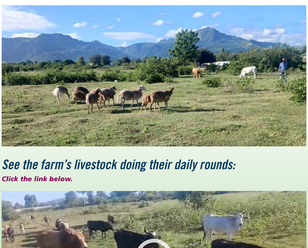
Hôpital Sacré Coeur
Holy Name Haiti Health Promise
Monthly News JANUARY 2024

La Promisse

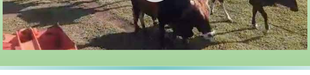
Meet the Newest Farm Residents

As the farm expands, so does the list of livestock. Eleven sheep now dot the pastures. A breeding program will increase the size of the flock in short order. Once old enough, the lambs will be given to community members to either start their flocks or aid in abating their food insecurity. ■



See the farm's livestock doing their daily rounds:

Click the link below.



A Look at the Progress of the Hôpital Sacré Coeur Farm

By Abdel Alexis, Director of Human Resources, HSC

The farm in the Bérard section of Milot is making good progress. Currently, the farm includes more than 30 goats (males and females), eleven sheep, and 58 oxen (18 males and 40 females). The long drought due to the El Niño phenomenon hit Haiti for more than eight months last year and hindered the livestock's growth because of a scarcity of feed grasses. This phenomenon caused a lack of water to irrigate the land and hampered any gardening approach. To overcome these problems, the hospital management decided to drill four artesian wells powered by solar pumping systems on either side of the land to water the garden and the plants to feed the animals.

Nearly two and a half acres have been prepared and planted with sugar cane. Sugar cane is nutritious and holds a lot of water, the perfect plant for food and hydration for the farm's livestock during droughts. The leaves will also supply hospital cafeteria employees with cane juice extracted from the stems.

We are in the final phase of preparing over twelve acres of land for vegetable production. Preparations were made for planting. The fencing installation was completed using wire mesh powered by an electric current to prevent animals from entering the garden areas. The fields were plowed and refined, and the earth was furrowed. Simultaneously, a nursery for market gardening plants was set up to provide the necessary seedlings. This garden will be divided into several plots to grow vegetables (cabbage, beets, tomatoes, carrots, peppers, spinach, eggplant, broccoli, celery, parsley, and okra.), tubers (sweet potatoes, cassava, and yam.), and an area for plantains.

The products from the garden will be used to supply the hospital cafeteria with organic products, and the surplus will be distributed to employees and the Milot community. Such an initiative makes perfect sense when Haiti, specifically Milot, faces a shortage of agricultural products caused mainly by the closure of the Dominican Republic border. This border closure exacerbates the already very high food insecurity in the country. ■

See the Growth of the Crops. ***Click the link below.***

Cabbage and Tomatoes are showing fruit.

Emergency Department: A New Beginning

The Emergency Department is one of the entry points into the care chain at Hôpital Sacré Coeur. **With twelve beds and ten chairs for vertical treatment, the emergency department can see an average of 175 patients a week, all with different types of needs that can be traumatic, orthopedic, surgical, cardiac, or respiratory.**

Jean Mary Auguste, MD, has only had one year of work at the hospital, but he already shows leadership. As Chief Physician of the Emergency Department, he is naturally calm and possesses all the character traits needed in a busy department often faced with crises. He listens to his patients, shows empathy, uses discernment, is respectful, and has a sense of duty, commitment, and is observation.

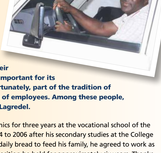
A family doctor by training, Dr Auguste is expected to grow to show his full potential in the Hôpital Sacré Coeur's Emergency Department. He has all the necessary qualities to take command of the greatly expanded, 4,600 square feet Emergency Department anticipated with the building of the new Women's and Children's Hospital — an expansion critically needed given the patient volume. ■

Dr. Auguste, in labcoat, is very attentive and brings his ideas for his department.

Discussing the new SR's Plan.

Kerne Denis Lagredel: Committed to Serve Hôpital Sacré Coeur

By Abdel Alexis,
Director of Human Resources, HSC



Very often, certain employees are seen in the background of an institution. Yet, their colossal work and the effort deployed are important for its smooth running. Hôpital Sacré Coeur is, fortunately, part of the tradition of organizations with a history of these types of employees. Among these people, we can highlight the name of Kerne Denis Lagredel.

Born in Milot, Kerne studied automobile mechanics for three years at the vocational school of the Children's Village (SOS) of Cap-Haïtien from 2004 to 2006 after his secondary studies at the College of Cap-Haïtien. Married with one child, to earn daily bread to feed his family, he agreed to work as a distributor driver for a soft drink company, a position he held for approximately six years. Thanks to a competition that he passed with flying colors, Kerne joined the hospital in December 2013 as a Driver-Mechanic assigned to the general services department of this institution.

A very skilled driver, he quickly distinguished himself as one of the best employees in his department. Kerne spares neither his time nor his energy to work to ensure the smooth running of the hospital. Very motivated in carrying out his tasks, he has always demonstrated good know-how and exceptional will. This allowed him to obtain, in December 2015, during the employees' day, a congratulation associated with a bonus from management as a sign of recognition. A model employee due to his attitude, kindness, and undeniable flexibility at work, he was promoted in February 2017 by the hospital management to Chief Mechanic-Driver in General Services.

A tireless worker, Kerne is among those hospital employees who go beyond set hours to work if the hospital situation requires him. He does his job with heart and dynamism to ensure the smooth running of the hospital. All activities of the institution relating to transport, management, and maintenance of the vehicle fleet, generators, oxygen production equipment, etc., are under his coordination, tasks that he carries out dynamically with the help of the technical support of his immediate supervisor, the Director of Operations.

A man of good business, Kerne is today an asset for the hospital, a model of commitment the institution can greatly count on to achieve its vision and noble mission. ■

Next Packathon

Episcopal School of Jacksonville Packathon for Alumni, Parents, and Students

Episcopal School of Jacksonville
4455 Atlantic Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32207

April 11, 8:45 - 11 am

Support this packathon and the Feed Milot, Haiti Packathon program by donating HERE ▶

To learn more about sponsoring a packathon, email HHP Executive Director, Dr. Joni Paterson at **patersonj@rcudem.org**

Volunteers Needed

Hôpital Sacré Coeur's medical director, Dr. Michele Hanna, and US Medical Director, Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name Dr. Jim Morgan work closely to manage the teams' travel to Milot. The hospital's current needs determine the timing and specialty of the teams.

The following specialties are needed:
- Urgent need for Ob-Gyn teams
- Urgent Need for Urology Teams.

Other specialties needed include:
- Emergency Department
- ENT
- Oral Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Internal Medicine

If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with Dr. Jim Morgan at jamorgan@holyname.org

If you have not volunteered prior, please visit the Volunteer Application and Forms page HERE ▶

Volunteer Veterinarians Needed!

The Hôpital Sacré Coeur Farm began in response to the extreme food insecurity the Milot region now faces, like all of Haiti. Food stocks are in short supply, and inflation has driven prices up over 50%. Hospital administration knew that eating nutritious food was essential for maintaining good health.

After careful study, the hospital realized the best use of its current resources to meet the food crisis included converting 90 acres of land suitable for food production into a farm.

The hospital's agricultural project now includes 58 cattle, 30 goats, 11 sheep, and the production of 800 chickens every six weeks. Livestock supports the hospital cafeteria and provides surplus meat to the neediest in the community.

Animal health infrastructure, including vaccinations and epidemiological assistance, is nearly nonexistent in Haiti. Veterinarian care in the Milot area is sparse. The livestock on the hospital's farm receive primary care, but much more is needed.

If you are willing to volunteer for a few days or a week, please get in touch with Jim Morgan, MD, US Medical Director for Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name, at: jamorgan@holyname.org

▶ CLICK HERE to donate to the Farm Project