



Community Coalition for Haiti
Transforming Lives

REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Jacmel, Haiti

January 2010

Haiti's earthquake destroyed the country's infrastructure, hospitals and medical care. Thousands of survivors sustained trauma from crush injuries, neglected fractures and infection. Many lost their limbs. These individuals need physical healing—through a post-operative course, prosthetic fitting, and physical rehabilitation—and emotional healing.

Our Vision

The Rehabilitation and Development Center's vision is to provide every person with the opportunity to become whole and complete through the provision of rehabilitation and development support services.

Our goals include:

- ◆ Providing pre- and post-operative care for those who sustained physical and developmental damage;
 - ◆ Providing new arms and legs through initial and permanent prosthetic fittings;
 - ◆ Arranging training for Haitian medical care providers; and
 - ◆ Providing long-term physical therapy/rehab intervention so as to be able to live a fully productive life.
- As a result of participating in this process, the lives of those privileged to be serving the Haitian community, as well as Haitians themselves, will be transformed.



STACY BENNETT WORKS WITH AN AMPUTEE.

The Rehabilitation and Development Center

CCH and its partner organizations undertook the creation of a permanent rehabilitation facility in Jacmel, Haiti. The care provided includes physical and occupational therapy. Medical support and direction is given by consulting physicians in orthopedics and psychiatry, among other specialties. Care also includes post-amputation follow-up by prosthetists and orthotists.

The Center is currently housed in a large tent with a finished floor on the campus of St. Michel Hospital. While the level of care is excellent, it is limited by extreme heat inside the tent and lack of plumbing or consistent electrical service.

Through July 2010, the tent facility operated with volunteer therapy teams that rotated weekly, supplemented by Haitian staff hired by CCH. In July, CCH retained the services of a licensed American physical therapist to oversee the tent, rehabilitation and related services.

Since its inception, the rehab tent has averaged 30+ patients per day and occasionally as many as 50 per day, especially during the acute phase post-earthquake. The case load is primarily orthopedic (60-70%) and neuromuscular (30-40%) rehabilitation. Neuro-developmental pediatric cases are welcome and will be a major part of the rehabilitation outreach programs. Sample orthopedic cases have included post-fracture and dislocation care, neck and back pain, various types of tendonitis, meniscal and ligament injuries, and various crush and soft tissue trauma injuries. Neuro-muscular cases have included post CVA (stroke) and pediatric cases, including a variety of developmental delay issues and spina bifida.



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