

Rose Gbadamassi's Testimony of the WFWP USA's Haiti Medical Mission Trip

Ruta Smith
April 29, 2020



Rose Gbadamassi, WFWP volunteer, on the far left

I am Rose Gbadamassi, a member of WFWP Minnesota and the founder of the Haitian Community of Minnesota, a nonprofit focused on furthering the lives of Haitian families in Minnesota and in Haiti. I received the opportunity through WFWP to join Stand Up to Poverty Inc. (SU2P) for a medical relief trip to Tabarre, Haiti.

Haiti is very near and dear to my heart because it is where I was born and so I know firsthand information about the development and access issues that are present there at the moment. Also, this trip helps to prove that no matter the state of your condition, you can always help

those in need. Personally, I am disabled, and so it was uncertain whether or not I would be able to travel and help. Being that I've made it back safely and overjoyed, I can prove that this was both possible and worth it. I also want to share how the current pandemic COVID 19 impacted, yet did not halt, the trip.

Through the Haitian Community of Minnesota, I have experience collecting funds and supplies for medical surgeries in Haiti, providing assistance and support to local families; thus, when I was invited to join the WFWP delegation for this medical mission trip, I eagerly accepted. Fujiko Paul, the president of WFWP Haiti, supported us on the ground, and I cannot ignore the gift of love from WFWP USA and many generous donors that made this trip possible for Rev. Juanita Pierre-Louis and myself.

I left from Minneapolis on March 14th, flew to Miami, and then to Haiti, where I met with the main group of volunteers from New York. On March 15th, the first full day in Haiti, all of the nurses, doctors and volunteers met together for breakfast. We started accepting patients at the clinic immediately. My time at the clinic was spent mostly engaging with patients, assisting where needed, including collecting prescriptions and giving them to the doctors, and translating as needed. While patients were waiting to be seen, we discussed COVID-19 and demonstrated proper hand-washing. We allowed for questions and answers during this time.

Over the course of a week, a team of more than 100 medical professionals and other volunteers -- including dentists, surgeons, pediatricians, gynecologists and doctors specializing in diabetes -- was able to serve 850 Haitian people with a variety of needs. Quality medical care is not always readily accessible, and some people traveled several hours to benefit from our service. For example, 19 people traveled all the way from the port city of Cap-Haitien, which is about a six to eight hour journey. In addition to the medical services and medication we provided to local Haitian families, the children were entertained with face painting and jump ropes, which brought happiness as well.

Although we had originally planned to leave on March 20th, travel delays due to the evolving pandemic kept us in the country for several more days before we were able to return home safely. The mobile clinic program was very successful and everyone was well trained to serve with each other and provide excellent care to the patients and their families. Families were also very pleased with the care and personal loving attention that was shown to the children.

Thank you to all the volunteers, doctors, hosts and each and every person that contributed to this medical mission trip. Compliments also go to Rev. Juanita, SU2P Founder Astrid Fidelia and Dr. Emmanuel Samedi, who handled the education portion of this mission trip, as well as Dr. Sainteus Avis, Dr. Bruno Jean-Gilles (the medical director of CMCC), and the president of the Haitian American Veterans Association, Dr. Fritz Fils Aime.

Editor's Note: In the last issue, we published a report on a special mission trip to the nation of Haiti from March 14 to 24, 2020, that provided vital medical care and other services to the impoverished local population (read report [here](#)). What follows is the personal account of WFWP member Rose Gbadamassi, one of the volunteers who took part in this medical mission.

The full report with facts and figures, prepared by Astrid Fidelia, CEO of Stand Up to Poverty, is available here:

 **STANDUPTOPOVERTY**

MISSION REPORT

HAITI MEDICAL MISSION



WITH LOVE, **POVERTY** WILL
BECOME  **HISTORY**

**GLOBAL HEALTH
MEDICAL OUTREACH**

MARCH 16-20, 2020

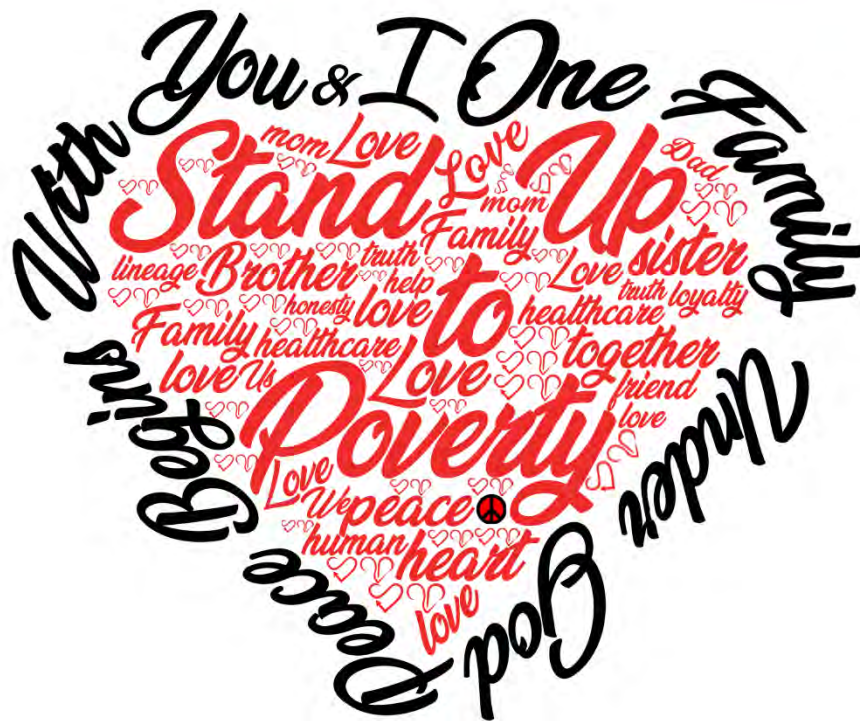
Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

**Centre Medical de la Communauté Chrétienne,
Impasse Audin Tabarre 38 Fleuriot**



www.standuptopoverty.org

WHO WE ARE



Stand Up to Poverty Inc. (SU2P) is a 501(c)(3) humanitarian non-profit grassroots organization headquartered in Hauppauge, New York. We provide health services and education. We aim to bring sustainable solutions to a weak health care system by providing health, wellness, and illness prevention information to the vulnerable citizens of disadvantaged communities by way of free community health fairs and medical missions. We collect donated medical equipment, medicine and various items to ship overseas to equip clinics and hospitals in underserved communities. We partner with healthcare professionals, humanitarian organizations, elected officials, civic groups, educators, and volunteers to accomplish our goals.



THE NEED



Haiti's most recent demographic and health survey (DHS)

- Haiti is the poorest Caribbean nation with per capita income \$784 annually
- The middle class of Haiti reside outside of Haiti in the cities of: New York, Boston, Montreal, Paris, Miami, etc.
- \$3.5 Billion in remittances are sent to Haiti each year
- 80% of residents live in poverty
- Haiti has the highest infant mortality rate in the western hemisphere
- 67 deaths for every 1,000 live births
- 60% of people lack access to basic healthcare services



THE COLLABORATION



Stand Up to Poverty Inc. organized a medical mission with Stony Brook PA Program, Womens Federation for World Peace (WFWP USA), Haitian American Kidney Association (HAKA), Haitian American Veterans Association (HAVA), the Centre Medical de la Communauté Chrétienne (CMCC), Sante Nou and the Salesian Missions during Stony Brook's Spring Break. After the NYS Department issued a Level 4 Do Not Travel Trip Advisory, the Stony Brook PA students withdrew from the trip. Despite the political unrest and the Corona virus pandemic, the rest of the team were determined to bring much needed medical services and medicine to the impoverished. They traveled to Haiti and met up with licensed medical practitioners and provided exceptional services at CMCC which is adjacent to the Salésiens de Don Bosco en Haiti where the US delegation lodged.



THE INITIATIVE

CMCC was built in 1988 and is managed by Mrs. Marjory David, RNP Executive Director and Dr. Bruno Jean-Gilles, MD, MPH Medical Director. Its aim is to provide medical care to the most vulnerable people in the Tabarre community and surrounding areas in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The center makes no religious considerations and its basic care and medicines have always been free. In order to promote health to combat chronic diseases and oral assignments, a medical mission supported by the STAND UP TO POVERTY group organized a medical outreach that took place during the week of March 16th–20th.

During this activity, many pathologies were detected and treated, such as:

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Parasitosis
- Anemia
- Malnutrition
- Genitourinary infections etc.

The staff was made up of several personalities including:

Physicians – (generalists, dentists, ophthalmologists, gynecologists, internists, urologists, pediatricians), surgeons, nurses, medical technologist, radiology technicians and volunteers



THE IMPACT



This year, The Womens Federation for World Peace (WFWP) International Vice President of North America and USA President Angelika Selle and SU2P became global friends. WFWP USA ran a successful online fundraising campaign to fund the National V.P, Reverend Juanita Pierre-Louis and Rose Gbadamassi's travel costs. Mrs. Selle arranged to have the WFWP Haiti President, Fujiko Paul and her team to join the medical mission.



THE IMPACT



We are so happy and grateful that International VP and National President WFWP USA Mrs. Angelika Selle and WFWP Haiti National President Mrs. Fujiko Paul, collaborated with our medical mission team to serve the Haitian people at this time of trials and challenges.

The 2 US representatives, Rev. Juanita Pierre-Louis and Mrs. Rose Gbadamassi, came with the heart of a mother. In the spirit of love and service, Rev Juanita gave a 30 minute session "Women Heal Theyself" every other day which included self healing, maintaining good spiritual and physical health. Not only did they assist in equipping those in need with practical medical help, but also spiritual and emotional empowerment and self help techniques. Mrs. Angelika Selle has been in Haiti in June of 2013, Cap Haitian, and came to know and deeply love the Haitian people. Haiti is very close to her heart. Special thanks to the entire WFWP USA staff for running an exceptional online fundraising campaign for this mission. They exceeded the \$5000 goal and raised \$7360 which was timely as we were stuck in Haiti for 3 days and incurred additional expenses. We hope and also pray, that one day, soon, all Haitian people will be living healthy, happy and fulfilled lives in Haiti!



THE IMPACT



After Rev. Juanita's passionate presentation regarding the importance of mothers, a volunteer, Gethro Mondelus, got inspired to mentor at risk boys. He explained how the boys start out as beggars when they're little then they grow up to become street thugs and take what they want forcefully. In response, Father Lex, the Salesian priest who hosted our stay offered their vocational schools to do an education outreach project with WFWP and SU2P to put the boys on a path to success. The SU2P Co-Founder / Salesian Alumni President in NY, Mr. Jean Alfred is a product of the Salesian vocational school. He became a licensed Electrical Engineer and CEO of American Electric Consulting. Because of this opportunity, he is living an exceptional life of service because with education comes transformation. With love, poverty will become history!



THE IMPACT



During our public health session, Dr. Emmanuel Samedy MD, SU2P Haiti Coordinator and Dr. Bruno Jean-Gilles MD, CMCC Medical Director gave valuable information in the waiting room and on Radyo Tele Soleil regarding the Corona virus, it's symptoms, the importance of hand washing and social distancing. The next morning, the volunteers and patients used both water stations to wash their hands. Knowledge is power!



THE IMPACT



Mrs. Astrid Fidelia gave a presentation on dental hygiene and demonstrated how to properly brush your teeth and the importance of flossing for healthy gums. The patients were very eager to receive the floss in the dental packages.



THE IMPACT



Our lead dentist, Dr. Fritz Fils Aime who is also the President of the Haitian American Veterans Association (HAVA) in NY left the US after his retirement and returned to Haiti to provide free services to the poor. He tours the countryside in remote areas and has serviced over 20,000 patients. During this mission he extracted 7 crumbling teeth from an 18 year old male. Many people have poor dental hygiene and have never been seen by a dentist before. We are making a real difference by providing dental services, medicine, lab work and dental packages.



THE IMPACT



A grieving WFWP Haiti volunteer, Lamarre Massily asked Mrs. Fidelia to console his wife as they lost their 1 year old son. Rev. Juanita and Mrs. Fidelia ministered to Emelyne and consoled her. When she was pregnant with twins, she was struck by a tire in her abdomen, had a miscarriage and the surviving twin died from a high fever. Even though they have 2 daughters, this toddler brought them so much joy. We uplifted her spirit to the point that she became a Stand Up To Poverty volunteer and spoke on Radyo Tele Soleil about the WFWP in Haiti.



THE RESULTS

Report

The medical outreach is one of the strategic means to detect and manage early certain potentially controllable pathologies. After a week, we were able to view and examine 850 patients with several different ailments which are as follows:



Activity Week Report

	Odontology	Cons. General	Sonography	PAP TEST	Electrocardiogram	Laboratory
Monday	50	132	17	4	5	45
Tuesday	37	103	16	5	8	48
Wednesday	45	176	8	4	7	25
Thursday	46	139	15	3	4	55
Friday	36	76	4	7	2	21
Total	214	636	60	23	26	194
GRAND TOTAL	850					



RECOGNITION



“Be The Change You Want to See In The World!” – Mahatma Gandhi

Mrs. Astrid Fidelia’s mantra are the very words of Gandhi.

Special thanks to all our supporters and volunteers. We provided much-needed medical services and medicine to help save lives and bring hope to the poor. This has been an amazing experience for all because of your kindness and selflessness. Remember, with love, poverty Will become history!

Coordinators

- *Astrid Fidelia CEO, Co-Founder*
- *Jean Yves Alfred CFO, Co-Founder*
- *Jonathan Pack COO, Graphic Designer*
- *Joshua Fidelia Graphic Designer & Developer*
- *Majory David RNP & CMCC Director*
- *Dr. Emmanuel Samedy Lead Physician*
- *Dr. Fritz Fils Aime Lead Dentist, HAVA President*
- *Jasmin Pack Facial Artist & Entertainment*
- *Patrick Coty P.A.*
- *Dr. Nadya Dimitrov Stony Brook P.A. Professor*
- *Marissa Kanestrin Stony Brook P.A. Student Chairperson*
- *Rommel Hudson Stony Brook P.A. Student Co-Chairperson*
- *Monsignor Ducange Sylvain Salésiens Residence*



RECOGNITION

Lab

- *Peterson Garnier*
- *Sterlange Jean-Pierre*

Logistics

- *Jules Guelande*
- *Isaac Samedy*
- *Wilande Vernelus*



Medical Suppliers

- *Muriel Gordon RN, MGF President*
- *Barry Reed FAME World*
- *Americares*
- *MAP International*
- *Blessings International*
- *Brothers Brother Foundation*
- *Paul Wernersbach Sr Bay Shore Lions Club, Eyeglass Supplier*

Security

- *Willy Renois SWAT Commander*



Volunteer

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- *Anne Samuelle Andre*
- *Junior Augustin*
- *Milfort Beatrice*
- *Myriam Patricia Charles-Laguerre*
- *Eugene Pierre Denis*
- *Samina Denis*
- *Pierre Fils Aime*
- *Jean Jaboin*
- *Marly Jean Julien*
- *Wilfred Justable*
- *Albertine Laguerre*
- *Martine Christela Laguerre*
- *Mesidor Lindor*
- *Gethro Mondelus*
- *Farah Pluvrose*
- *Raynald Gesner Robert*
- *Wilner Stephen*



Contributors

- *Frank Amalfitano United Veterans Beacon House*
- *Sherri Cruz*
- *Pierre Fils Aime*
- *Islip Rotary Club*
- *Anthonie Marshall Ridgewood Savings Bank*
- *Dr. Raj Patel*
- *Gary Rosenfeld*
- *Gary Spindler Park It Management*
- *Denise Torino*



RECOGNITION

WFWP

- *Emelyne Alteus Haiti*
- *Rose Gbadamassi USA*
- *Lamarre Massily Haiti*
- *Fujiko Paul National President Haiti*
- *Rev. Juanita Pierre Louis, VP USA*

Medical Team

Dentist

- *Dr. Fritz Fils–Aimé*
- *Dr. Geraldine Francois*
- *Dr. Yves Elie Lerois*
- *Dr. Joseph Lesly*
- *Dr. Valesca Saint Cyr*



Medical Doctor

- *Dr. David Christley Favard*
- *Dr. Brunot Jean–Gilles*
- *Dr. Witcherly Edouard Joseph*
- *Dr. Naromie Milford*
- *Dr. Rose–Michelle Pierre*
- *Dr. Cassandre Phanor*
- *Dr. Claire Deslenson Rene*
- *Dr. Emmanuel Samedy*
- *Dr. Yardley Marie Carmelle Samson*
- *Dr. Deniese Timeau*



RECOGNITION

Internist

- *Dr. Joseph Francisque Tobe Cadet*

Nurse

- *Francise Almonor*
- *Rosita Auguste*
- *Daphnie Belfort*
- *Sheila Castro*
- *Magdala Charles*
- *Kettly Clement*
- *Sophia Lilliavetti Delissaint*
- *Shelove Desir*
- *Guirlaine Donnejour*
- *Viquiana Dure*
- *Rose Darline Francois*
- *Manoucheca Jean*
- *Gabriel-Ange Jean Denis*
- *Lanise Jean Simon*
- *Marie Narzie Michel*
- *Guirlande Petit-Homme*
- *Elna Phileppeau*
- *Darlie Mariada Pierre*
- *Saen Pierre*
- *Merline Surfin*
- *Lorry Valencia Themistocle*
- *Marianne Valcourt*



RECOGNITION

OBGYN

- Dr. Gregory Beaugé,
- Dr. Makenley Chery
- Dr. Luc Herve Dorvil

Ophthalmologist

- Dr. Emeline Etienne
- Dr. Webner Louis
- Dr. Yvelyne Pierre

Pediatrician

- Dr. Nadjee Michaella Delva
- Dr. Rodney Faustin
- Dr. Fedline Vancol

Urologist

- Dr. Woodjena Louis



RECOGNITION



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Special thanks to the Woman's Federation for World Peace, Angelika Selle, Irmgard Baynes, Kiyomi Schmidt, Rev. Juanita, Pierre-Louis, and all 64 supporters for their fundraising campaign.

