

Battling the Pandemic to Save Women's Lives



MFP health workers on the front line in Haiti.

The barriers. There are many obstacles preventing women in rural Haiti from obtaining the healthcare they need. Extreme poverty means making a choice: seeing a doctor or buying rice for the evening meal. Lack of education is another symptom of poverty, and rural women often lack information about what medical steps they need to take to ensure their health. Moreover, that care is often not available. For the past two years, Haiti has also been plagued by civil disturbances with flaring violence, burning barricades blocking travel, and armed robberies and abductions – posing an additional risk when trying to access healthcare. Finally, in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit Haiti hard, presenting a hazard for caregivers and patients alike.

Our solutions. In order to reach women who cannot access our comprehensive women's health clinic at the Alma Mater Hospital in Gros Morne, we have established a network of seventeen dispensaries in remote mountain hamlets. Our health teams often battle torrential rains and muddy roads to bring free, high quality health care to women

in these clinics. In addition to providing comprehensive medical care, MFP nurses and community health workers help women to make healthy choices for themselves and their families.

Haitian Women's Health Program

- Delivers free, high-quality health care to women in remote, difficult to reach regions in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Screened and treated more than 8,500 women for breast and cervical cancer, and other gynecologic disorders.
- Treated more than 2,000 women for sexually transmitted infections, including AIDS and syphilis.
- Prevents disease and promotes women's health utilizing a network of community health workers.

MFP Board Member Guides Us Through the Pandemic



Dr. William Schaffner, committed to educating the public.

If you watch the nightly national news, you are likely to see Dr. William Schaffner, MFP Board member, carefully explaining the dangers that COVID-19 poses for our country, how we can protect ourselves, and when we can expect an effective vaccine. An expert in infectious diseases and public health, he has a much-appreciated ability to present complex scientific information in a cogent, understandable manner.

Dr. Schaffner, Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University, is also in the national spotlight as a member of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advisory committees concerned with developing a coronavirus vaccine policy, an issue of critical importance to the nation.

MFP has profited from Bill's sage advice. Now, the nation benefits as he helps us through this public health crisis.

MFP Receives Highest Transparency Seal

MFP sets high standard for effective use of donor funds.

Medicine For Peace has earned the 2020 Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information. By providing metrics that highlight its progress, Medicine For Peace is helping donors move beyond simplistic ways of nonprofit evaluation and give supporters confidence that donations to MFP are well spent.

"We are honored to receive this powerful acknowledgement from GuideStar," said Dr. Michael Viola, Director of Medicine For Peace. "We are committed to



transparency and take our responsibility as the stewards of donor contributions very seriously. We can now easily share a wealth of up-to-date organizational metrics with our supporters as well as GuideStar's immense online audience."

More than eight million people visit the GuideStar website each year.

MFP Assists Baltimore Homeless



MFP volunteer making afternoon sleeping bag run to West Baltimore, site of the MFP clinic.

Baltimore is a poor city. One-quarter of adults and one-third of children live below the federal poverty line. Housing in Baltimore is also expensive. To pay for an averagely priced living space, a person would have to work more than two-and-a-half jobs at the minimum wage. Moreover, access to health services — especially for the mentally ill, those suffering from drug addiction, and people with disabilities — is distressingly lacking in Baltimore. All these factors contribute to homelessness.

In Baltimore, more than 4,000 people sleep on the streets each night. Our newest program **Sleepwell** provides lightweight sleeping bags, MFP Emergency Cold Weather Bundles that contain gloves, socks, wool caps and underwear, and guidance on how to access shelters. Our goal is to protect people living on the street from illness or death from hypothermia.

Good News: The Foni Bo School has Reopened

Crucial lunch program restarted.

School provides an education for Haitian children – a way to lift themselves out of poverty. The Foni Bo School also provides nutritious lunches in a country where half of all children are malnourished. Unfortunately, schools have been locked down because of the threat of COVID-19 infection. As such, children have been deprived of much needed nourishment.

In August, the Foni Bo School in Gros Morne reopened and is now busy educating youngsters, as well as feeding them.

The Children's Scholarship Fund for Girls (CSFG), MFP's partner organization, has supported Foni Bo School for more than a decade. THE CSFG, which has also assisted at-risk Latina girls in the U.S. for 25 years, is dedicated to fostering self-sufficient girls able to successfully overcome hurdles that they encounter in their lives. We are supporting our partners at Foni Bo school in their safe reopening.



School lunch at Foni Bo School in Gros Morne.

MFP Receives Human Rights Award

Work with torture victims honored.

Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC) awarded its 2020 Human Rights Award to Medicine for Peace for its work providing medical care to torture victims.

MFP has helped torture victims in the Washington-Baltimore area since 2009 and has been active in the international campaign against torture. Our patients come from many different backgrounds and countries around the world, but all share a common experience: they have been tortured and brutalized because they peacefully spoke out against injustice imposed upon them or others.

Dr. Michael Viola accepted the award on behalf of MFP at a February ceremony in Washington, DC. He stated that, "It is a privilege to care for our patients in our clinic for torture victims at Grace Medical Center. They have been persecuted because they resisted oppression. They did the right thing and are paying the price. In this age of moral ambiguity, we can learn much from their courage."



Dr. Michael Viola accepting human rights award on behalf of the staff and volunteers of MFP.



HELP US SAVE LIVES IN HAITI AND THE U.S. DONATE NOW

Medicine for Peace is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit medical relief and humanitarian organization founded in 1991 and incorporated in New York and Washington, DC. We are supported by caring individuals like you and by small foundations who share our vision of mothers and children prospering in a world free from war, torture, and extreme poverty.