

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

**On August 14, 2021, we awoke to the terrifying news that a magnitude 7.2 earthquake had struck southwest Haiti. Unlike the horrible earthquake in 2010 that was centered in Port au Prince – and caused no damage to our medical clinic – the 2021 quake was a direct hit. Thankfully, none of our staff was injured, but our medical clinic building suffered significant damage and was deemed unsafe to use.**

The earthquake came on the heels of the Haitian President’s assassination and COVID-19 still spreading throughout Haiti. It was a very difficult time for our community.

It took several months for NOVA’s administration to determine how to address these significant challenges. The present security situation in Haiti makes it imprudent for NOVA to send teams to oversee our rebuilding project, and to conduct our routine clinic operations oversight. Therefore, the board decided to hire a Country Director, Mr. Pierrot Marceus. This was a significant new position in NOVA’s organization. We are very happy to report that since joining our staff, Pierrot is very effectively managing NOVA’s operations in Haiti.

Pierrot is doing remarkable work for NOVA, including supervising the first phase of our construction (see reverse side), handling the closure of the Boileau clinic and resulting staff reorganization, as well as improving our monthly

clinic reports and internet service. Pierrot has also, once again, welcomed community members to NOVA’s campus including hosting a soccer tournament for young people in the area. This kind of community engagement beyond medical care is a hallmark of NOVA’s success in being part of improving the life and health of people in Cavaillon.

Dr. Daniel and Pierrot make a great leadership team and by working together, they have reopened the Martineau medical clinic for patients to receive care even while our facilities are being rebuilt. They retrofitted the garage to serve as a pharmacy and lab, secured large tents which were used for patient treatment, and increased the attendance of our weekly hypertension clinic. Conditions for our



staff and our patients were not ideal, but we are proud that they continued to provide medical care during this interim time of rebuilding.

Pierrot has also helped NOVA’s Executive Committee have more continuous and effective communication and oversight of our operations. We hold weekly Zoom calls to discuss the non-medical operations and our Medical Director, Dr. Jenny Henkind, also has weekly Zoom calls with Dr. Daniel and Pierrot to review and develop our medical programs.

Despite the challenges of the last year, 2022 has turned out to be a very promising year for NOVA. With an extremely dedicated team of volunteers in the U.S. working

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## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

# WE ARE RISING FROM THE RUBBLE BETTER THAN EVER

We are committed to rebuilding our facilities to be even better than before. After several months of working with engineers, insurance, and our staff, we created a three-phase plan for rehabilitating our facilities and rebuilding our clinic.

In February 2022, NOVA hired Hudco Development Construction to begin Phase I of our clinic reconstruction. Our contractor, Serge Aime, has been extremely responsive and is doing a remarkable job as shown in the photos at right.

### Phase I: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Original Clinic

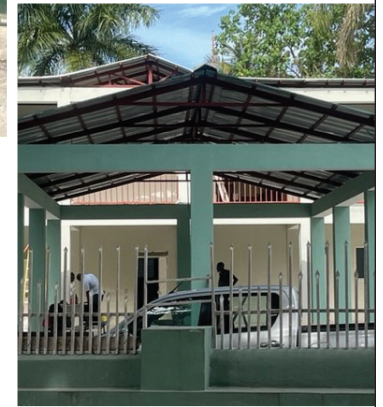
This phase included demolishing the unsafe section of our old building along with creating a large, covered pavilion. Because of the climate in Haiti, this pavilion will serve as a multipurpose open-air facility which can be used for triaging patients, health education, meetings, and activities for the children in the area.

### Phase II: Construction of the New NOVA Medical Clinic Building

While the earthquake was a serious tragedy for the area and a setback for NOVA, it has given us the opportunity to design a clinic which will better serve our patients. When completed, we will have more exam rooms, more storage, a doctor/patient consultation room, and better facilities for patients who need lab tests. The new building will also allow for potential expansion to a second floor in the future.

### Phase III: Final Conversion of Our Existing Standing Building to a Residence

Following the completion of the new clinic, we will convert the original two-story building into a free-standing residence, which will host our medical mission volunteers and other NGOs who need a welcoming – and comfortable – place to stay when working near Cavaillon. This will allow us to



separate the residence from the medical clinic, providing improved patient privacy, as well as more hygienic conditions for our mission volunteers. The residence will have larger bedrooms and bathrooms on the second floor, separate from the downstairs common space which will include a kitchen, dining and living rooms.

We are confident when construction is completed, NOVA will have a much-improved facility that will help provide enhanced medical care and community outreach, as well as support for our volunteer missions. ■

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closely with a solid leadership team in Haiti, we are hopeful and optimistic that 2022 will be the beginning of a great new chapter for NOVA.

Of course, we never forget that all of this is only possible because of the generosity and continued support of friends, families, and volunteers who keep NOVA going. There have been many times when the obstacles seemed overwhelming but we have persevered with your support. NOVA is committed to continuing despite the challenges. We thank you for helping us to continue to provide medical care to the people of Cavaillon, and for helping NOVA to remain a safe and positive institution in the community. ■



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## OUR MISSION

To bring urgently needed humanitarian aid in the form of healthcare to the impoverished people of the Republic of Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere.

*Special thanks to Symmetre Design Group and Direct Marketing Design for the design, publication and distribution of this newsletter.*