



# **Diocese of Jérémie Women's Health Program**

Medical Care and Health Education for the Poor

— Jérémie, Haiti —



For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.

PSALM 9:18



## Executive Summary

### Description

This project will provide breast cancer awareness classes and screenings for women in impoverished rural areas.

### Purpose

To save lives by providing health education, screenings, diagnoses, treatments and follow-up care for women who may be suffering from noncommunicable diseases, such as breast cancer.

### Location

Jérémie, Haiti

### Cost

**\$48,000** will fund the training of women and nurses to identify potential signs of breast cancer, provide treatment and other services.

### Highlights

#### NEED

- Many impoverished rural women cannot afford health care. Even if they are able to find a way to pay for treatment, they cannot afford to travel to hospitals or remain there for treatment.
- Too often, poor women fall prey to diseases like breast cancer, but the symptoms go unnoticed due to their lack of education or poor medical support. Sadly, this means their condition can worsen until it becomes untreatable and terminal.

#### IMPACT

- Grand'Anse Health & Development Association (GAHDA) was able to launch a breast cancer awareness program in 2011 with support from the Diocese of Jérémie.
- Thanks to this program, thousands of women across Haiti have been educated about the risks of breast cancer, have had breast health assessments done, received diagnoses and more!
- U.S. medical professionals have also shown their support for this program. Volunteer doctors, radiologists, anesthesiologists and surgeons from the U.S. have come to Haiti to serve needy women and save lives.
- Your help is needed to educate these women and train nurses in proper prevention and treatment for this terrible, easily undetected disease.



*Mary is gifted with the tools she needs to perform a breast cancer self-assessment.*



## A Race Against the Clock for Medical Care

Mathilde went for months with a deep pain beneath her arm. Ashamed of her “condition,” she hid her pain for far too long. When she finally did seek help, the medical professionals discovered a malodorous ulcer that had spread across her chest. At that point, treatments would be ineffective. The cancer had run its course, and it was too late to save the poor woman’s life.

This tragic story is not unique. In Haiti’s poorest communities, medical care is almost impossible for the poor to afford or acquire. In rural towns and impoverished communities, the challenges are even greater. Many women cannot afford transportation to a doctor, let alone the expense of care once they arrive.

A lack of health education intensifies this problem, and women all over Haiti have been falling prey to breast cancer or other catastrophic conditions because they have been unable to recognize the symptoms while they were still treatable. As a result, husbands lose wives, and children lose mothers to tragic deaths that could have been prevented with proper care.

Surely God is grieved for the heartbroken families who are losing their wives, mothers and daughters to such an aggressive illness, and as the Church, we should do all we can to save those lives in his name and for his glory.

The Diocese of Jérémie has stepped up to that challenge and is doing everything it can to put a stop to these tragic deaths. In partnership with Grand’Anse Health & Development Association (GAHDA), women in the Diocese of Jérémie will be educated about the dangers of breast cancer. GAHDA is striving to save the lives of the women in Haiti through education and medical support. With your generous gift, the senseless losses to breast cancer can be prevented with proper education and care.

***Working together, we can make that mission of mercy possible!***



*Jo Ellen and Nurse Leila teach about fibroadenoma.*





## Give Them a Chance to Live!

GAHDA wants to establish and resource a network of medical professionals from the U.S. to volunteer and save the lives of women in Haiti. Your support will empower them to achieve that important goal. Your gift will enable GAHDA to offer critical breast self-exam training, clinical breast exam screenings, ultrasonography, biopsy, support for chemotherapy and more. Every woman who walks through their doors, regardless of her ability to pay, will find the quality medical care, emotional support and spiritual guidance she deserves!



*After completing their health training, each attendee receives a certificate celebrating their hard work.*

Please help the Diocese of Jérémie and GAHDA use their skills to serve and educate the women of Haiti. Empower them to bring their quality health care to those who need it the most. Through your compassion and generosity, these women will encounter Christ and his healing love. Through you, their health and hope can be restored!

**Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.  
You received without payment; give without payment.**

MATTHEW 10:8

## Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

## Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.



## Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2024, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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