



ZONTA
 CLUB OF
 CAPE GIRARDEAU
 MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
 EMPOWERING WOMEN
 THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

DENTAL/MEDICAL CLINIC

On March 10-14, the Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau took its sixth dental team, the second with a combined medical crew, to the Hatitian American Caucus School (HAC) in Croix des Bouquets. This year's team consisted of Cape Zonta members: Polly Holten (team leader), Dr. Jan Ruopp (dentist), Tracy Coolely (hygenist), Dr. Heather Cugini (OB/GYN), and Andrea Sachse (student sponsorship coordinator). Zontian Alice Smith from Minnesota worked with fitting reading glasses. Dr. Pat Ruopp (dentist), Alyssa Baker and Taylor Woodley (dental students), Jake Hansen (medical student), Steve Woodley, and Corey Baker finished out the team. The last few dental clinics some of the older students, that are excelling in their grade and with leadership skills, helped during the clinic (checking patients in, polishing teeth, sterlizing instruments, etc). On Saturday



and Sunday mostly adults in the community were seen. Monday school was in session and the school children and teachers were in the clinic. Dental kits and worming tablets were

distributed to all the school children. In total the team saw over 800 people with 78 extraction patients, 305 cleanings/polishings, 100 reading glasses fitted, and over 410 medical patients seen. It is so gratifying for team members to see how much healthier the school population is since Cape Zonta began at HAC in 2012. The fourth medical clinic, with hopefully its first dental team added, will return in October 2017.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

With the enrollment at 425, and students reaching the highschool level, six new classrooms are planned to be completed behind the original school building by the fall. This will help alleviate overcrowding and allow the continuation of the grades through highschool. The team participated in the ground breaking ceremony. There are 130 preschoolers at this time with the additional of a large number of little ones from one of the two orphanages served by the school. Also Samuel Darquin, the director, was thrilled to announce the acquisition of five acres behind the present school compound. His vision is to build a medical clinic and vocational school. Presently part of the acreage is planted in crops to subsidize *Kids Against Hunger* meals that are continuing to be shipped from the states.



Ground breaking ceremony for six additional classrooms to be completed Fall 2017.



Zontians making a difference in Haiti.

610 PROJECT

The other key provider in the growth of HAC is Melissa Bain's 610 Project from Alabama. The 610 Project has been instrumental in acquiring bookbags, bicycles and musical instruments for the students at the school. In February, she took a team to produce the school's first yearbook. This was made possible by Rotary International and Balfour Yearbook. They also trained students to use donated DSLR cameras to document the school in the future. Melissa also has a vision to build a school in Les Cayes, the home town of Samuel Darquin's family. This area was devastated by the fall hurricane. Melissa has also been helping Cape Zonta ship goods from Alabama to HAC.

HURRICANE RELIEF

Both the 610 Project and members of Cape Zonta have been instrumental in sending needed supplies and money for recovery in South Haiti. Students at HAC helped with the relief project by packing and loading supplies. Samuel told the students that no matter how poor they were, there were others in Haiti in worse conditions. As many of you know the school was a shelter and feeding center during the hurricane.

SPONSORSHIP

Cape Zonta has 50 active sponsorships at this time. Many individuals sponsor more than one child. With the continuing growth in enrollment and need for expansion, sponsorship is imperative. Please consider renewing your present sponsorship in 2017, and help Cape Zonta double that number by the next school year. Please contact the sponsorship coordinator, Andrea Sachse, if you have a group that would like a presentation on the Cape Zonta/HAC partnership, or know a group or individual that would like to sponsor a child. BE THE CHANGE for the children of Haiti. Sponsors will find their 2017 renewal information along with this correspondence. An email reminder will be sent closer to your sponsorship's original start date.

amsachse5@yahoo.com or **573.579.8414**

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela



Dr. Heather Cugini with the four orphan girls she sponsors at HAC.

Stay connected to HAC through their website: WWW.WEAREHAC.ORG or become a friend on their Facebook page.

