

Caring, Learning and Growing: Supporting Excellence in Nursing at HAS.

At the August 2007 HAS North American Alumni Association reunion in Hamilton, Ontario, alumni endorsed a project *to support nursing at HAS* during the next three years.

As the first Director of Nursing at HAS, Miss Waldorf Peterson, or Miss Pete as she was affectionately known to everyone, began the proud tradition of the Nursing Department at HAS. Initially, it included many nurses from the United States, Canada and Europe. Currently, the department is entirely Haitian. It is competently led by a strong Director, Nordine Mondesir, who was born in the hospital's district, in the town of Liancourt.



*Miss Pete and Dr. Larry Mellon
(photo by Erica Anderson)*

Nurses form the backbone of the hospital itself and the Community Health Division by providing a crucial link between the physician staff, patients and their families, participating in ward rounds and medical conferences, and bridging a cultural divide to the community.

The project commits to raising \$5,000 per year over the next three years in 5 US geographic regions for a total of \$25,000 per year or a total of \$75,000 in three years. Each regional effort will be chaired and co-chaired by a dedicated alumnus/alumna and a special effort will be made to raise the funds from *new or lapsed* donors.



The funds will provide salaries for 5 entry level nurses and strengthen the department so as to permit nurses to build their careers through structured advancement. In addition, this effort will assure the nurses' families and communities that there are alumni who care about their welfare. An additional benefit will be the strengthening of alumni ties across the country.

Fittingly, a first donation to this effort was made in honor of Debbie Berquist-Jules, formerly an HAS staff nurse, who went on to become a Director of Nursing and currently serves as an invaluable Chief Operating Officer at HAS.

We will update this information as the regional chairs are finalized. Meanwhile, if you are a new donor and would like to donate to this project in honor of *your* favorite nurse, please do so through the web site, earmarking your contribution for "Nurses' Project."

Thank you.