

SPRING 2019

NOVA NOW

A NEWSLETTER OF
NOVA HOPE
FOR HAITI, INC.

WWW.NOVAHOPE.ORG

MEET DR. DANIEL

STAFF
PHYSICIAN

PAGE 2

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Photo by Jason Syptak



INTERVIEW WITH **DOCTOR DANIEL** STAFF PHYSICIAN

NOVA: Where were you born?

Dr. Daniel: I am from Port au Prince which is the capital city of Haiti. I was born on 22nd October, 1985.

NOVA: Tell us about your family.

Dr. Daniel: I am from a Christian family of five children and my father was a pastor. I moved to Les Cayes with my wife and my baby boy. I am now closer to the NOVA clinic.

NOVA: Why did you become a doctor?

Dr. Daniel: I have always believed that being a doctor is part of my destiny. When I was a baby, my parents named me Daniel and my father's name is Elisee (French word for Elisha the healer and wonder-worker prophet). My father always said if I pray with strong faith for the sick, they will be healed so I grew up thinking that I must become a good doctor and take care of sick people.

NOVA: How did you first hear about NOVA?

Dr. Daniel: Two friends from my medical school sent the NOVA job description to me saying, "You are the person who would fit best in the required profile described for that position." I must say I also liked the description because

as I have many good experiences working with volunteer missionaries.

NOVA: Is there a particular patient story that impacted you?

Dr. Daniel: I saw a boy of four years old who had shortness of breath with very bad cough. The mother of the boy was very scared. I was not very sure of the diagnosis but I remembered a teaching of one of NOVA volunteer doctors and then I realized that was asthma. Fortunately, we had the nebulizer available at our clinic we used on the boy and after he started to breath normally the mother was very happy.

NOVA: What are your goals for NOVA's clinic that you would like to help achieve?

Dr. Daniel: I truly like working with NOVA. People of NOVA are compassionate, organized, and they are always trying to improve things every day. My goals are to help the clinic to grow and become even more organized so that we can see more patients and provide a better quality of health care. I want to work as a team with the rest of the staff so that all the new projects of NOVA for the clinic can be a reality. My dream is that NOVA can be a reference regarding health care in the south of Haiti. ■



Photo by Nick Glimenakis



Photo by Nick Glimenakis

NOVA'S CLINIC AT BOILEAU

NOVA Hope for Haiti has one medical staff that divides its time between two clinics located in the town of Cavaillon. NOVA built and owns the Martineau clinic building and the 13-plus acres it is located on. The Boileau clinic, located about five miles from Martineau, is part of a school complex supported by *Haitian Pilgrims*, a non-profit organization from Texas. Haitian Pilgrims contributes to the cost of our staff and medication at Boileau.

Operating from these two locations allows NOVA to expand the impact of our medical care. Many of the patients who get treated at Boileau would not be able to travel to Martineau and vice versa. Together the two clinics serve a population of 50,000 people.

Recently, the Haitian Government provided the Boileau Clinic with a new, solar powered refrigerator which is necessary for certain medications and vaccines immunizations. ■





Photo by Nick Glimenakis

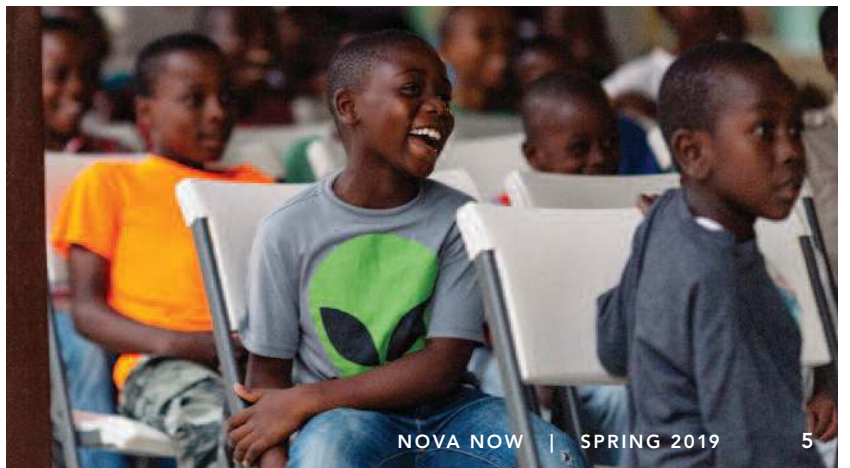
JANUARY 2019 OVERSIGHT MISSION

Every year members of NOVA's executive board and other non-medical volunteers spend a week at NOVA's clinic to observe the work the staff (medical and non-medical), to confirm that the physical building and property are being properly maintained and identify improvements or new projects



During this mission, we spent time documenting patient flow and procedures from intake through departure. Patient documentation was also examined and recommendations were made to improve both the patient processing as well as documentation and reporting. As we grow, we're working to make sure things are done more efficiently to save resources and make things better for our community.

In addition to our movie nights and art and crafts parties, NOVA hosted its first Activity Field Day for local children. Over 100 children participated in a variety of outdoor activities organized by our volunteers. Adults and children alike enjoyed hours of soccer, volleyball, and Duck, Duck, Goose! ■



Photos by Nick Glimenakis



“Once I set foot in the NOVA clinic and worked with the Haitian staff and patients, I knew there was no turning back from this life-changing experience.”

From the minute I met the NOVA volunteers and leadership during orientation, I was immediately impressed with their devotion to the organization and the residents of Cavaillon, Haiti. Once I set foot in the NOVA clinic and worked with the Haitian staff and patients, I knew there was no turning back from this life-changing experience.

After my second mission trip in the Fall of 2018, I saw my experience through a different lens. I was no longer shocked and overwhelmed by what I experienced in Haiti. Instead, I saw opportunities. NOVA clearly had an impact on the local community and had become a vital resource for their citizens’ health and well-being. I started attending executive level NOVA meetings and began to make suggestions for improvements on the medical side. NOVA had been searching for a dedicated Medical Director and asked if I would consider taking on that role. After careful consideration, I accepted the position and have been working diligently ever since to bring a higher level of medical care to NOVA. My first objective was to prioritize and choose projects which would bring high medical value and realistically get accomplished and implemented. I also wanted to broaden our reach to other Non-Governmental Organizations in southern Haiti so we could collaborate and strengthen our programs through joint efforts.

With those objectives in mind, I worked with NOVA to start teleconferences with medical professionals from the U.S. Our first lectures were about childhood fever seizures

INTRODUCING NOVA’S NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR **DR. JENNY HENKIND**

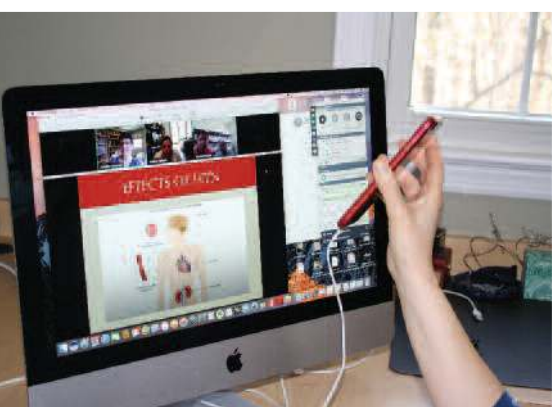
“I WAS INTRODUCED TO NOVA HOPE FOR HAITI over ten years ago by long-time volunteer Clare Deblasio. I was always interested in medical missionary work but the time was not right between my young family and full-time job at Stamford Pediatric Associates. Fortunately, I kept in touch with Clare and, in October 2017, I went on my first medical mission.

REMOTE TRAINING

During NOVA's January non-medical oversight mission, we brought a laptop and digital projector to establish remote training capability between our American-based doctors and our Haitian staff. Continuing education for medical providers in Haiti is not available the way it is for American doctors, so it is very important to help our local doctors continue to expand and update their medical knowledge.

In February, Dr. Jenny Henkind, our new Medical Director, conducted our first live teleconference training session on pediatric seizures. Although it was intended primarily for our two local doctors, the entire medical staff attended and participated in the discussion and Q&A session. It was a HUGE success and our entire staff was engaged and extremely grateful for the effort Dr. Jenny went through to make this possible.

Another benefit of this program is it allows NOVA to invite specialty providers who may not be able to actually go on a NOVA mission, but can now help and deliver the information remotely. We will also create hardcopy manuals of the presentations for our staff so they can use them as reference. ■



and hypertension. I formed a medical committee with other volunteers and we have revised the formulary and pharmacy inventory. This will provide improved care and save precious funds for NOVA. My ongoing 'big' wish-list project is to implement electronic records at the clinics. The value of Electronic Health Records (EHR) cannot be understated. With EHR we can perform data analysis on populations and specific conditions and thus more effectively battle chronic diseases. It will also allow us to follow individual patients in a granular fashion to tailor their individual treatment plans. Thus, we are working diligently to make this a reality. Ambitious, yes, but then again, NOVA has been built on ambition, dreams, hard work and persistence. I am so honored to be part of this incredible organization and look forward to elevating NOVA to the next level of medical care for our patients." ■

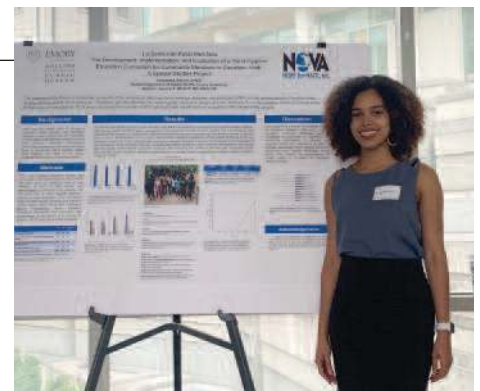
SUMMER INTERN PROJECT

Dorie Josma and **Cassandra Savino** recently graduated from Emory University with master's degrees in Public Health. Last summer, they spent eight weeks living at NOVA's clinic working on their graduate thesis. They implemented three week-long interactive projects on hand hygiene and nutritional health. These activities were tailored for community members ages 18–35. During this time, they distributed hygiene kits from donors, planted trees with a grassroots organization in Cavaillon which focuses on reforestation, and using used theater, art, videos, and campaigns to promote positive health practices.

The goal of this project was to create sustainable education programs that involve training and certifying community members to educate their peers in the aforementioned topics. To this end, Dorie and Cassandra trained participants who successfully completed the week-long course to lead hand hygiene and nutrition education program for younger community members.

NOVA is very grateful to Cassandra and Dorie for helping to improve the overall health of our community.

For more information about summer internships for college and graduate students, please contact Jan Mansley at jan.mansley@novahope.org. ■



NOVA's Recent Events



Over the past six months, NOVA has held several fundraising events to help finance our annual operating budget of approximately \$150,000. Last September, on a beautiful evening, NYC friends of NOVA enjoyed Haitian Happy Hour on the rooftop generously donated by Ogilvy and Mather. In addition to Haitian food and drink, attendees were entertained by Taneal Jochaim, a Haitian comedian featured on HBO.

Our Second Annual Appeal included a generous match by several board members and raised almost \$30,000!

In March, our 9th Annual Casino Night was sold out with 300 attendees celebrating Mardi Gras, playing casino games, and winning fabulous prizes. Our 50/50 raffle raised over \$5,000 – a new record. NOVA raised approximately one-third of our annual operating budget in one night.

NOVA is tremendously grateful for the generosity of our friends, family, and local businesses who help us continue to provide medical care to the people we serve. ■

SAVE THE DATE!

Don't miss out on next year's Casino Night on Friday, March 6, 2020!



UPCOMING EVENTS

HAITIAN HAPPY HOUR – Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019, at Ogilvy and Mather, NY
FALL MEDICAL MISSION – October 20 – 27, 2019
CASINO NIGHT – Friday, March 6, 2020



NOVA
HOPE for HAITI, Inc.

www.novahope.org

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.

Special thanks to Symmetre Design Group and Direct Marketing Design for the design, publication and distribution of this newsletter. Photo contributions courtesy of Nick Glimenakis (www.nickglimenakis.com) and Jason Syptak. Used by permission. All rights reserved.