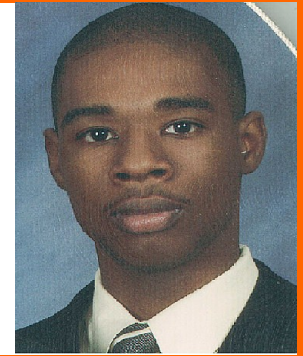


Jeff Cherubin Domond Foundation “Partners with Haiti”



My Mission Trip in Haiti

In trying to write this article, I can only come back to how grateful I am. Even now being in the middle of the nursing school application process and swamped with deadlines, the intensity of my Haitian experience comes back to me in clear, swift memories.

I remember the meeting with the other volunteers at LAX. Now my timidity with them seems laughable given the hours we've shared over Haitian rice and beans. But then I had doubted if our all differing lifestyles and ways of thinking about Faith could fit under the same umbrella of this trip.

I remember the moment I first learned, standing in the dental clinic, that I could communicate simply with a gentle smile



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An Evening of Music and Lights

Please join us for an evening of fun to support the work of Jeff Cherubin Domond Foundation's continuing provision of direct medical and dental care, educational, and orphanage services in Haiti. It's going to be a night to remember. We look forward to your participation in this exciting event. Please save the date.

DATE: October 13, 2012

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Pat & Chris Shaner's estate
695 W. Via Espirito Santos, Claremont

COST: \$60 per person

Reservations are available by contacting:

Chris Shaner at 909.621.2014

clhayes1@earthlink.com

or

The Domonds at 909.816.7207

jdomond@jeffcdomondfoundation.org

and soft hand laid on the shoulder of the waiting older '*madame*'.

I remember Joe Domond telling us more in his simply *being* than in the unassuming small speeches he would give before we circled around the dinner table, that generosity could be radical. Earlier in the capital, he handed the sweet grasping girl mimicking “gimme gimme” meaning ‘give me, give me’ outside our van windows a dollar without the cynicism or suspicion that I’ve come to associate with giving in our cities at home. The other Haitians on the trip were illustrative in their giving and we all soon fell into their habit of passing around ripe mango, Haitian candies, or plantain chips to share.

I remember other things – the enlivening mass of color and sashaying bodies in the streets of Port au Prince, the winding dusty road up to the coast and back. Simply seeing those rolling green fields and mountains was enough to quench our thirst on that hot day – the river that teased at the wheels of the van as we held our breaths in the crossing, and the wealth of community that welcomed us with inexhaustible hospitality. There were the men and then Sister Hermione at the guest house in the city who never made us feel like foreigners but family.

I am grateful for the Grace that came upon me in Haiti. I was unexpectedly and divinely gifted by the land, the people, and the poignant reminder that something of Depth exists beyond the mundane. Perhaps this is what I will remember most. It’s not hard. The best way to connect with this hidden current whispering to us *You exist outside of your daily striving*, is through gratitude.

Stephanie Speicher
Port Angeles, Washington

Haiti Medical Mission

What an incredible adventure I started when we flew into Port-au-Prince on March 24th, 2012. We began exploring Haiti and its people, culture, art, markets, and tent cities on the first day. We eventually met everyone on our 12 member team and started bonding right away with music and fine food.

We were led by an amazing man named Joseph Domond who grew up in Haiti and now wanted to give back to his country with yearly medical missions to help the people in his community where he grew up. We were divided up into a dental team, medical team and vision team, and drove up to the village of Marbial to start our 5 day mission.

With 2 dentists, a pharmacist, a nurse, an optician, a social worker, an occupational therapist and other friends, we started dividing up all the glasses, medicine and dental equipment for our 3 clinics.

People waited to see us after 6am daily mass,



lining up to get a tooth pulled, or a rash looked at, or get tested for glasses.

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My medical clinic saw mostly chronic pain complaints in knees, backs, necks and headaches from carrying merchandise on their heads and walking up and down those hills to their huts. They cooked over open fires daily, as refrigeration and electricity were rare. The organic diet of home grown food and fresh mangoes made the people quite strong and resilient with their daily long walks. Carrying water, cooking rice and beans, washing clothes in the river were all part of daily life there. Local



remedies such as almond tea were used to treat hypertension as there were no doctors in the village. The sisters attached to every parish were well respected and treated as nurses for the people in the village. Because of the hot, humid, climate, fungal infections were common, especially ring worm on the children, impetigo, scabies and lice.

We worked long hours, sometimes till 8pm, seeing 80 to 100 people daily. Without our Haitian members of the team acting as interpreters, we wouldn't have been so successful in seeing so many people. And without sister Hermione and her team of cooks, we wouldn't have had our amazing home cooked meals! Thank-you Joe for an amazing experience, I was so blessed to be able to participate on this mission with so many wonderful people, and I would do it again in a heartbeat!

Louise Laforet-RN, Edmonton, Canada

My Eye Clinic in Haiti

In March 2012, I was part of the medical mission with the vision team in Haiti. Since I have never been to Haiti, I jumped to the opportunity to help people there. We traveled to a rural community named Marbial, outside of Jacmel, a city located south-east of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I was taken by the beautiful mountain views, rivers and the locals using the water to bathe, wash things, and clean their clothes. It was sad to learn that the water was not clean and full of parasites.

We continued the journey to our destination. I thought I was emotionally prepared to cope with everything such as the hot weather, the long lines/hours for clinical visits, but it was hard and I could not hold back my tears just seeing other human being living in such poor conditions without any hope. What was the hardest is that they never complained and their spirit was just amazing.



Our vision team worked long hours – over 10 hours a day on average – and we saw at least 102 patients each day. I was shocked to see such a need for reading glasses. Kids had presbyopia and are in great need of reading glasses. Their living condition is the primary

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reason why it was such an epidemic of that nature among young school aged children.

Patients had parasites attached to their iris and sclera of their eyes including many cases of cataracts among the young and adults due to severe dehydration. We took care of many outbreaks of pink-eye due to the water conditions. The saddest part is we ran out of medicine and not being a surgical team, we had to turn down many patients that were going blind. It broke my heart, but we were fortunate enough to give away hundreds of pairs of safety eyewear.

Next time, I am anticipating that we could find an optometrists who could volunteer to accompany us to Haiti. We were treated very well by the Jeff Cherubin Domond Foundation and the people were so grateful.

Thank you Joe Domond for organizing the trip and I know we made a difference. I am truly proud to have been part of the team.

Christine Zacharko, Optician
Edmonton, Canada



2012 Medical missionaries team

Thank You!

On behalf of the Jeff Cherubin Domond Foundation, my wife Rita and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the missionaries who have been in this journey with us specially Dr. Carmel Pradel of E. Carmel Pradel, D.M.D., Inc. who accompanied us three times and Dr. Daniel Duroseau of Duroseau DDS Inc. who have been two times. We also want to thank the Shaners's and the fundraising team for standing by us year after year to make our fundraising gala a great success. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you again and may God bless you all.

2013 Mission trip

If you would like to help the poor, the marginalized and the forgotten, but you don't know where to start, then consider joining us on our next medical mission trip to Marbial, Haiti, scheduled from March 1 to March 10, 2013.

**For more information:
contact Joe or Rita Domond at:**

Jeff Cherubin Domond Foundation

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1235, Claremont, CA 91711-1235

Physical Address:

220 S Indian Hill Blvd. #F,
Claremont CA 91711

Phone: 909-816-7207 | E-fax 909.583.9882

info@jeffdomondfoundation.org