

FALL 2020

NOVA NOW

A NEWSLETTER OF
NOVA HOPE
FOR HAITI, INC.

WWW.NOVAHOPE.ORG

COVID-19

NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic came as a shock to all of us in early 2020. It caused unique challenges for our organization, however, we quickly and effectively adapted in order to continue to provide vital services to our patients. Initially, our main concern was for the safety of our staff and patients.



Among the responses we made were securing personal protective equipment (PPE); putting protocols in place to screen staff and patients for signs of illness; and working with our staff to prevent complete closure in the event of an illness. Our physical plant was modified to allow for recommended safety and distancing. PPE was one of our greatest challenges. Protocols were put into place which safely and effectively extended the life of each item, which in turn, preserved our supplies. NOVA temporarily closed one of the clinic locations to allow implementation of safety protocols splitting the staff into two cohorts which had never previously worked together. Both clinics are now fully operational while continuing safety protocols.

Although COVID-19 has been extremely challenging to deal with, there have been some silver linings that have emerged. During the pandemic, NOVA leadership became part of an active network of health-related non-governmental organizations (NGO) who served all of Haiti. Our medical director attended twice-weekly webinars hosted by Yale University with other reliable

medical experts in order to disseminate the most current and valuable COVID-19 information available.

Additionally, NOVA board members and the medical director attended twice-weekly calls for nearly six months which shared the latest medical knowledge about COVID-19; fostered cooperation to secure much needed supplies; and, most of all, developed long-lasting relationships which will strengthen all of our organizations. We discovered that each NGO has unique abilities, and partnering on best practices and special projects has improved all of our organizations' abilities to care for our Haitian communities.

COVID-19 will continue to challenge our organization for a long time to come; but, having successfully navigated the first wave, we are confident we will be able to manage whatever comes in the future. ■



TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CASINO NIGHT 2020



It seems like years ago but only eight short months ago over 275 people gathered together to celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of our permanent clinic in Cavaillon. Dr. Daniel joined us from Haiti and everyone enjoyed friendship, casino games and amazing prizes while raising over \$40,000 to help NOVA continue to provide medical care in Haiti.

We are forever grateful to our wonderful sponsors and donors who help make this a sell-out event every year.



Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, we are unfortunately skipping our Casino Night for one year. We hope you will continue to keep in touch with NOVA and help us to provide the desperately needed healthcare to our community of Cavaillon.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



NOVA is very excited to introduce you to **Dr. Elmidé Nazaire**. Dr. Nazaire joins us with over 11 years of primary care experience and will take on the role of Medical Clinic Administrator. Dr. Nazaire studied in Cuba and has practiced general medicine and has experience with pediatrics and obstetrics. She has worked

closely with MSPP (the Haitian health ministry) and with Community Health Workers to initiate community health programs. Dr. Nazaire lives in Les Cayes with her husband and two children. She enjoys reading, going to the beach and the theater in her spare time.

Also joining NOVA's staff as facilities manager is **Rochel Noel**.

Mr. Noel has been working with NOVA since 2017 as a translator during volunteer missions as well as assisting Board Member Solanges Toussaint in Port au Prince with administrative work. He recently moved to Cavaillon and is living at NOVA's residence, taking care of all non-medical operations of our clinic, including overseeing maintenance and security, managing facilities issues and organizing missionary team visits. Mr. Rochel is invaluable to NOVA making sure all of NOVA's non-medical matters are addressed and resolved. ■



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.

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