

Gift of Water

We are excited to announce another expansion to our Gift of Water program. We recently purchased an additional 200 systems bringing the total systems in the community to 800. Each system serves an estimated five people, bringing clean water to 4,000 people! This program provides two-bucket water purification systems to families in Gandou. The families receive chlorine and training when they are enrolled in the program. Additionally, a trained water technician visits each family monthly to ensure they systems are functioning and that the families are using them correctly. Along with purchasing additional buckets, we also trained and hired an additional water technician as part of the expansion. Mariala will join our current technicians, Desir, Almonzy, and Sauveur (front row in photo), in bringing clean water to the community.



During the current cholera outbreak in Haiti, clean water is more important than ever. Our year-round clinic physician, Dr. Marseille, has spent time educating the community on the importance of clean water and good sanitation. He recently worked with a public health nurse to provide a training session to the school children in the church.

School Improvements

This has been a busy school year in Gandou and is wrapping up this month with end of year exams. During the year, we were able to make some small improvements for the teachers and students including replacing doors on six of the older classrooms to allow the teachers to secure the rooms at night. Over the years, the thin cement floor has been worn through some of these older classrooms. These holes were filled with cement. We purchased a speaker for school assemblies and have shipped a small copier and ink for the teachers. We recently asked each teacher to submit a list of needed supplies and are working to send these items for next school year.



Clinic Construction

When we began seriously planning for the new medical clinic in June of 2021, we had no idea that the Haitian president would be assassinated the following month and the country would begin a two-year spiral of ever increasing political instability. By the time we broke ground in April 2022, gangs were beginning to control a significant portion of the capital city, Port-au-Prince. The combination of challenges that have arisen since then, both political and natural, could have stopped the construction altogether...but it didn't. Amazingly we are in the final phase and anticipate a grand opening this fall.

April 2022:



Here are some of the challenges that have had to be overcome. In June 2022, just two months after breaking ground, an overturned truck blocked the only mountainous road to Gandou. There was no heavy equipment available to set it back up. Over several weeks, the people were able to dig the hillside away around the truck and eventually push it out of the way. During this time, building materials could only reach Gandou by foot or donkey. In September, gangs took control of the main fuel terminal in Port-au-Prince. For two months, fuel in the country was limited to gasoline brought in on the black market from the Dominican Republic. Finally in October construction had to stop on the clinic until the issue resolved at the end of November. A drought began in Haiti in January 2023 and lack of water slowed down the ability to mix concrete. Then in March construction had to halt completely for a month until the spring rains began. Move ahead to June and excess rains washed away a part of the road leading to another delay.

Oct 2022:



Alongside the construction challenges, the political instability created difficulties in getting the necessary medical equipment and furnishings for the clinic to Gandou. Many of the items we had hoped to purchase in Haiti have not been available, so we have had to ship these items from the United States instead. The medical clinic committee here worked hard to finding inexpensive or donated equipment to offset the unexpected expenses of shipping. For example, they were able to purchase four hospital beds on Facebook Marketplace at deeply discounted prices. One was purchased for \$1 and was brand new because the family that originally purchase it never actually needed it. They were also able to obtain many other donated items from Dr. Welsh's office, including exam tables and cabinets/shelving.

July 2023 Shipping:



When considering all these challenges, it is truly amazing that the clinic is nearing completion. The dedication and hard work of the clinic committee here, the construction crew in Gandou, and our sister parish priest, Fr. Voltaire, has been truly inspiring. The generosity of our donors has also been incredible. The portion of the project as well as all the equipment necessary to operate the clinic have been fully funded. The remaining expenses are for additional clinic equipment that will take our clinic to a higher level. It will be a very rewarding day this fall when the doors to the clinic are finally open to the people of Gandou.

May 2023:



Tax deductible donations can be made by check to St. Anthony Haiti Ministry and sent to the parish office P.O. Box 3, Morris, IN 47033