

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: Education is THE Answer
October 16, 2013



Top: Deacon Patrick Moynihan (President of THP), Timothy Moynihan, and Colby Bowker (THP Vice President & Chief Communications Officer) speak with several members of the THP community at the gala reception. Bottom: Dr. Ed Wing and his wife, Dr. Rena Wing, listen to Deacon Moynihan's discussion of education's ability to move people and communities forward; Haitian paintings and metalwork on display for the evening's silent auction; Dr. Théony Deshommes (LCS Class of 2003), here with THP Board Member Pat Newell, spoke on the challenges of treating patients without basic education.

Our joint event with Alpert Medical School at Brown University last Saturday was a great success – and not just in terms of dollars and cents. The evening included a solid affirmation from a diverse group of people of the fundamental importance of education in enabling people to move themselves forward.

Education undoubtedly has the greatest multiplier; it respects absolutely the principles of Subsidiarity and Solidarity.

Over 150 people convened at Alpert Medical School in Providence for an evening gala during which we had the honor of recognizing Dr. Ed Wing, former dean of Alpert, for his role in establishing the Brown-Haiti Medical Exchange – a program that has provided excellent professional development opportunities for our graduates. Proceeds from the evening went to support both THP and St. Damien Children's Hospital, which is the best children's hospital in Haiti.

We are particularly appreciative of Dr. Wing's understanding of the importance of primary and secondary education as the necessary precursor to improving health care in Haiti, or in any country. The point was made even more poignant when Dr. Théony Deshommes, a 2003 graduate of LCS, addressed the crowd and testified to the fact that health care in Haiti is hampered by a lack of infrastructure and a lack of education – *if patients can get to a hospital, they often are unable to understand medical directions.*

In Haiti, many patients must be shown a picture of a sun and a moon to explain that a patient must take a medication in the morning and at night. Education, he said, is the most important thing.

While we were on the subject of how fundamental education is to a country's development, Matt Smith, THP Chairman of the Board, drew my attention to an Andre Agassi interview in the latest edition of *Time Magazine*. Asked about his increasing support of education, Agassi explained, "[Education] was the only way, I eventually realized, you can make systemic change. I didn't have a choice in my life, and I didn't have education. I was lucky and found myself good at tennis, but without that, I don't know where I'd be. I look at the circumstances of these kids, and without education I know exactly where we'll be – we'll be building prisons instead of schools."

I want to especially thank those who sponsored the evening: Glenn & Mary Jane Creamer, Home Loan Investment Bank, Brian Moynihan & Susan Berry, and Charles & Joy Wharton. Their generous backing paid for the cost of the evening making support given by participants even more efficacious for THP and St. Damien Children's Hospital.

Peace, Patrick

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"What you receive as gift, you must give as gift."
"Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay."

---Matthew 10:8