

## MFP ASSISTS IN EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY



*A home in Gros Morne hours after the earthquake struck.  
Photo by Brittany Galvin.*

### EARTHQUAKE HITS GROS MORNE

On October 6, at 8:11pm, a magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck twelve miles north of Port-de-Paix on the northwest coast of Haiti. The main shock was followed by strong aftershocks occurring over the next few days. The Interior Ministry reported that there were more than twenty deaths and thousands injured. The quake was devastating for the island, which has not fully recovered from the January 2010 earthquake that destroyed much of Port-au-Prince and killed more than 200,000 Haitians.

Gros Morne, MFP's base in Haiti for the past fifteen years, is only fifty km from Port-de-Paix and suffered considerable damage. Thousands of households are in need of humanitarian assistance. Two major buildings, a grammar school and a community center immediately collapsed. Luckily, the buildings were empty.

After a week of damage assessment, MFP and hospital staffer Brittany Galvin reports,

***"I estimate that 60-80% of homes in the area have suffered damage and are not livable. As you can imagine, everyone is scared to sleep inside and so many people are sleeping in the street despite the hard rains."***

### Alma Mater Hospital

This hospital is MFP's primary clinical site and suffered direct damage. The pediatric and men's medical units were forced to close. However, the hospital's acute medical services cared for a flood of patient injuries ranging from minor bruises to serious crush injuries. Many patients were transported to larger hospitals an hour away in Gonaives for more definitive surgical care. This emergency emphasized the major role that the Alma Mater Hospital plays in the well being of the 150,000 residents of the greater Gros Morne area.

### MFP Part of Relief Efforts

Shortly after the first shock wave hit, MFP nurses and volunteers joined in efforts to triage and treat patients in need of acute care. MFP is assisting local authorities in damage assessments and support of the population in most urgent need. Also, we are committed to the reconstruction of critical facilities in order to continue the vital mission of this hospital.



*Housing in Gros Morne was marginal before the earthquake. Now many walls are down.  
Photo by Brittany Galvin.*

## Improving Health Care, Saving Lives

### MFP Brings Advanced Technology to Rural Haiti



*Head MFP clinic nurse, Erlöse Cerfrère, carrying her portable colposcope, at the remote dispensary in Jolivet.*

Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among Haitian women. Accurate diagnosis and rapid treatment of cervical cancer presents a formidable challenge in developing countries like Haiti.

We have introduced a compact mobile colposcope, a device capable of enhanced visual assessment of the vagina and cervix (the ODT EVA system) into our cervical cancer prevention program. The instrument has doubled our diagnostic accuracy in detecting curable cancer even in our remote dispensaries lacking electricity.

“The portable colposcope is part of the MFP strategic plan to bring high quality medical care to the remotest parts of Haiti.”



*The colposcope takes enhanced images of the cervix and sends them by cell phone to the patient's chart on a secure website.*

The portable, hand-held colposcope possesses an ultra-bright light for better visualization and magnification of the vagina and cervix, and can capture and store high-resolution images in a cellphone built into the instrument. High capacity batteries in the device obviate the need for an electrical generator in communities without electricity. **The images are transferred to a secure site on the internet and can be integrated into the patients' medical records and into our computer-based patient follow-up system.** With patients' permission, the cervical images are now available for evaluation by expert MFP consultants in the United States who work in concert with Haitian caregivers.

Dr. Michael Viola comments, “the portable colposcope is part of MFP's strategic plan to bring high quality medical care to the most remote, inaccessible parts of Haiti, even in the rainy season.”

## MFP IN THE NEWS

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### MFP Director Receives McGill Global Award



*Dr. Michael Viola accepting the 2018 McGill Global Award.*

Dr. David Eidelman, Dean of the McGill University School of Medicine, recently announced that Michael V. Viola, M.D. is the recipient of the 2018 McGill University Global Award given to an alumnus who has made “extraordinary contributions to the betterment of the global community.” Dr. Viola received the award in recognition of his work with Medicine For Peace in El Salvador, Iraq, Bosnia, Haiti and the United States.

In presenting the award Dean Eidelman explained, “Dr. Michael Viola through his community service, has shown that a physician can not only diagnose ailments but can identify human rights abuses, and treats more than just individuals but can rally other doctors to help heal entire populations.”

The complete announcement can be found at [medicineforpeace.blogspot.com](http://medicineforpeace.blogspot.com).

### MFP Nursing Fellowships



*Orna Dieunane in Trois Riviere, Haiti*

Orna Deaunane, RN will complete her final semester of the MFP-supported **Post-Graduate Program in Community Health** this December. Ms. Deaunane has received exceptional grades in both her classroom and field work. She is presently advising mothers in Trois Riviere in southern Haiti on how to obtain food and prepare nutritious meals for their families.

The 2018 MFP **Short Term Clinical Fellowship in Haiti** was awarded to Colleen Stetler, R.N. of Philadelphia, PA. Ms. Stetler is a medical intensive care nurse at Temple University Hospital. The fellowship is based at the Alma Mater Hospital in Gros Morne and provides clinical experience in a developing country and acquaints the recipient with the daily life of women in rural Haiti.

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## MFP IN THE NEWS (cont.)

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### MFP Partners with Organization for Torture Survivors



MFP has signed a memorandum of understanding with Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC) in which MFP agrees to perform medical forensic examinations for TASSC clients. TASSC, based in Washington, DC, is committed to end the practice of torture around the world and to support survivors of torture and their families. TASSC assists torture victims and their families through their social services, legal programs, and psychological counseling. MFP has cared for torture victims since the Bosnian War in 1995 and treats patients at its clinic at the Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

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### Fund to Support School for the Deaf in Haiti



*Students at Gros Morne School for the Deaf signing "hi", Ann Rose Santillien and Kathleen Crane-Viola, far right.*

The Children's Scholarship Fund For Girls, a long-term partner of Medicine For Peace has agreed to give financial and material support to the newly established School for the Deaf in Gros Morne, Haiti. The school was established and is directed by Ann Rose Santillien and at present has twenty students. The school directly addresses the lack of educational support for the hearing impaired in the northern Artibonite region and has been applauded by community leaders. For more information, contact: [fundforgirls2@gmail.com](mailto:fundforgirls2@gmail.com).

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**PLEASE DON'T FORGET HAITI**

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