

La Promisse



Milot is NOT Port au Prince

News reports streamed from Port au Prince, Haiti's capitol, spotlight a nation torn asunder from internal conflict and a lack of governance. Daily kidnappings, a soaring crime rate, and many city streets turned to rubble from gang warfare spark outrage, horror, and compassionate concern for the terrorized citizenry. Foreigners passing through the airport remain targets for attack. With good reason, many urge Americans and other nationalities to steer clear of the southern region of Haiti.

Milot, in the more rural and less densely populated northern region of Haiti, presents a very different landscape. Situated 11 miles from Cap-Haïtien and approximately 64 miles from the Dominican Republic border, the suffocating poverty of the region stands out against the profound natural, mountain beauty. Milot's streets are not littered with shell casings. Armed thugs do not lurk behind cinder block houses in wait of human prey. **The residents go about their arduous task of making a living amid 30% overall inflation and a 50% spike in food prices.**

Grieved by the current mayhem in the south of their country, northern Haitians reminisce about happier times when their country ran more smoothly. And they pray: for a reconciling miracle in the south and for protection from similar conditions arising in the north.

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Medical and construction volunteers have continued to travel to Milot during 2022. “Is it safe?” others ask? Nobody – including Haiti Health Promise and Holy Name - can ever guarantee anyone’s safety. Truth be told, no one can guarantee a person’s safety in New York City, Los Angeles, or most any city or town in the United States. Even so, volunteers have indeed traveled to Milot, served, and come back home inspired — and grateful they made the commitment to helping the remarkable people and patients at of Hôpital Sacré Coeur.

Dr. James Morgan, US Medical Director, Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name, visits Milot monthly for a week at a time. “Regarding travel from the Cap Haïtien airport to Milot where the hospital and volunteers’ accommodations are located, **I have not sensed, nor have I seen any unrest at all. Providing healthcare is challenging enough, and so it’s a relief to not have the added stress worrying about security in the local area.”**

Haiti Health Promise Chairman and decades long volunteer, Dr. David Butler, went to Milot in January. He reports: “On my most recent visit to Milot, the town was quiet, peaceful, and functioning well. The hospital was busy as usual, but there was no sign of any disruption of services. I did not feel threatened and was hopeful about the peace spreading throughout the country. Hopefully, we will return in October.” Likewise, **Dr. Michael Canarie reported that his October 2021 trip was “smooth and uneventful.”** His next 2022 visit is already in the works.



Massachusetts based Carl Turissini, MD, FACC specializes in general and interventional cardiology, a skill he had used for many years as a volunteer at Hôpital Sacré Coeur. “I recently led a cardiology team to HSC in June. I was initially concerned about our safety due to the press reports of violence and kidnapping in Port au Prince area. I was in text contact with several HSC staff prior to our trip who assured me that Milot was indeed peaceful. With some apprehension, we traveled to Haiti.

To our surprise, Milot seemed as calm and peaceful as ever. We took our daily walks around town to the usual warm greetings from the locals. Any team leaders or volunteers with concerns about security in Milot should feel free to contact me at: cturissini@mgh.harvard.edu”

Dr. Turissini also praised improved volunteer housing. “The volunteer accommodations have been renovated to include private bathrooms and air conditioning. Our meals were served in the kitchen at Sister Ann’s former residence... a pleasant experience.”

The choice to travel to Milot is just that: a choice. For years, Haiti Health Promise has urged volunteers to be mindful of their surroundings, ever alert, and to stay on campus. **What we can promise is that Hôpital Sacré Coeur volunteers are greatly appreciated and a true blessing! ■**

#HSC Saves Lives

Haiti Health Promise Packathons Send Critically Needed Meals to Milot Community

Photo: Jamesly Jesse, who was born in Milot, at St Louis Packathon



If you've ever wondered what it's like to subsist on \$400 a year or eat no more often than every two to three days — or even a week — you need only look to Haiti, where **45% of the population suffers from starvation and almost a quarter of all children are chronically malnourished.**

Hôpital Sacré Coeur has cared for Milot since 1968, helping Haitians care for their families so they can live another day in search of a better tomorrow. Now, in the Milot region's time of desperate need, **Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name** and **Hôpital Sacré Coeur** teamed up with a solution to give a pause to hunger.

Feed Haiti Packathons have evolved into a national initiative, with packathons held all over the US by different organizations. As part of the assembly line operation, volunteers measure ingredients, place them into bags, heat-seal, box, and label them in Creole and English. Every rice and beans meal contains a potent combination of vitamins and minerals that provides a highly nutritious boost not available through the average Haitian's meager diet.

The meals are shipped promptly to Hôpital Sacré Coeur, where they are distributed by the Community Services Department to the neediest in the Milot area — children, nursing and pregnant mothers, the disabled, the

elderly, and those families who are truly the poorest of the poor. Boxes containing approximately a month's worth of nutritious meals provide a needed supplement to meager diets.

"Let's help HSC bring the most vulnerable children in its community to the table."

Nirva Fils-Aime
Head of Community Services Dept.

"Distributing food from Hôpital Sacré Coeur is an act of solidarity and compassion for the survival of community in great food difficulty," said Nirva Fils-Aime, Head of HSC Community Services, the hospital department that supervises the distribution of about 88,000 meals per month.

The sense of camaraderie and team building that occurs during a packathon makes for an enjoyable outing, but the real value of time spent is in the impactful and meaningful results. Depending on volunteer participation, most events pack at least 40,000 meals. As of August 2022, more than 960,000 meals have been shipped from Holy Name in Teaneck, NJ to Milot. Those numbers translate directly into lives saved. ■

To learn more about Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name packathons, please [CLICK HERE!](#)

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Volunteers Needed

Hôpital Sacré Coeur's US Medical Director for Haiti, Dr. Jim Morgan, and Haiti Health Promise Vice Chair and Volunteer Coordinator, Dr. William Guyol, manage the teams' travel to Milot. Timing and specialty of the teams are determined by the hospital's current needs.

The following specialties are needed:

- Urgent need for ENT teams

Other specialties needed include:

- Oral Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Internal Medicine

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dr. Jim Morgan at jamorgan@holyname.org
If you have not volunteered prior, please visit the Volunteer Application and Forms page:
<https://crudem.org/category/volunteer-applications-and-forms/>

Meet the Hôpital Sacré Coeur Team

With a hospital staff of 426 that includes 335 full time, 35 contractual, 36 temporary and 20 medical interns, Hôpital Sacré Coeur has a tremendous pool of skilled and competent individuals to run every aspect of a large hospital. Exemplary staff abound. Every month, *La Promisse* will focus on key individuals.

Harold Prével MD, Executive Director & CEO



Dr. Harold Prével during a meeting with Dr. Anthony Fauci at NIH.

Harold Prével MD, originally from the northern region of Haiti, is an Obstetrician-Gynecologist oriented towards endogenous development strategies. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy and Medical Technology at the State University of Haiti. He holds a Master of Science in Health Services Administration, with a specialty in Health System Management from the University of Montreal. He also holds a complementary diploma in health system management, with a specialty in evaluation from the University of Montreal and a license in legal sciences from the Faculty of Law

and Economics of Cap-Haitien. Dr. Prével is currently completing a PhD in Leadership from the International Leadership Institute (INSIL, France).

Dr. Prével has over 21 years of experience in the delivery, organization and management of health-care and services in Haiti, with considerable expertise in project management, budgeting operations

and improving the quality of healthcare and services. He has extensive and successful experience working in two hospitals with different vocations: one in the private non-profit sector and the other in the public sector (Hôpital Justinien du Cap-Haïtien).

For seven years Dr Prévil served as Director of a training program for medical residents in family medicine. He led and completed the process of developing the 2010-2015 and 2017-2022 strategic plans for the Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Dr Prévil also led the pricing process for medical acts in Haiti as a consultant for the International Health Unit (ICU) of the University of Montreal, on behalf of the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) of Haiti. **And, he has published several medical journal articles about medical, health and social factors particular to Haiti.** Dr Prévil taught Pharmacology, Obstetrics and Gynecology at the School of Nursing at Notre Dame University in Haiti (North Branch). Currently, he is conducting research on the socio-legal issues of the decriminalization of abortion in Haiti. An active and supportive member of the local community, Dr Prévil is member of the Rotary Club of Milot.

Michele Hanna, MD. Chief Medical Officer



Former Division Chief of Pediatrics and now Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hanna stands out as a skilled clinician, consummate professional, and a patient favorite based on her sensitive and compassionate bedside manner and the success of her treatment plans. In a day, Dr. Hanna juggles, medical care, administrative duties, and the continuing educational training of her hospital team with ease and grace. **Well loved and respected by all the staff, Dr. Hanna motivates and encourages the staff to push their personnel horizons to become the best they can be.** US physicians have benefited from Dr. Hannah's video conference tutorials on her many fields of expertise, especially diagnosis and treatment of sickle cell anemia. Dr. Hanna always has time for interactions with medical volunteers, who join the large cadre of people who sing her praises.

"During my childhood I loved to take care of the most misunderstood persons: the children," recalls Dr. Hanna, who joined Hôpital Sacré Coeur as a full-time pediatrician in 2009. Prior to her HSC appointment, Dr. Hanna specialized in Pediatrics at the University Hôpital Justinien du Cap-Haïtien. As Chief Resident, she participated in the training of the junior residents from October 2006 to September 2009. At the end of her residency, Dr. Hanna presented a thesis on the Therapeutic Approach of the Asthma Attack to that hospital's department. Dr. Hanna completed her university education at the Faculty of Medicine of University Notre-Dame of Haiti and conducted rotations at Hôpital Albert Schweitzer and GHESKIO centers. A native of Port au Prince, Dr. Hanna notes, "My cherished dream has always been to contribute through my knowledge and competency to the improvement of infants and children's health."

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James "Jim" Morgan, MD, US Medical Director, Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name



Holy Name employee Dr. Morgan brings a wealth of medical experience, time logged on the ground in Haiti, and an infectious passion for the plight and promise of the Haitian people. Dr. Morgan garners utmost respect and admiration in US and Haitian circles for the over 15 years he spent as a medical volunteer in the Cité Soliel section of Port au Prince — the worst and most challenging of Haitian communities. **His extensive experience in Haiti, familiarity with Haitian culture, and fluency in Kreyol are real blessings at this critical point in Haitian history.**

Dr. Morgan travels to Hôpital Sacré Coeur every month for a week at a time. During his stay, Dr. Morgan assists the medical team with individual and collective training, assesses operational aspects of various medical equipment, and stays current with the full range of hospital endeavors. As such, Dr. Morgan is highly involved in the planning, rollout, and staff training for the newly installed Electronic Medical Records program.

In addition, Dr. Morgan works closely with Dr. Hanna and Dr. Previl to determine what medical volunteers are needed and when. **His involvement with volunteers resulted in the formation of a mentoring program.** Along with long term volunteers, Dr. William Guyol, Dr. Rob Freishtat and Dr. Chris Powers, Dr. Morgan crafted a critical care education program to increase competencies and standardize protocols for the treatment of commonly occurring medical issues such as sepsis. In the process, this comprehensive approach resulted in the redesign and standardizing of various medical protocols.

And finally, in a scenario well known to Milot bound travelers, Dr. Morgan graciously boards the plane to Haiti each month bearing multiple pieces of needed instruments, reagents, and sundry items. Without doubt, Dr. Morgan follows Pope Francis' advice to live a life of faith in action. ■

Pope Francis Urges Individuals to Help and Pray for Haiti

During Pope Francis' apostolic journey to Quebec, he held a private interview with 15 Jesuits from the Canadian provinces, which includes Haiti in its jurisdiction. One attendee asked Pope Francis, what could be done about Haiti. **The Pope replied: "I feel very close to Haiti,** not least because I am constantly updated on the situation by some priest friends of mine. I fear that it is falling into a pit of despair. How can we help Haiti to grow in hope? If there is one thing we can do as a Church it is certainly prayer, penance... **But we must ask ourselves how we can help. The people of Haiti are a noble people.**



Successfully Coping with Haiti's Fuel Crisis

The uncertain fuel situation in Haiti continues with prices skyrocketing, oil terminals repeatedly shut down, and supplies scarce. In response, many hospitals throughout the country, with few alternatives, limited their operations and closed temporarily or for lengthy periods.

At the inception of the crisis, Hôpital Sacré Coeur immediately mapped out short and long-term strategies to minimize the challenges. On campus, HSC restricted fuel usage to essential services and purchased two additional fuel tanks — 10,000 gallons and 12,000 gallons — to augment the 10,000 gallons one on campus. Thanks to the immense generosity and quick response of two donors, the two new tanks were purchased and quickly delivered to the hospital campus.



Then, **The W. O'Neil Foundation** jumped in at a moment's notice to fund the next daunting task: filling all three tanks with diesel fuel. Years prior, Hôpital Sacré Coeur smartly entered a contract relationship with a fuel vendor who secured the fuel to fill the tanks at a cost significantly lower than the current market rates — a savings of approximately \$69,000.

Thanks to our ever-compassionate donor community and the wise planning of Hôpital Sacré Coeur staff, the hospital secured a nearly 3 months' supply of fuel.

The story continues...

With their immediate and short-term plan enacted, Hôpital Sacré Coeur partnered with Holy Name's Facilities Department to begin planning for the conversion of the hospital to solar power. Solar power offers protection from the vagaries of fuel supplies and prices with a much welcomed bonus: a more environmentally friendly footprint. ■

100% OF YOUR DONATION WILL SUPPORT PROGRAMS
AND CARE AT HÔPITAL SACRÉ COEUR

PLEASE DONATE TODAY
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

