long weekend of talking and planning for the future.

His original clinic, Clini Med I, had been damaged but not destroyed and after the third floor was removed it was deemed 'safe enough'. Eight of us went over that summer to help with getting it ready for use once again.



Earthquake Devastation



**Clini Med I
as it is
today**

We had also begun fund raising and by June 2011 had raised enough money to begin laying the foundation for a new two-story 14-bed surgical clinic.



After the earthquake tens of thousands of Haitians lived in tent cities for 6 years before the government began resettling them.

While there were some 'real' tents, the majority lived in make-shift quarters made of tarps draped over poles.



Throughout it all, the Haitian people displayed a resilience and quiet grace that was amazing and humbling. This little boy captured my heart.



Dr. Patrick Jeudy (tan shirt) & staff. Dr. Jeudy is a Haitian-born and trained surgeon. He owns and administers Clini Meds I & II.



Clini Med II

**Opened
January
2013.**

**First
patient:
a new born
baby!**

HAITI CONTINUED . . .

People ask how did we do it? How did we raise enough money to build a brand new surgical clinic that Patrick said has been described as the best and most modern clinic in all of Haiti?

I don't know. All I can say is that the Universe (or God if that pleases you more) was kind and generous. People from across the country sent money. One of the women involved in this project who lives in New York filled her barn with donated hospital beds and other 'stuff' that would be used in both clinics. Her church became our staging area and housed a 40' shipping container in their parking lot for nearly six months. Teams of contractors donated their time and traveled to Port Au Prince to work on the new clinic. I went back in the summer of 2012 to help paint the interior of the new clinic while the men laid up the new tile. And, three years after the earthquake Clini Med II opened its doors to birth a new baby.

Today, Clini Med I is used as Patrick's out-patient clinic and his pharmacy and a dentist is renting space on the second floor. Clini Med II operates as a surgical center and is open 24/7 with a rotating staff of doctors and nurses.

And yet. . . they do wonderful work with next to nothing. The surgical gowns and bed linens are hand washed in a basin out back and dried on a clothes line. Electricity is so uncertain throughout the country that during operations a generator has to be running 'just in case'. The generator itself is very old and is being nursed along. In the near future we will need to replace it at an estimated cost of \$10,000–\$15,000. Diagnostic equipment that we expect to see in every doctor's office is not available. Even decent desks and filing cabinets are not to be had.

This is where ***Project Cure*** comes in and the urgent need to raise \$20,000–\$25,000. Many of you are aware that Project Cure opened a warehouse in the Dansko building in Jennersville a few years ago. I became acquainted with the organization when we were beginning the process of building the new clinic. At that time we were not in a financial

position to seek their help. The mission of Project Cure is to acquire donations of every type of medical equipment and supplies imaginable from hospitals across the country as they upgrade their equipment. Project Cure picks up the things, the hospitals get a tax write-off, and nothing goes to a landfill. . . it goes to struggling medical clinics throughout the Third World. Before goods get shipped, an appraisal team from Project Cure visits the clinic or hospital to evaluate the needs and comes up with a list of recommended items. A team visited with Patrick over Memorial Weekend and a recommended list has been drawn up.

Before the goods can be pulled from their warehouses (Project Cure has six across the country) the \$20,000 shipping cost has to be guaranteed (paid). The goal is to have the funds raised by the end of September so the process of gathering the items can be begin and the container scheduled for shipment. We are hoping to actually raise closer to \$25,000 because the amount of import tax that will have to be paid is always somewhat of a case of Russian roulette. It all depends on who is working the port in Port Au Prince that day and how much he decides he wants.

So, why should you donate? I imagine that you've never been to Haiti. You do not know Patrick and his wife Lise. And yet, have you ever wanted to make a difference, a real difference, a life-and-death difference in the world? This is your opportunity. This is about as close as many of us will ever come to saving lives. Literally, really, saving lives. Every penny raised will go to this project. Not one penny to 'overhead' or someone's salary. Every penny to shipping costs.

We are not asking for hundreds of dollars or even a hundred dollars from anyone. If everyone gave \$10 or \$20 and if everyone asked their friends and neighbors to also give a little, lives would be saved. No kidding.

Donations earmarked for Haiti:

- A) Can be given to Jenny Loustau, Treasurer
- B) Mailed to West Grove Meeting at PO Box 7, West Grove, PA 19390.
- C) Donated through our ***Go Fund Me*** site using this link: <https://www.gofundme.com/medical-support-for-clini-medhaiti>