



Dr. Bien-Aimé cares for a young patient in St. Boniface's current Emergency Room, which is full nearly every day of the year.

Dr. Bien-Aimé comes to SBHF with over seven years of experience practicing medicine, and three years of experience in emergency medicine. She grew up in Gonaïves, in northern Haiti, and attended the Université Notre Dame d'Haiti for her medical degree. She did her specialized training at Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais (HUM), Partners in Health's premier training hospital in Haiti, which has had the largest and best equipped emergency department in the country.

"I love emergency medicine because I am a very active person, and I like challenges," explains Dr. Bien-Aimé, about why she decided to focus on such a new specialty in Haitian medicine. "Emergency medicine is all about speed and specificity. When you receive a new case you often must do a quick and accurate diagnosis in order to save the patient's life. I find I am well suited to this work, and it is gratifying every day."

Looking ahead to her future career at St. Boniface, Dr. Bien-Aimé smiles. **"This job is a dream come true.** SBHF has made great changes and improvements in emergency medicine since I first came here on a residency rotation in 2014. For several years HUM has had the only modern, fully equipped Emergency Department in Haiti. But with the new building at St. Boniface, I think that we are at the same level and are becoming a **serious force for emergency care in Haiti.**"

The new Center for Infectious Disease and Emergency Care, funded in part by the generosity of the American people through USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program, is set to open on the St. Boniface Hospital campus in February. It will be the **first-of-its-kind emergency and infectious disease treatment unit in southern Haiti.**

Dr. Bien-Aimé has big plans for the Emergency Department's growth in the new center. "Dr. Gomes and I are working closely to create new protocols and staffing schedules to ensure our patients always get the best quality of care possible. I am looking forward to also providing training to our ambulance drivers, so that they can help stabilize and safely transport critical patients. **The SBHF team has made this great step forward, with the new building, and I want to continue to make the Emergency Department the best it can possibly be.**"

Dr. Danica Gomes is also excited about the future for SBHF's emergency services. "I am so happy and proud that we are growing our emergency department and increasing our capacity to serve. I am excited to see the continued improvements that will take place under Dr. Bien-Aimé's leadership."

To support Dr. Bien-Aimé's dreams of a world class Emergency Department at SBHF, and to contribute to the care Dr. Bien-Aimé and her team will provide in the new Center for Infectious Disease and Emergency Care, please go to HaitiHealth.org/Donate or send in your contribution with the envelope included with this newsletter.

SBHF's Mission

The St. Boniface Haiti Foundation is dedicated to providing essential health services to the people of Southern Haiti, especially the most vulnerable. We are committed to building a comprehensive, efficient, and resilient health system that provides high quality care. We believe that ensuring access to life-saving and life-changing health services is a critical component to building strong and productive communities.

Vision

Working in partnership with local communities, we will transform Haiti's southern peninsula by ensuring that all people, regardless of their ability to pay, have access to high-quality, compassionate health care. By improving health, we will reduce unnecessary suffering and improve the standard of living for the entire region. SBHF's success will prove that quality health care can be a sustainable reality in Haiti, and will offer a model for health care systems in resource-poor settings around the world.

Keep Current with SBHF

Want to stay up-to-date between newsletters on how you are making a difference in Haiti? Join SBHF on social media and online:

'Like' us on Facebook at facebook.com/sbhfhaiti

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— JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER —



— HURRICANE MATTHEW UPDATE —

A New Force for Community Health in Southern Haiti

Thanks to You, 26 New Communities in Southern Haiti Now Have a Permanent Community Health Worker

Fifteen months after Hurricane Matthew ravaged southwest Haiti, things are slowly returning to a new normal. Successful summer and fall harvests have helped slow the spread of malnutrition, and alleviate fears of continuing widespread hunger across the region. SBHF's stalwart mobile clinic teams have provided care to 19,888 patients since Hurricane Matthew, many of whom would have otherwise had no access to doctors. But people in these areas are still very vulnerable to infectious diseases and other health concerns.

SBHF's mobile clinics, in partnership with UNICEF and The World Bank, have been key to getting care to those who needed it most after the storm. But permanent, ongoing services in these communities will be critical to ensuring people continue to get the care they need. To that end, **your support has provided intensive training to 26 new Community Health Workers (CHWs).** The trainees come from communities across

southern Haiti, focusing on the hard-hit communes of Tiburon and Maniche, as well as new CHWs from communities in the Fond-des-Blancs area.

SBHF's Communications Associate, Georges Erick Alexis, interviewed Community Health Worker trainees who have been participating in the 50-day intensive training at SBHF's mobile clinic headquarters in Les Cayes. Get to know how the program has changed their futures and hopes for their communities, in their own words:

SBHF: What has been the main benefit of this training for you?

MANICHE TEAM: This training has taught us how to promote health and health education in our communities, and gives us a strategy for approaching significant health concerns among our neighbors. It will help us have a good relationship with our neighbors and be helpful to all of our communities.

SBHF: Do you feel ready to deal with the health challenges facing your communities?

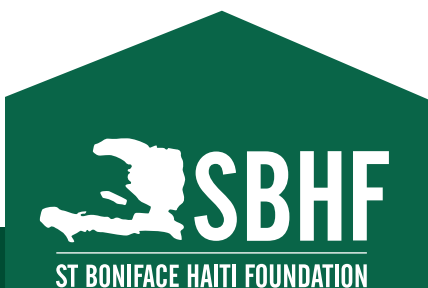
SOUVERAIN, CHW TRAINEE FROM TIBURON: Yes, because the training has been very practical, and we have done a lot of simulation exercises in the field. **We have already put our skills and knowledge into practice at clinic visits, home visits, and community education activities. Now we can take all of this knowledge back to Tiburon with confidence.**

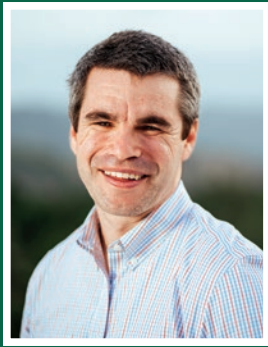
SBHF: This has been a long and intensive training. What made you want to participate?

JEAN, CHW TRAINEE FROM MANICHE: I am going back to Maniche with the skills to take care of myself and my



Twenty-six newly trained Community Health Workers will serve their home communities across southern Haiti.





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONOR SHAPIRO
PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is usually a relatively quiet time at St. Boniface Hospital, when only the sickest patients come to the hospital. This year, however, three days before Christmas our Director General in Haiti, Dr. Inobert Pierre, reported that the inpatient wards were all full. Patients wanted to be home with their families, of course, but St. Boniface has gained such a reputation in the country that people were coming who could not choose whether to stay home or seek treatment. They came because they needed lifesaving care, no matter the season or the journey they needed to take to get there.

Your support of SBHF is the reason why our patients know they can rely on St. Boniface for care every day of the year. Whether you have been a part of our work in Haiti for many years, or whether you have recently become a supporter, thank you for making it possible for our patients to get the care they need.

As we look forward into 2018, we are eagerly anticipating the opening of the new Center for Infectious Disease and Emergency Care (CIDEDEC), which will include the only dedicated emergency room for 2.3 million people in southern Haiti. As you'll read about in the profile of our new Emergency Department doctor, Dr. Mirielle Bien-Aimé, this new facility will provide much needed space and equipment for our most critical patients. I look forward to sharing the grand opening with you soon, and hope you will continue to follow all of the exciting and lifesaving work that will happen in this building and across our work in southern Haiti in the new year.

Kenbe fem,

Conor Shapiro
President & CEO

A NEW FORCE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CONTINUED▶

community better. Our communities have not had community health workers, but we had all heard about how important they have been in other parts of the country and dreamed of having a community health worker program in Maniche. Now, people in our communities are proud that they will have this talented team to work with them against common diseases.



New Community Health Workers from Tiburon will provide care to people who have no other access to medical professionals.

SBHF: What made you want to become community health workers?

FOND DES BLANCS TEAM: Even though we are close to St. Boniface, our communities are still vulnerable to many diseases. **When your community is vulnerable, you are vulnerable too, so we want to work to make sure everyone can stay healthy.** We feel so grateful to SBHF and its supporters for making this training possible.

THANKS TO YOU, 26 COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHERN HAITI NOW HAVE A PERMANENT COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER, when before they had little to no access to trained health care providers. The 26 new community health workers are already making a difference, preventing common and potentially deadly diseases, and will continue to work diligently to keep their communities healthy. Your support has empowered them to become leaders, and pass on their knowledge to their friends and families, improving the standard of living for the entire region.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Thanks to your support, SBHF can promise high quality, comprehensive care for all who need it on Haiti's Southern Peninsula. Every baby born, surgery performed, and medical professional trained represents your commitment to SBHF in action.

Our patients come to SBHF because they know they can always get care when they need it.

Did you know that by making a planned gift to SBHF, you can also ensure that the people of southern Haiti will have access to the care they deserve for generations to come? Leave a legacy of hope by including a simple provision for SBHF in your will or by naming SBHF as a beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance policy, or bank account.

“My community of Les Anglais is a “red alert” zone for malaria, and we see many patients at the health clinic there who are suffering from malaria. Some of them come from Tiburon and other communes very far away, and have to travel very far when they get sick. Having community health workers from this training working in Tiburon will help prevent infection and the spread of common diseases. This is a great program that SBHF and its supporters have brought to these communities.”



FABIENNE JEAN JACQUES

Fabienne Jean Jacques is one of the trainers for the SBHF community health worker program. She has been teaching health education and community health work for many years. She comes from the community of Les Anglais on the far west coast of southern Haiti—one of the places that was in the center of Hurricane Matthew and saw terrible destruction after the storm. She notes that even though Les Anglais has a health clinic, community health workers benefit the entire region.

STAFF PROFILE

Welcoming Dr. Mirielle Bien-Aimé

Your Support is Providing Care Where It's Needed: St. Boniface's Emergency Department

Only a few hospitals in Haiti have emergency rooms that people suffering from injuries or acute illness can rely on. In the past few years patients have been coming to St. Boniface's emergency department in huge numbers because of the guarantee that they will get good quality care in the most critical situations.

Dr. Danica Gomes, an emergency care doctor originally from New York City, has been running SBHF's Emergency Department since summer 2016. She has significantly grown the department's professionalism and quality of care. “This is such an exciting time for St. Boniface Hospital,” she says enthusiastically. “When I first joined the team here, there were only 6 beds in the Emergency Room. Now we have 21 beds, and the new ER which will open in February will have more than 30. More often than not all of our spaces are completely full, which speaks to the need for advanced emergency services.”



Dr. Bien-Aimé talks with a nurse in the Emergency Department at St. Boniface Hospital.

In late 2017 we were **thrilled to welcome Dr. Mirielle Bien-Aimé** to the Emergency Department team. Dr. Bien-Aimé will be training with Dr. Gomes for the next six months, with the intention that she will take over leadership of the department when Dr. Gomes finishes her time in Haiti this summer.

CONTINUED ON BACK▶

To learn about SBHF's planned giving options, visit our website at haitihealth.org/plannedgiving or call 617-244-9800.

Want to learn more about how much of an impact your gift can make? Visit WWW.HAITIHEALTH.ORG for more information and to make your gift today!