

A COMMITMENT THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN



Joseph Nuzzi
President
NOVA Hope for Haiti

Dear Friends of NOVA,

I want to start by saying, we are NOT giving up!

The recent news from Haiti is particularly sad and tragic.

In this newsletter you will read about the impact of the powerful earthquake that struck southern Haiti this past August, and the damage it inflicted on NOVA's buildings, staff, and operations. You will also read about our response and how we are planning to move NOVA forward despite these difficult challenges.

I am sure you are painfully aware of the kidnapping of 16 Americans and one Canadian citizen by armed gangs in Port au Prince. As of this writing, this awful situation is still unresolved, although two hostages have recently been released. The political situation is so bad that there is effectively no functioning national government and violent gangs go almost completely unchecked.

With the violence, the poverty, and the recent natural disasters there is a strong temptation to despair.

Instead of giving up, however, the Executive Committee has been working even harder to make NOVA stronger. Hope is part of our name and it is part of who we are at NOVA Hope for Haiti. We have hope for the kids and adults who come to our clinic. We have hope for the communities we serve, and we have hope for Haiti itself. But, I must be honest with all of you – our supporters and volunteers – *the road is not easy right now.*

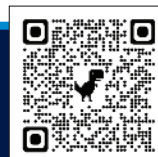
Although we will have to rebuild our main building in Cavaillon, a structure has never been the strength of NOVA. Our real foundation is our volunteers, our friends who financially support our mission, and our staff who, through all of these challenges, have continued to show up at work to provide medical care to their neighbors and fellow citizens. The earthquake shook our building but not our resolve.

We will continue to care for our community in Haiti, and to be a place where children come to play, study, and feel safe.

Thank you for your continued support. With it, we will emerge from the effects of the earthquake stronger than ever.

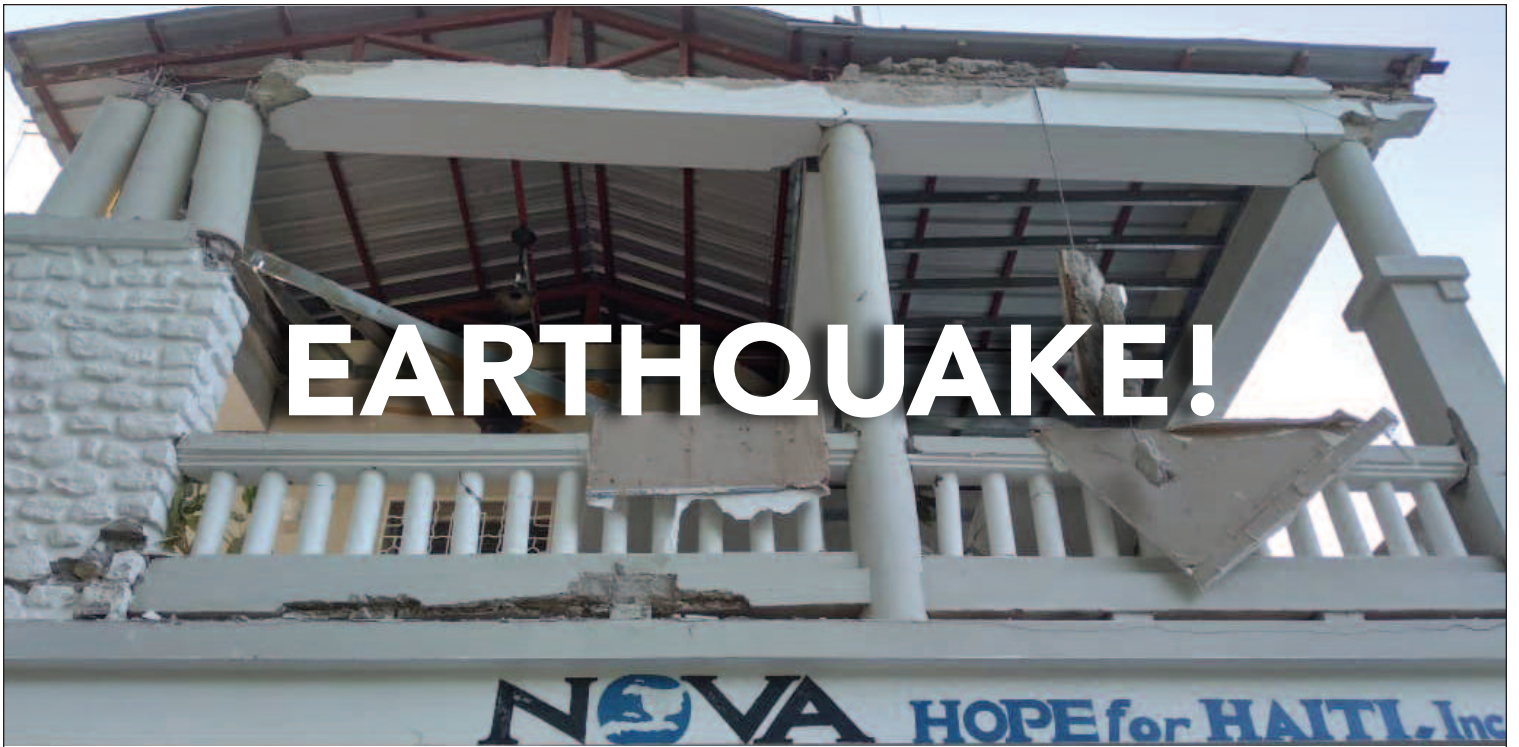
Thank you,

Joseph Nuzzi
President, NOVA Hope for Haiti
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ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck Southwest Haiti where NOVA's medical clinics are located. Unlike the 2010 earthquake, which was centered near Port au Prince and did not significantly affect our community, this earthquake was a direct hit.

Thankfully, our staff and their families are safe, but several of them have lost their homes. NOVA's main clinic and headquarters suffered severe damage and are currently uninhabitable and unusable as a clinic, but due to the high quality of the original construction, the building did not collapse and nobody was injured.

Our clinic's water supply was damaged and the staff is using five-gallon water filtration buckets to provide potable water to people in the community.

Within hours of the earthquake, our medical staff was treating injured neighbors in an outdoor emergency treatment area.

Once again, NOVA is on the ground at the center of a natural catastrophe and providing medical care, potable water, temporary shelter, and food to those in need. We can do this because we are an integral permanent part of our community.

Over three months have passed since the earthquake. There continues to be strong aftershocks in the region as well as several tropical storms. Tens of thousands of peoples' lives continue to be drastically affected by these tragic events. Thousands of people, including members of NOVA's staff, are sleeping outdoors because of destroyed or severely damaged homes. Many schools and churches have also been destroyed so these places of refuge in difficult times are also not able to shelter people. These



Tents purchased by NOVA provide shelter for our staff who are living outdoors.

are challenging days, but we are committed to rebuilding, committed to continuing to provide medical care, and committed to helping our community get back on its feet in whatever way we can. The road will be long and difficult, but now more than ever, NOVA will help our community get through this difficult time.

NOVA's executive team is a dedicated group of volunteers who have been working closely with our staff to begin the process of rebuilding. They are supported by our committed board members and, more importantly, our donors

who have stepped up to the occasion and helped us with much needed additional funds to meet these serious challenges. Without your financial support we would not be able to intercede. We are deeply grateful for the assistance.

Here is an update of what has been going on since August:

MEDICAL CARE CONTINUES

Almost every member of NOVA's staff suffered damage to their own homes, ranging from minor damage to complete loss. Not one member of our local staff isn't facing their own challenges at home and with their family. Despite their personal challenges, they are all back and providing the best medical care possible given the difficult circumstances. Thankfully NOVA's clinic in Boileau did not sustain as much damage, so most of our operations have been moved there. Our Martineau clinic also continues to see patients on an emergency basis. The pharmacy has been moved to the garage for safe, secure, and easy access to medications and supplies. Our doctors and nurses are seeing patients outside because the building has been deemed too dangerous to enter. Our security staff have also been going above and beyond the call of duty sleeping on the property either outdoors or in the garage to make sure our property is secure.

We are very proud of the perseverance and commitment our staff has displayed to provide medical care to their community.



Dr. Daniel treating a boy within hours of the earthquake

TEMPORARY IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

NOVA has given each of our staff members initial emergency assistance to help them deal with the immediate challenges that their families are facing. We have also purchased tarps to help keep people and property protected since so many people are basically living outdoors. We also were able to purchase some tents for our staff who are living outdoors, especially our security guards who are sleeping on the property with their families because their homes collapsed.

We have also been able to procure a donation of much-needed baby formula which was distributed to the local families at our clinic.

REBUILDING NOVA'S HEADQUARTERS

The biggest challenge NOVA is facing today is rebuilding our own facility in Cavaillon. Initial estimates provided to NOVA by a builder who inspected the building estimate reconstruction will be about \$200,000. Thankfully we have insurance but NOVA will have significant costs because of deductibles and co-insurance. Our insurance only covers the 'brick and mortar' construction and we lost a significant portion of our medical equipment, supplies and furniture. Rebuilding will take many months and we are looking into how best to manage this project and oversee it so that the work is done correctly, safely, and expeditiously.

While our building may be unstable and weakened, our volunteers, donors, and staff are keeping NOVA strong. It will take time, effort and patience, but we will rebuild and help our community return to their normal lives with the generous support of our volunteers and donors.

LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE

Because NOVA is a permanent part of our community, we are committed to using the funds our donors have made available for long-term and more permanent assistance. Often NGO's and other charities come into disaster situations and provide immediate relief in the form of food, water, clothing, etc. These are vitally needed and provided by larger organizations with supply and distribution channels. These organizations, however, are temporary as the people face the challenges of rebuilding after events like this. NOVA is much better suited to do this long-term work because we are part of the community. We are assessing the damage our staffs' homes suffered and assisting them in repairing or in some cases, rebuilding their homes. NOVA's Executive Committee is meeting with the staff, the mayor, and other community members to figure out the best way to use the funds we have available to help people rebuild in a permanent way. This kind of assistance does not happen immediately, but it makes a major and lasting impact. We will keep everyone posted on our efforts. ■

THE RETURN OF NOVA'S HYPERTENSION PROGRAM IS A HUGE SUCCESS



In November 2021, NOVA reinstated its hypertension program which began in 2020. The program is held every Friday in our temporary clinic at our Martineau location. Since hypertension is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Haiti – resulting in heart attacks, stroke, and kidney disease – we have been providing patients this care and related medications free of charge. When patients attend the program consistently and adhere to the program's medical protocol, they receive a water filtration bucket (donated by Hope for Haiti, one of our gift-in-kind partners), and training. The impact this program has on quality, and duration, of life is immeasurable. In 2020, NOVA had approximately 25 patients attending this program. It has been so well received that we now have more than 85 patients participating. This type of work and collaboration exemplifies the importance of our continued efforts in this struggling nation. ■

MEET NOVA'S NEW COUNTRY HEAD – PIERROT MARCEUS

NOVA has hired its first Country Head to oversee and manage all administrative and operational aspects of our clinic. In the past, when our volunteer teams could travel safely to Haiti several times a year, we were able to personally oversee the operations of the clinic, meet with staff and address any issues. Due to the inability to travel to our clinic because of COVID-19, political unrest and increased gang violence, we have not traveled to Haiti since February 2020 and do not see anytime in the near future when we can safely travel again. Although the Executive Committee and others have been in regular contact with our staff for the past twenty months with phone calls, Zoom meetings as well as daily emails and reports, we realized that we cannot be effective leaders of daily operations without being onsite periodically. With the growth of our organization, we also have to prioritize our efforts in the U.S. on fundraising and now the rebuilding our clinic in the aftermath of the earthquake.

As a result, the Executive Committee began a search for a Country Head. We are fortunate to have hired Pierrot

Marceus in October 2021. Mr. Marceus is a seasoned leader with broad business knowledge. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and is tri-lingual; Creole, English and French. Mr. Marceus joins us from manufacturing where he had overall responsibility for quality assurance, staff productivity, cost management, and reporting. In addition to having worked in an ISO9000 compliant environment, he is knowledgeable of accounting principles and technically savvy. He brings much needed oversight to our clinics and is helping us navigate various issues including general rebuilding after the earthquake, operating during a gas crisis, and unstable internet connectivity.



We welcome Mr. Marceus to NOVA! ■



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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.

Special thanks to Symmetre Design Group and Direct Marketing Design for the design, publication and distribution of this newsletter.