

March 1, 2009

Dear Friends:

A woman lies in pain and afraid in the muddy bed of a dilapidated pick-up truck that has just arrived at the door of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti (HAS). Her family helps her to the admissions area, and a triage nurse carefully removes the cloths which cover her injuries. Within minutes, the patient is taken to the radiology department and the laboratory, and then to the surgery suite.

The concern on the faces of her family gradually change to a peaceful awareness that she is being cared for with compassion as well as advanced technology, and that they are fortunate that HAS is there when they need its services.

Days later, as the woman and her family return home, her injuries treated and fears assuaged, she passes the long lines of people waiting to enter feeling reassured that HAS will be there to provide the care her friends and neighbors so greatly need.

Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, suffers from the effects of ecological disasters, international fiscal policies, and the illnesses which accompany these conditions. The great need for health and human services has continuously increased in recent years, despite the energy and dignity which the farming families confront on a daily basis.



More than 10,000 patients were admitted to HAS in 2008, which represented an increase of 60% over the previous year, and demand has also increased in outpatient clinics, surgeries and high-risk obstetrics.

In these uncertain times, we recognize that your support for HAS is conditioned by your conviction that the work of the hospital is essential, and deserving of your concern. I want to assure you that HAS will fulfill the principles which have guided us in the past. We will provide services which are not available elsewhere in the region, and as the needs of our neighbors continue to grow, we will be good stewards of your support, ensuring that funds are allocated to where they are most needed.

Thank you for believing in HAS— your support at this time will help HAS to meet these increasing demands.

Sincerely,

Ian G. Rawson
Board Chair