



Lifesaving Surgery – Portay Leogane

Transforming Lives, 2011

Ravaged by natural disasters, disease epidemics and years of systemic poverty, Haiti is in desperate need of recovery. For Haitians in the Southeast, where Jacmel's city hospital was severely damaged by the earthquake, lifesaving surgery is not only costly but often unavailable. As a result, 500,000 people are dependent on a surgical system with less than 60 beds for urgent care.

CCH has treated the sick, wounded and forgotten for over 20 years in Haiti. As a result of our successful efforts to raise the capacity of Haitians to provide better health care in the North and to provide continuous emergency and primary care following the earthquake, CCH has been asked to help modernize health care in the Southeast.

Goals:

- 1) Provide lifesaving surgery to residents of the Southeast, in cooperation with and under the request of the Ministry of Health.** 70% of Haitians cannot contribute to their health care; even if they could, often it is unavailable. For this reason, the life expectancy in Haiti is 45 years. Surgery is only performed as a last resort and, unless Haitians have access to a well-trained surgeon, the results are usually not successful.
- 2) Increase area hospitals' surgical ability in terms of equipment provision and knowledge transfer.** CCH sends volunteer American and Canadian surgeons, nurses and medical staff to train Haitian health professionals in advanced surgical procedures, anesthesiology, infection control, patient care, biomedical repair, and other topics. Over time, the Haitian staff becomes proficient in advanced surgical procedures and patient care.
- 3) Install and equip a more advanced operating room.** CCH's Portay Leogane surgery facility, 5,000 square feet in size, is capable of holding an operating room plus pre- and post-op areas.

Costs: \$39,000

