**Accomplishments**

The accomplishments below are the result of the hard work of the volunteers, staff and Board of Outreach to Haiti, and the generosity of its donors and grantors. Together we have accomplished much!

Facilities in Haiti –

Facilities were destroyed in the earthquake of 2010. A campaign to replace them was started in 2014. Plans needed to be revised in 2016 as an engineering study of the one remaining portion of the building revealed it could not be used. An oversight firm was found and contracted, design plans were expanded to include offices, and more detailed plans to allow for adequate monitoring and oversight were developed. Demolition of the existing building was completed. A construction contract has been finalized, and construction has started. Pictures of progress are elsewhere.

Funding for the new facility is well underway. While funding was thought to be completed at one point, the demolition of the existing building, addition of office space to the clinic and hospitality, and a more earthquake resistant structure significantly increased the cost. The total cost of the project – design, demolition, oversight, and construction is currently $1.45 million. Of this $1.2 million has been raised. All donations are important, but a matching grant for the Diocese of Norwich for $100,000 and a donation from the Padre Pio Foundation of America for $100,000 particularly stand out.

Programs-

All programs have continued despite rampant inflation, and political instability. Several programs have been started or expanded, and those are described below.

* Health Agents - Outreach has been using health agents to extend the reach of the clinic into the neighborhoods since the earthquake of 2010. With the support of grants from The Sisters of Mercy – Northeast, and the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Norwich, we were able to add a health agent in 2016, which increased the utilization of the clinic (consults, vaccinations, lab tests, medicine) by an average of 25%.
* Expectant mothers’ nutrition program - Outreach has had a nutrition program for moderately and severely malnourished infants and toddlers for more than a decade. In 2016 we decided we needed to attack the problem even earlier, and started a similar program for expectant mothers. The program was developed by the Outreach Clinic Committee ( Geri O’Hare RN, MSN, CRNP, and Dr Rosemary Hanrahan), working with our medical staff in Haiti. The intent of the program was to identify the women most in need, early in the second trimester, and give them medical and nutritional support through delivery and for at least the first three months after. This would maximize the chances for a healthy delivery, with baby healthy at birth, and mom able to nurse and get the baby off to a good post-partum start.

Initially, we had difficulty getting mothers to come in that early. Most poor women in Haiti come in to see a doctor very close to expected delivery. The existence of the program has changed the behavior in the neighborhood we serve so that women are coming in much earlier. This allows us to help not only the ones that qualify for the program, but all of the women who come up to 5 or 6 months earlier than they used to. We are able to provide education and at least some assistance with the pregnancy.

This program was made possible through the generosity of our donors, and grants from Sisters of Mercy Northeast, and The Catholic Foundation, Operation Rice Bowl and the Cradle Fund, all of the Diocese of Norwich.

* Fanm Avanse Kounye (Advancing Women Now (FAK)). Haiti has not only severe poverty, but severe gender inequality. On top of that, many of the women are left with children to support, without the help of the father. Dr Rosemary Hanrahan, a member of the Outreach Clinic committee, proposed and developed a program to teach these women entrepreneurial and basic business skills. The program gives them a stipend to allow time for the classes, gives them a starting asset with which to begin their business, and loans to help grow the business. With a grant from the Congregation of St Joseph Generous Promise Grant Fund, a pilot program of 10 women were trained. Results were very positive, with 9 of the 10 women completing the courses, and repaying the loans. We are now training a second group, this one of 20 women, and using several of the women from the first group as mentors. The idea is that, when enough women have been through the course, it can become self-sustaining. Dr. Hanrahan continues to provide direction, and modify the course, based on the results we see.
* Internships- FAK is one example of Outreach trying to help Haitians turn education into actual paying jobs. Another is a focus on internships and job coaching for our post-secondary students. Since 2015, the Tom and Julie Wood Family Foundation has supported job skills training and development of internships for these students. In further support of this, Outreach hired a Part-time employee to help coordinate this, and to look for internship opportunities. These internships build the student’s skills, and also strengthen his or her resume.