



# NOVA

HOPE for HAITI, Inc.

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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## OUR MISSION

To bring urgently needed humanitarian aid in the form of healthcare to the impoverished people of the Republic of Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere.

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## 7th Annual Casino Night – March 3, 2017

**For the seventh year in a row, NOVA hosted its annual Casino Night and once again, everyone was a winner!**

Over 280 of our closest friends, family and new faces joined us to roll the dice, spin the wheel and watch the dealers bust as we raised close to \$50,000 of our annual budget of \$140,000 dollars to run NOVA's clinic for an entire year.

Our tireless committee solicited enough donations for over 100 tricky tray baskets, 35 silent auction items and valuable grand prizes. Our 50/50 paid the winner over \$4,200! So many of our guests went home smiling and looking forward to next year.

We are so grateful to our supporters who generously attended our event. Casino Night is our single largest fundraiser throughout the year to support our clinic, which treats over 7,000 patients per year along with our volunteer medical missions. It's not too early to save the date – March 2, 2018 – for NOVA's next Casino Night! ●



## FROM THE PRESIDENT – JOE NUZZI

*Dear Volunteers, Donors and Friends of NOVA Hope for Haiti,*

I recently returned from Haiti with an amazing team of volunteers, almost all of whom are also members of NOVA's board of directors, and it was an incredible week. What a difference six months can make! I was last in Haiti with our October medical mission only a few weeks after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. To say things were bleak then would be an understatement.

I hope you read the other articles in this newsletter which detail some of the great work NOVA has been doing since the hurricane. We are making a difference. Houses are being rebuilt and repaired, farms are being replanted, and crops are growing. There is still so much more to do, but there is also a palpable sense of hope and resiliency in the people. They are also extremely appreciative of the assistance NOVA provided above and beyond our normal medical outreach in the aftermath of this tragic storm.

As you all know, NOVA provides medical care to the people of the area through our clinics in Cavaillon and Boileau five days per week year-round. We provide primary medical care to everyone from infants to the elderly; we have a fully functional lab and a well-stocked pharmacy.



One of over 15,000 plantain trees NOVA sponsored after Hurricane Matthew.

More than just a doctor's office, NOVA has grown to become an integral part of the community. In addition to providing medical care, neighborhood kids have a place to kick a soccer ball around on NOVA's 13 acres or learn how to play volleyball. At least once a month, NOVA is the local cinema for kids because we show movies on the porch of our clinic. These are the only movies that most of them ever see. •



Local children enjoy a movie night at NOVA.

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## MAY 2017 MAINTENANCE MISSION

NOVA sent a team of six volunteers to our clinic to check up on our building and property, to meet with our staff and to follow-up on our Hurricane Matthew relief efforts.



Clockwise from top left:

NOVA's team in Dory setting up for our mobile mission.

Meeting with the local women's agriculture cooperative group "KAMAK" to learn how NOVA can work with them to develop our property.

Inspecting our well after Hurricane Matthew.



We spent our week working with our staff, visiting the first phase of homes NOVA rebuilt with our Hurricane Relief fund, and meeting with the Mayor of Cavaillon to discuss additional ways we can provide help following the hurricane. We conducted a mobile medical clinic with our staff and we performed general maintenance in our clinic and residence.

These oversight missions are crucial to the continued success of our overall mission. We were able to observe the day-to-day operations of both our Martineau and Boileau locations. We inventoried both the pharmacy and residence. We went through every room in our building identifying repairs and items that need to be purchased/replaced.

We spent a great deal of time on our 12 acres of property and talked with the local agriculture people to develop plans to plant fruit trees and vegetables. We are committed to utilizing our land to its fullest potential.

NOVA's primary mission is to provide primary medical care to everyone, infants to the elderly, in the community of Cavaillon. Our ability to improve the overall health and well-being of the community is greatly enhanced because of the building and the property NOVA owns and will continue to develop. ●

# HURRICANE MATTHEW RELIEF UPDATE

Our May 2017 mission team spent a significant portion of the week inspecting the progress of the relief efforts that NOVA sponsored.

Our team visited seven out of the eight homes that NOVA paid to repair or rebuild after the hurricane. It took almost a full day, walking over seven miles, to visit these homes because many of them are only accessible by foot paths. The eighth home was too far to visit but has also been completed. These are all simple dwellings with no electricity or running water, but every family needs solid walls and a roof to keep them dry in the rain.

A total of 58 people live in the eight homes we rebuilt. We oversaw these projects from beginning to end, purchasing the materials needed, hiring carpenters to do the work, and inspecting to make sure the homes were repaired correctly and completely. We are happy to report to our donors that their donations after the hurricane have had a permanent impact on the lives of these people in our community in Haiti.



NOVA clinic before repair efforts



After roof, front wall and gate were repaired



NOVA also sponsored a few agricultural rehabilitation programs that the Mayor of Cavaillon, Ernst Ais, organized and we were able to visit some of those programs.

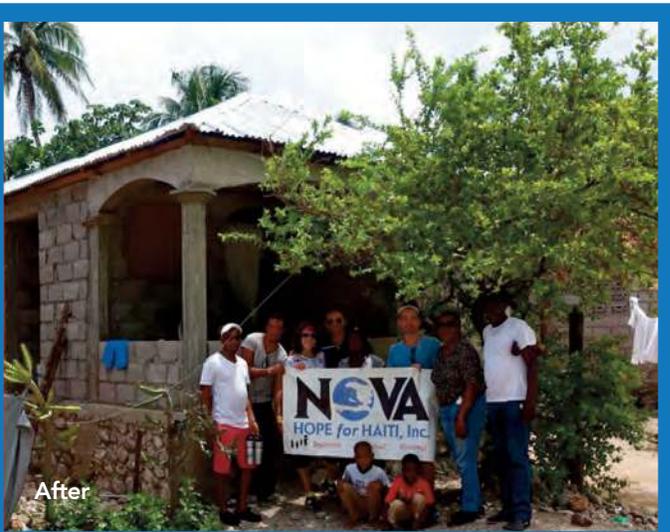
Cavaillon is a farming community where the hurricane wiped out the rice crop and beans, and killed many, many fruit bearing trees. The community lost 20% of its livestock. Food security was the mayor's top priority and he asked NOVA to help get the farms working again. With the money NOVA provided, the mayor purchased rice and beans to replant and distributed over 15,000 plantain tree bulbs directly to farmers.

It was important to verify that our donors' money is being used effectively to help Cavaillon recover in a

**Right: Thousands of plantain tree bulbs purchased with funds provided by NOVA.**

sustainable way after the devastating hurricane.

The recovery is not yet over. Hurricane Matthew dealt a serious blow to the people of southern Haiti and their fragile economy. NOVA will continue to help where we can while staying focused on our primary mission, which is to provide primary medical care to our community. ●



## INTERVIEW WITH A VOLUNTEER – JOCELYNE LAMOUR



Jocelyne Lamour, left, translates for a 90-year-old woman at the Dory Mobile Mission.

for better opportunities. After earning a BS degree in clinical chemistry from the college of Staten Island, CUNY, I had a successful career as a Laboratory Technologist and retired as the Chief Technologist of the special chemistry lab at NY Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

*Q: How did you first come to learn about Nova, and what inspired you to get involved?*

A: When I became aware of the conditions of the Haitian people, I started to be involved in different organizations in NY and even got a certificate in Non-Governmental Organizations from NYU School of Continuing Education.

On a summer afternoon, I attended an information session of *Medecins Sans Frontieres* or Doctors Without Borders, where I met a woman who told me about NOVA. She was like an angel. She gave me all the information about Presentation Church and its Haiti medical mission.

*Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself?*

A: I was born and raised in Port au Prince, Haiti, but my parents were originally from Jacmel, a city in the South-East.

*Q: What brought you here to the U.S.?*

A: I came to the U.S. in the early 70s to further my education and

She never came back for meetings and when I went to my first meeting I didn't know anybody. I introduced myself and let them know that I wanted to be a translator. The first people I met were Joe Nuzzi, Colette McDermott, Bobbi Pearson, Charles Kordula and Diane Montourri.

Since I was living in Rockland County it was easy for me to attend the meetings in New Jersey.

As soon as I joined the group I felt good, because I was looking for an organization going to the field where I can make an impact.

*Q: How many missions have you been on?*

A: I have been to about 18 or 19 missions

*Q: What volunteer role(s) have you taken on?*

A: Besides working as a translator, I oversee the lab. Since Nova built a water-well and provides water to the community, I have been testing the water periodically for contamination.

*Q: What types of illnesses or issues do you find yourself doing translations on most frequently?*

A: I am usually assigned to a primary care provider (PCP) and the most common illnesses are hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, UTI etc

*Q: What would you say to others who are thinking about getting involved as Nova volunteer?*

A: It has been a rewarding experience for me because I make an impact in the lives of those poor and marginalized Haitians. ●

### DOMUS GARAGE SALE 2017

Once again, our friends Luisa and Nikki from DOMUS generously donated all of the proceeds from their annual NYC block-wide garage sale to NOVA. On Saturday June 3rd, Luisa, Nikki along with volunteers from NOVA spent the day selling brand new items, all donated by friends of DOMUS, and raised over \$5,500! We are so grateful for the friendship and support of these two wonderful women.



## CREOLE CORNER

### What exactly is Creole (Kreyòl)?

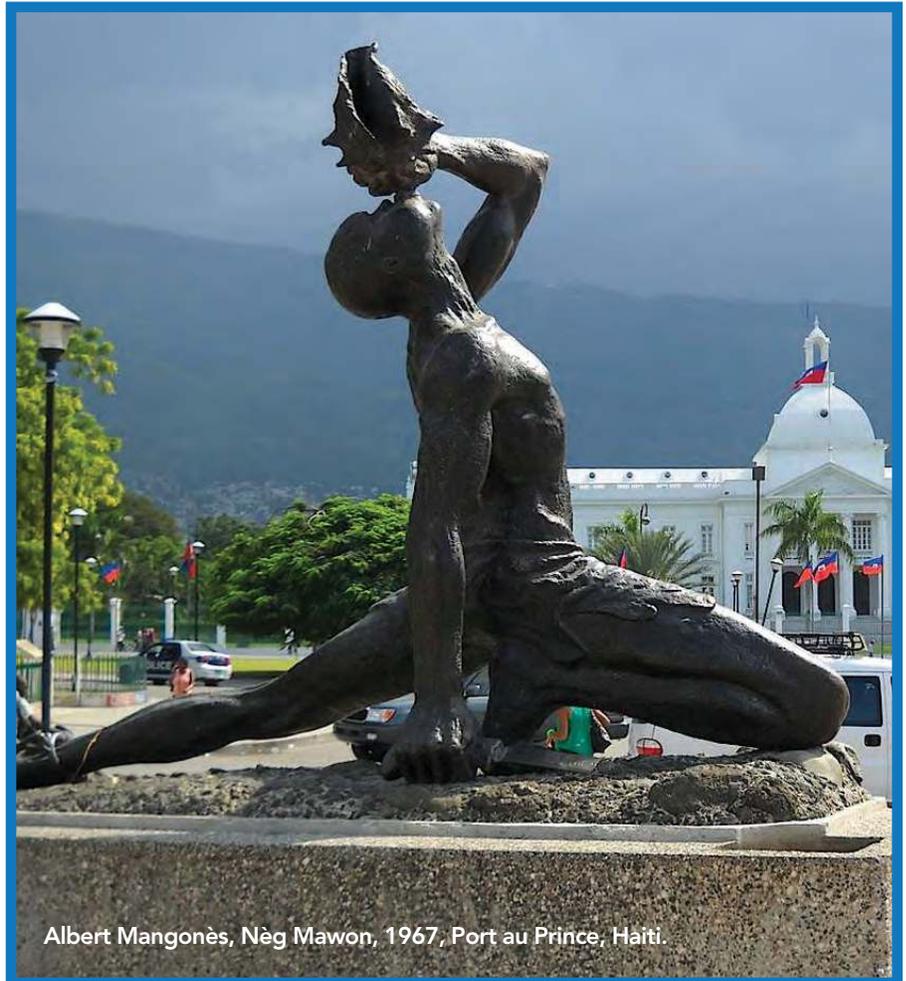
Creole is one of Haiti's two official languages – the other is French. Creole consists of elements of French, Spanish, African, and Native American roots.

How and why is this Haiti's language?  
We need to start in 1492...

Located in the Caribbean about 700 miles southeast of Miami, Haiti occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola, with the Dominican Republic in the eastern two-thirds. Haiti is approximately the size of the state of Maryland. On December 6, 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on the island of Hispaniola and found a kingdom ruled by a cacique, or Taino Indian chief.

The native Taino/Arawak people lived very simple lives of fishing and farming. After befriending the Taino/Arawak leaders and receiving some gifts of gold, the Spanish assumed that Hispaniola was full of gold. It soon became clear that there wasn't much gold on Hispaniola, and the Spanish used the land as a farming region to provide food for the conquistadors who were exploring and conquering peoples in the rest of the Caribbean. In the process, the Taino/Arawak were virtually enslaved.

The French arrived in the seventeenth century to continue European exploration and exploitation in the Western Hemisphere and continued to import slave labor to produce raw goods for international commerce. Considered



Albert Mangonès, Nèg Mawon, 1967, Port au Prince, Haiti.

France's richest colony in the eighteenth century, Haiti was known as "the pearl of the Antilles." Within 100 years of colonial rule, the ratio of slave to free population was a dangerous 10-1, with approximately 500,000 slaves and 50,000 free people.

Resisting their exploitation, Haitians revolted against the French from 1791-1804 and succeeded in reclaiming the country. This was the only successful slave revolt in history. When Haitians took their independence in 1804, they changed their colonial

name from Saint Domingue (the name given by the French) to its Taino name of Haiti, or Ayiti in Kreyòl.

The 2010 earthquake is believed to be the worst disaster in Haiti's history and killed an estimated 300,000 people, injured over 200,000, and left over 1.5 million homeless. Although its history is built on resistance, revolt, and instability, Haiti is resilient. Despite slavery, multiple coups, various occupations, and militarization, Haiti continuously fights to remain strong. ●

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## MOBILE MISSION

**NOVA not only provides medical care at our clinics in Martineau and Boileau, we also bring “Mobile Medical Clinics” to people living in villages too far to travel to our permanent clinics.**

During each volunteer medical mission and for the first time during our recent maintenance mission, we conduct at least one of these important one-day journeys expanding the reach of our services.

Traveling to these locations is difficult. It generally takes over an hour by jeep traveling over rocky dirt roads and over (sometimes through) rivers. On these missions, we bring doctors, nurses, a pharmacist and a lab technician directly to the people. We set up a temporary clinic, complete with a pharmacy and an area to conduct lab tests.

Prior to our arrival, a certain number of tickets are distributed to ensure that we treat a manageable number of patients. It would be impossible to see everyone in a town in one day. When we arrive, the patients are already in line and patiently wait for their turn to see a doctor.



These mobile missions are very rewarding for our team since these people can't get to our clinic throughout the year like the local residents in Cavaillon.

Below are photos from mobile missions conducted in October 2016 (immediately following Hurricane Matthew) and May 2017. ●



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## NOVA UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017: *Cocktails for a Cause* at Ogilvy and Mather, NY

Oct. 22 – 29, 2017: Mission #22

April 22 – 30, 2018: Mission #23