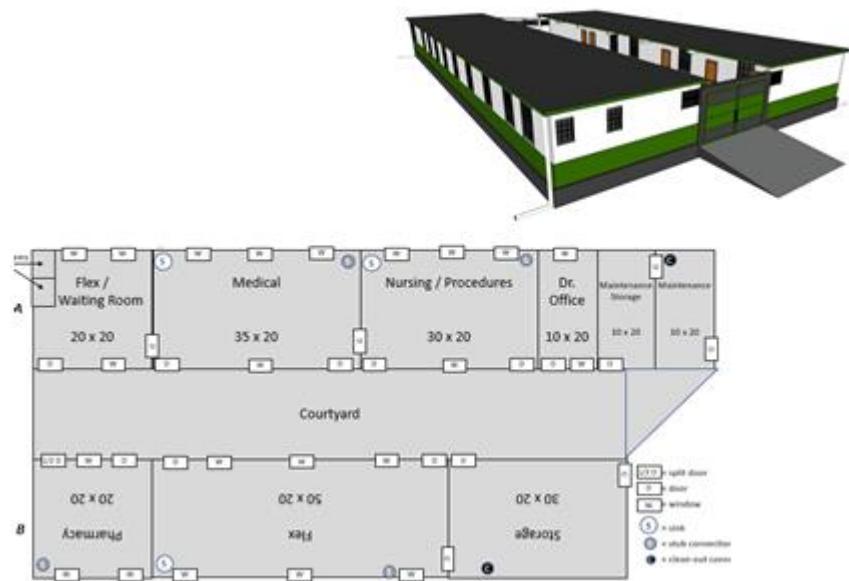


## New Clinic Construction

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our new clinic construction. We were able to take full advantage of the \$55,000 match offer! Including the funds that came in over the last two months, the matching funds, and what we already had raised for the clinic, we now have \$274,247 raised.

While the fundraising has been going on, the clinic committee has finalized the design which included eliminating the second floor. This change, along with the funds raised so far, will allow us to build the whole clinic in phase one. We are hoping to start this construction around the beginning of April and anticipate it will take a year to complete. Instead of actual building construction, phase two will now include finishing touches such as painting, solar, septic, and medical equipment. We will continue to raise funds for this second phase while the first phase construction is occurring.



## Year-Round Medical Clinic

Last June, the ministry hired a full-time Haitian physician, Dr. Marseille, to work with our nurses and health workers to provide medical care in our sister parish. Dr. Marseille runs a regular clinic Monday through Friday and is available after hours for emergencies. Using Whatsapp, Dr. Marseille sends us reports about the number and types of patients he sees. He is also able to send pictures and consult with our physicians here about specific patients. During January, he saw 322 patients. The most common complaint was respiratory infections. Other common complaints included wounds, urinary tract infections, GI/stomach problems, and back pain. We have had to cancel our last two medical trips due to the insecurity in Port-au-Prince, so having Dr. Marseille available to continue providing care has been a huge blessing.



## **Whatsapp**

Communicating with someone in Gandou has always been challenging due to our sister parish's remoteness. Over the last two years, cell phone coverage in our sister parish has greatly improved. This has allowed us to establish better communication with Haitian medical staff. Using Whatsapp, an app that allows free instant messaging, we are able to send and receive messages frequently, often daily.

## **Malnutrition Program**

There are currently 52 children enrolled in our malnutrition program. Most of these children were identified as very malnourished during our twice a year medical trips. Each child in the program visits the nurses in the clinic monthly to have their weights checked. During this visit, the nurse checks on their general health and can refer them to Dr. Marseille if necessary. The children are given peanut butter to take home that we send down by sea container. Sometimes, the nurses also have additional food to give the families from Food for the Poor. After checking the weights, the nurses send the information to us over Whatsapp so that Dr. Glaser, who is in charge of the malnutrition program on this end, can monitor the weights and follow-up on any concerning trends. Now that Dr. Marseille is in Gandou full-time, he is able to identify and enroll children in the program as well as help the nurses identify and help children who are not gaining as well as they should be. Baby Jessika, pictured below, was recently added to the malnutrition program.



## Nursing

Nannecie Pierre is a young lady from Gandou who attended Notre-Dame University in Port-au-Prince to study nursing as part of our sponsorship program. She graduated with a four-year degree in nursing and recently passed the state licensing exam. We are very proud of her efforts, nationwide only around 50% of students pass this exam annually. After graduation, while studying for the exam, Nannecie provided two-years of service in our clinic as required for our sponsorship program and received a small stipend. Now that she is fully licensed, she has taken a full-time, paid position in the clinic.



## Hypertension Program

Hypertension is possibly the most serious chronic health condition that affects our sister parish. According to the National Institute for Health, over 75% of Haitian adults have elevated blood pressure. This contributes to many health challenges, included a high rate of stroke and heart disease. Our health workers work with our nurses to manage the 243 patients in our hypertension program. The health workers monitor the patients' blood pressures monthly and refill their prescriptions following our program protocol. The health workers and nurses are also able to provide general education about hypertension during these visits. This is an exciting program that is working to prevent long term complications for these patients.

## Referral Program

Our referral program continues to help patients find specialized care or surgeries. There have been setbacks in this program over the last year due to the political insecurity in Haiti. Many of the clinics who accepted our patients are not operating now. Additionally, we cannot safely send patients to Port-au-Prince, so must rely on the more limited care available in Jacmel. Despite these challenges, fourteen patients still received surgery or specialized care over the last six months. There are ten patients scheduled to have cataract surgery at a clinic in Lavalle later this month. Dr. Marseille is now available to help the health care workers prioritize patients and find the care they need. Whatsapp has been a great help to this program allowing us to receive updates on these patients.