

# Introduction to Haiti Outreach Pwoje Espwa



[www.hopehaiti.org](http://www.hopehaiti.org)

# OUR VALUES

Thank you for your interest in **Haiti Outreach Pwoje Espwa — or Project Hope** in Haitian Creole. Founded twenty-two years ago as a 501c3 nonprofit organization by Haitian- American anthropologist, Dr. Rose-Marie Chierici, we believe that the sustainability of any healthy human population relies on an interwoven system that connects people to 1) healthcare, 2) educational opportunities, and 3) the ability to achieve economic independence. These key elements of health and wellness cannot operate in a vacuum if they are truly going to be effective in creating lasting change. ***We also believe that the best solutions for countries with special challenges like Haiti, do not get handed down from a U.S. based office*** — they are rooted directly in the community, and are driven by people on the ground. To nurture this process, we have spent over two decades working directly with residents in the rural commune of Borgne, to develop interventions that connect them to the resources they need to meet their *own* goals in health, education, and economic development (*not ours*). As you will learn in the following pages, we help to bridge the gap in health and wellness through a holistic, systems-approach that addresses the bigger picture for long-term sustainability.

[www.hopehaiti.org](http://www.hopehaiti.org)

# THE CHALLENGES IN RURAL BORGNE

- **Geographic Isolation**

The landscape is characterized by mountainous terrain, making it difficult for people to reach health services and other basic services.

- **Poor Health**

Life expectancies are about half that of the United States, and infant mortality is at the levels of the poorest nations on the planet. The most common health threats include a variety of water-borne illnesses, Malaria, TB, Malnutrition, parasites, HIV/AIDS, and infections. Women's health needs are often overlooked, with children and working men often treated first.

- **Insecure Income**

Opportunities for employment are scarce, making Borgne vulnerable to any disturbances to its fragile economy. With a population of 80,000, only 15% of Borgne's inhabitants have a secure source of income, meaning most must figure out how to survive on less than \$1 per day.

- **Lack of Basic Infrastructure**

Borgne's population lives without electricity, running water, or telephone service. The few gas powered generators and solar panels that do supply the community hospital are used sparingly, due to high fuel costs.



*Navigating the rough terrain can be tricky for those who need medical care, so we must often go directly into the community. Here, Jean-Ronald Pierre accepts the fee for care at a remote mobile clinic set up in collaboration with WomenStrong International. It cost fifty cents per patient, however, those who cannot pay are not turned away.*

# ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES

**At H.O.P.E. we work in community, with community, through community.** Our approach is collaborative, in every sense of the word. As a peasant commune, Borgne has a network of trained leaders, also known as *Animatrices*, that provide direction and support to their districts. Operating within a well-established structure linked loosely to the formal government, working in conjunction with the various local volunteer groups (e.g. water committees, women's groups, etc.) these leaders meet with the residents in their districts to discuss various challenges and brainstorm solutions to present to H.O.P.E. Grassroots connections, like this, inform and guide every aspect of our work to facilitate sustainable community development by connecting them with the necessary resources to meet their goals. Since 2010, H.O.P.E. has consistently expanded on its network of international partners to grow its health, education, and economic development initiatives.

[www.hopehaiti.org](http://www.hopehaiti.org)

# A HOLISTIC APPROACH

OUR PROGRAMS TREAT THE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT.



## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

—  
Haiti struggles to achieve equal distribution of healthcare, particularly in rural areas. We do not limit healthcare to treating injury and illness. It also includes prevention and nourishment to build healthy bodies, minds, and communities.



## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

—  
Education is regarded as the greatest key to a bright future for Borgne. Today, H.O.P.E. supports several educational projects that include an adult literacy program, a mobile pre-school program, and a community library.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

—  
As a result of improved health and educational opportunities for the women of Borgne, H.O.P.E.'s women-focused economic development program has increased women's agency, altering the perception of their own potential, and connecting them to the resources they need to become entrepreneurs.

# A TIMELINE FOR H.O.P.E.



## The Beginning

When we arrived in Borgne twenty-two years ago, the local hospital lacked running water or electricity, and had very few hospital beds. Many people employed rural healing methods, and did not trust modern medicine or doctors. To supplement the work of the hospital, H.O.P.E. started doing community education on the importance of preventative healthcare, and opened a clinic in town to assist with capacity. Over the next 10 years, the clinic served up to 400 patients each month.



## Borgne's Medical Needs

During this time, the Hospital director passed away, and the hospital stopped most of its limited services. Only one nurse stayed on staff to help with delivering babies, and assisting the elderly in basic hospice care, without medication. H.O.P.E. worked with the community to determine that a more-robust hospital was needed, as were more resources for modern medicine. Between 2004 & 2005, H.O.P.E. engaged with Haiti's Ministry of Health to form a new partnership that allowed the hospital to be re-opened as a collaborative effort.



## A New Hospital is Formed

In 2006, the Borgne Health Alliance (also known as A.S.B.) was formed in partnership with Haiti's Ministry of Health. Efforts for re-opening the hospital included the addition of running water, wiring for electricity and connecting to a generator; a cistern was also built for basic water collection. The hospital was then able to hire additional doctors, nurses, and acquire modern equipment to serve more patients. Until 2005, the stand-alone clinic could only serve a maximum of 400 patients per month. Now A.S.B. is able to treat over 3,000 per month.



## Why it's Working

Over the last twenty-two years, H.O.P.E. has worked collaboratively with the residents of Borgne to determine their needs. This relationship has always included important dialogue about education and economic development opportunities, as a means for bringing Borgne's health and wellness full-circle. Because of this, important partnerships were formed to connect residents to these resources. This could not have been done without the help of partner groups such as PEPFAR, the Red Cross and WomenStrong International.

# AS A RESULT THIS APPROACH...



- ✓ is informed by the community.
- ✓ connects people to resources.
- ✓ offers interventions with long-term impact.
- ✓ provides educational opportunities.
- ✓ supports women's economic development.
- ✓ reduces health disparities.
- ✓ improves access to care.
- ✓ *is a catalyst for meaningful change.*

# FAMILY HEALTH & MEDICINE PROGRAM



The Borgne Health Alliance (also known as A.S.B.) is regarded as one of Haiti's most successful and effective rural health programs, delivering services to a geographically dispersed population of 80,000. H.O.P.E. provides the management and core operating funding for this partnership, and engages outside partners to provide vital resources and funding. **One of the main strengths of this health model is the diversity of its clinical facilities**, which include A.S.B. hospital and dental clinic in the village of Borgne, and a satellite hospital in Tibouk, with mobile clinics bringing services directly to people in more remote areas who may have a difficult time reaching town. The health model also integrates clinical care with prevention activities in every household through a broad, far-reaching volunteer program. Services offered through A.S.B.'s health programs include:

- Labor & Recovery
- Nutrition Clinic
- Surgical Services
- Emergency Medical Services
- HIV/AIDs and STI Screening and Treatment
- Cervical Cancer Screening
- Pharmaceuticals
- Vaccinations
- Blood Bank
- Dental/Oral Health



# EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Why does education matter so much to health? The links are complex— tied closely to income and to the skills and opportunities that people have to earn a living. Lower income and fewer resources mean that people with less education are more likely to lack the resources for good health. Today H.O.P.E. supports several projects to help adults and children alike, achieve their personal educational goals:

- **Adult Literacy Programs/"Lekol Alfa"** – Reaches the adult population who are anxious to learn to read and write, with community led volunteer teaching sessions and a formal training process.
- **Pre-School Program** – Teaches early child engagement in basic skills (reading, math, writing) to children ages 4 to 7, who live in the most remote habitations in Borgne.
- **Borgne Community Library** – The library is an important gathering place for children, teachers, and parents to explore the world around them. Initially funded by the GO Campaign, it has a modest (and growing) collection that includes resources for teachers, as well as reading materials in French, Haitian Creole and English, for a broad age group.

While each of these programs focuses on a different area of need, they all have one important thing in common — **they connect the dots to the resources that people need grow into thoughtful, educated, healthy members of their community.**

# WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



Health, education, and economic opportunity are inextricably linked—addressing one without the others does not promote sustainability. H.O.P.E.'s continuum of interventions provide the opportunity to alter the social and cultural landscape of women's leadership, and their status in the community. Made possible by the support of WomenStrong International, H.O.P.E.'s women-focused economic development program, is just one of the many tools used to increase women's agency, gradually changing the perception of their own potential and connecting them to the resources they need to become entrepreneurs.

## Activities in this program include:

1. **Business counseling by a team of local mentors**, to help women entrepreneurs do a market analysis, learn budgeting, and build a business plan.
2. **The WomenStrong market**, which gives the women of Borgne a platform to sell and trade their products.
3. **A community banking program** that allows residents to safely save their earnings from their business operations and reinvest it in their business. To date we have over 1,000 people signed up for the banking program.



# LOOKING FORWARD

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

One major barrier that H.O.P.E. faces in meeting its mission, relates to the energy poverty crisis in Haiti, and it's own ability to direct resources to the things that matter. **Unfortunately, the cost of fuel is on the rise, which also happens to hold a large placeholder in our budget for hospital operations.**

As we forge ahead, conducting an energy audit and the investment in a sustainable energy solution has become a top priority, and will help us re-direct our resources to growing programs on-the-ground (it's also better for the environment and the health of the community). Unlike fossil fuels, solar energy will be around as long as the sun is. While the hospital has been able to install a small sections of solar panels, it is simply not enough to meet the demand for the growing facility. Supporting H.O.P.E.'s sustainable energy goals is not only an investment in reducing energy poverty, it is an investment in the health of the community.

[www.hopehaiti.org](http://www.hopehaiti.org)

# KEY SUCCESSES IN 2018

Over 1,000 adults have graduated from literacy program in the last 3 years



Zero cases of Cholera over the last year (2nd year in a row)



Over 1,000 people have opened savings accounts in our new community bank, *Boukoulou*.



---

300+

Adults enrolled in the literacy program

80% successfully completed the class

353

Babies safely born with the help of trained traditional birth attendants.

99% maternal survival rate

---

70

New Matwons trained (Traditional Birth Attendants)



# INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

STRENGTHEN THE ROOTS OF HOPE

**Amanda Smythe, MPA**

*Director of Development*

[asmythe@hopehaiti.org](mailto:asmythe@hopehaiti.org)

(585) 732-4065

[www.hopehaiti.org](http://www.hopehaiti.org)