GLOBAL EYE PROJECT

First Exam in the new Fond-des-Blancs clinic!

THANKS
to our donors for their generous support!

One exam room in the new Fond-des-Blancs (FDB), Haiti clinic is fully equipped!

January 2014: Team returned to FDB

During the second week of January 2014, our USA team met with our Haitian counterparts to provide quality eye care in rural FDB. We examined 857 people during the clinic and provided them with glasses, medications and much-needed surgeries.

Dr. Reynold Monsanto, a Haitian ophthalmologist, returned to FDB for more training with Dr. Marty Arkin in cataract extractions and pterygium excisions. Additionally, our three Haitian trainees were actively involved in the clinic, checking eye pressures and dispensing glasses while educating the patients. Transfer of skills is integral to the self-sustainability of this clinic.

Clinic days were long and intense but very successful. Our clinicians encountered a variety of ocular conditions ranging from mild and treatable to severe and end-stage.

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URGENT NEEDS

- Auto-refractor
- SLT Laser
- Goldmann Tonometer
- Phoropter
- Slit lamp on a portable Table
- Fundus Camera

Anshu Chandra, OD, examines a patient in the new clinic
Glaucoma is a major public health concern

Glaucoma is highly prevalent and often severe in this FDB population. Many patients had advanced symptomatic glaucoma and highly elevated or poorly controlled intraocular pressures. As in previous visits, congenital glaucoma was also encountered. While treating glaucoma continues to be an uphill battle, many patients diagnosed from previous visits returned for follow-up.

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<td>• Lack of disease awareness</td>
<td>• Public education initiatives</td>
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<td>• Need for provider education in medical, laser, &amp; surgical techniques</td>
<td>• Provide training for local clinicians</td>
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<td>• Lack of materials: pharmaceuticals, lasers &amp; surgical equipment</td>
<td>• Increase access to necessary supplies</td>
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**Vision-limiting cataracts**

Because of heavy UV exposure, poor preventative eye protection and lack of surgical care, cataracts in Haiti are frequently more advanced than found in US patients of comparable age. While cataracts continue to be prevalent, the number of patients presenting with bilaterally blinding cataracts has decreased over the course of our visits.

**Corneal Disease & Blindness**

Corneal diseases are a challenge to treat in Haiti without the common technologies and therapies available in the USA. A few of the more complex cases faced in January include severe keratoconus, advanced trachoma, corneal opacification from various infections, large ulcerations and active herpetic keratitis.

**Public Health Cases**

A young woman with purulent gonocccal conjunctivitis was identified and treated in January. This was the second case of the same which has presented to the FDB clinic in the past year and raises concerns about STDs present in the community. Public education on the diseases and available medical care are essential.
Haitian doctor from Jacmel to provide monthly care in FDB

Dr. Monsanto, who lives 3 hours from our clinic, has agreed to provide monthly care in FDB. He will be supported by two Haitian nurses who are now experienced in scrubbing in for eye cases, and by Anshu Chandra, OD. His presence will be a great boost to the surgical capacity in FDB.

Case Report: Into the Light

Last year a family brought their seven year old daughter, complaining "she sees blurry, she was born like that." She was unable to read the largest letter on the visual acuity chart even standing directly in front of it, ultimately hiding her eyes with her hands out of frustration. Her glasses prescription revealed a very high hyperopic astigmatism over +8.00 with 1.50 diopter of astigmatism in each eye. Her case was complicated by dense congenital cataracts in both eyes. We were fortunate to find a pair of bifocals to match her prescription. We showed her mother how to alternately patch her eyes to undo the amblyopia (lazy eye) and stimulate her visual development.

When the child put on her new glasses she smiled broadly, saying in Kreyol, "I'll never take these off!"

The same little girl returned to our clinic in January with a big smile and positive personality. Her vision had been corrected to 20/70+ and 20/60-. Cataract surgery was debated, but deferred to a future time for lack of a general anesthesiologist in FDB. Nevertheless, both mother and daughter were elated, as was our team, with the overall visual and functional improvement this little girl has experienced.
SUPPORTERS & DONORS

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- Coburn Technologies
- Haag-Streit
- Haiti Moun
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- Keeler
- LIONS Eye Recycling Center of Northern VA
- Lombart
- Morel Lunettes
- New Eyes for the Needy
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- Optimetrics
- Reichert
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- UC Berkeley Optometry
- Volk
- Wilson Ophthamlic
- W&D Finklea
- Our Volunteers
- Our Families & Friends

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US AT GLOBAL EYE PROJECT
Our endeavors in Haiti and elsewhere are made possible with your help & support. The GEP team and its beneficiaries thank you for your generosity and good will.

It always seems impossible, until it’s done.
- Nelson Mandela

More pictures at: www.globaleyeproject.org