



Friends of the Haiti School Nurse Project Newsletter

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The last three months have been a particularly difficult time in Haiti and Leogane. At the same time, we are developing new relationships that point to a strong future for school nursing and bringing health care to more children in Leogane and beyond. Let us explain both.

Protests across Haiti

Since February 2019, Haiti has been shaken by civil disturbances. These started in the capital, Port-au-Prince, but quickly spread across the island nation. The unrest began as anti-corruption marches but spiraled into riots, streets barricaded by burning tires, gang violence, and deadly clashes between police and demonstrators. The original protests have grown month by month, engaging hundreds of thousands of Haitians from all walks of life in large-scale demonstrations protesting government corruption, a 20% inflation rate, and the devaluation of Haitian currency. Movement leaders have insisted upon the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse, something that has yet to occur.

This disruption extended into Leogane causing schools to close in mid-September. They have not been able to re-open since that time. Our partner FSIL has found it necessary to discontinue nursing classes, and to delay the scheduled December graduation of nursing students.

Our concern is for all our friends at FSIL and for the children at the schools. Our lead school nurse Fabiola Rejouis reported to us in mid-November, “Thank you for thinking of us. We pray that our kids can go to school, but the situation has not changed yet. Thank you for your prayers. We really appreciate it. Yola, Charledine and I send all our recognitions to the team. May God bless you!”



Our principal supporter at FSIL, Dr. Jessie Colin – their board chair, reported in November, “Hello Hugh and the team. Thank you so much for keeping track of us. Yes, we are fine but it’s the children of Leogane who are impacted by this unfortunate circumstance. We are hopeful that all sides will come to their senses in short order. Thanks for your patience and understanding.”

Good news during this difficult time

Financial support for the school nurse project has grown significantly through your generosity. During this period, the project has also experienced a significant commitment to the project from the Haiti Nursing Foundation (HNF). According to their website (haitinursing.org), HNF, headquartered in Ann Arbor, MI, was founded in 2005 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and acts as an “institutional advancement” arm for FSIL in the United States, providing ongoing financial and program support to the nursing school. As a part of their annual fundraising gala in November, HNF specifically requested donations for the school nurse project. The response was remarkable, with \$21,000 raised for school nursing.

What this means is we can look forward to a strong future for school nursing in Leogane through FSIL. It is clear that FSIL, with HNF support, sees school nursing as an essential element in student nurse education, extending FSIL’s reach into the community, and bringing health care to a growing number of children – now 2,000, once care resumes.

In this season of advent, we look forward to the “Good News” of Jesus’ birth. Let us also look forward to a resumption of school nursing at the three schools and nurse education at FSIL. As Dr. Colin expressed, “We are hopeful that all sides will come to their senses in short order.” May the new year bring us an even stronger school nurse program in Leogane.

