Founder’s Letter  A Word From Mitch

I met Jack Lafontant in 1995 at Hospital St. Croix where he was the hospital director. I was practicing cardiology and he was practicing gastroenterology. We became instant friends. It was a relationship built on sharing; we could not do enough for one another. He gave me great insight into Haitian culture and what could be done to help the people of Haiti. In 2017, Jack became Prime Minister of Haiti and this year he was the natural choice to receive the Children’s Nutrition Program’s Heart for Haiti award because of all his efforts for Haiti.

Haiti Today and Tomorrow

As I view Haiti, there is much hope with the dream Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant shared at our benefit on March 15, 2019. Haiti has 1,771 kilometers (1,100 miles) of coastline. More than 60% of the population lives in these coastal areas. Dr. Lafontant laid out seven priorities for the current administration:

1. Maintaining social and political stability.
2. Increasing agricultural production and improving the ecology.
3. Increasing electricity and its access.
5. Improved health and clean water.
6. Education at all levels.
7. Agricultural zones at coastal ports and national highways.

Only 30% of Haitians have access to electricity and 85% of this requires the importation of oil. Importing natural gas will decrease costs; however, new clean energy using wind and solar will improve Haiti’s environmental nightmare. Building dams for electricity and irrigation will be essential. Increasing access to healthcare will require more health workers (Agents de Santé). Hospitals, Doctors and nurses are critical as Haiti transitions into the modern world.

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Haiti’s spirit and godly beliefs are an inspiration to us all. Its potential is enhanced by the millions of trees. Only 30% of Haitians have access to electricity and 85% of this requires the importation of oil. Importing natural gas will decrease costs; however, new clean energy using wind and solar will improve Haiti’s environmental nightmare. Building dams for electricity and irrigation will be essential. Increasing access to healthcare will require more health workers (Agents de Santé). Hospitals, Doctors and nurses are critical as Haiti transitions into the modern world.

Growing a healthy community in Haiti, one child at a time

In 1988, Dr. Mitch Mutter made the first of many medical missions to Haiti. On one mission, he lost a young boy to malnutrition, and the boy’s death haunted him. Calling the cycle of poverty and malnutrition in Haiti an “unnatural disaster,” he wondered “what are we to do about it?” In 1998, Dr. Mutter founded the Children’s Nutrition Program of Haiti, known locally as Kore Timoun. Kore Timoun has grown into a community effort to raise healthy children who will, in turn, raise Haiti out of poverty.

From one boy’s death came a united effort to grow healthy Haitian communities – one child at a time.

My first year as Executive Director has been one of discoveries and challenges. In 2018 I traveled to Haiti three times and each time I learned more and more about the Haitian culture and its people’s daily struggle for survival. The every-day things that we often take for granted such as stable government services, an abundant and healthy food supply, clean water, and modern health care are sorely lacking for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

During my time in Haiti, I have seen our 47 Monitrices (community health educators) go to superhuman efforts walking many miles through mountainous terrain as well as the brutally hot low lands to reach families in isolated areas to screen children for malnutrition. These exports at coastal ports will enhance Haiti’s economy. Reforestation of Haiti has begun with nurseries producing millions of trees.

Haiti’s spirit and godly beliefs are an inspiration to us all. Its potential is enhanced by the Children’s Nutrition Program of Haiti’s mission statement: Raising a generation of healthy children to establish a stronger viable country for the 21st century.

Dr. Mitchell L. Mutter, Founder
One child, one family, one community:
Working together to improve nutrition in Léogâne

Kore Timoun takes this approach to the nutrition crisis in the mountains and plains of the Léogâne region in Haiti. We identify community members to lead sustainable solutions to malnutrition. Ninety-seven percent of our health workers are Haitian. Many of these workers are monitrices, women who work one-on-one with families to educate and empower them to achieve wellness for their families.

Central to this approach is growth monitoring, where health workers follow changes in physical development over time. Each month—in a home, a mobile clinic or our permanent clinic in Léogâne—we weigh each child, measure the height and mid-upper arm circumference, then compare the results with the average measurements of healthy children. A malnourished child is referred to a clinic for in-patient or out-patient treatment.

A monitrice may travel many miles over rough terrain to meet with a family, monitor child growth, and address development and nutritional problems. Growth monitoring gives the monitrice a chance to talk face-to-face with mothers about nutrition and family health, and it gives rise to another way to address nutrition with a family: The Positive Deviance Hearth program, locally called Ti Fwaye, has successfully changed the lives of many Léogâne families. In a community, a monitrice identifies mothers whose children are well nourished compared to others in the community. These mothers volunteer to teach others about preparing nutritious meals with locally available ingredients and they address other community health topics. Teaching occurs at the hearth (home) of volunteer mothers over a period of 10 days.

All of these activities on the part of our monitrices have a domino effect. When mothers in a community respond to monitoring and training, siblings respond too. Some grow up to become nutrition leaders in their communities. We believe our monitrice program can result in healthy families, healthy communities, and a healthy nation.

Securing wellness for the next generation:
A message from Country Director Dr. Anany G. Prosper

We at Kore Timoun are committed to strengthening our organization so that community members, like our monitrices, become powerful agents of change who secure a healthy start for Léogâne’s next generation. As Country Director, I work to ensure that the essential components of a functioning community health system are in place for our field staff to do their best work.

One of our greatest assets in the fight for good health is our dedicated Haitian team. They work together in good spirit: They see the constraints on our work, yet they are invested in ensuring the best possible outcome for each child, in each family. As a team, we develop in-house capabilities to identify innovative solutions to persistent environmental problems. And as we build our institutional capacity to learn and adapt, we positively influence the future of Léogâne, even as the context changes.

The World Health Organization defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” For the last 20 years, we’ve moved the needle on malnutrition and prevented death in Léogâne—a great feat accomplished by a united constellation of supporters. Over the next 20 years, Kore Timoun is well-positioned to continue a spectrum of malnutrition interventions, but as one component in a larger system of wellness and childhood development.

Our ambitious mission can be realized with a robust strategy, boldness, a sense of possibility, and resourcefulness. Over the past 20 years, we’ve proven that we achieve more when we work collectively with the local community, and we are grateful that you’ve joined us in moving this important work forward for another two decades.
Malnutrition is a matter of life and death. When malnutrition is left unchecked, the immune system breaks down allowing infection and other serious complications to occur. Depending on the age of the child, malnutrition can manifest itself in different ways. A baby with a respiratory tract infection loses the ability to breathe. A young child can no longer eat Plumpy’Nut® therapeutic food received during outpatient care. An older child becomes dehydrated and lethargic, eventually losing consciousness. For children with acute malnutrition, the only alternative to death is specialized, inpatient treatment at a Nutrition Stabilization Unit (USN).

The local USN resuscitation center, USN Petit-Goâve, is 40 minutes from Léogâne. Between January and December, 89 children referred by Kore Timoun were admitted to USN Petit-Goâve. Each child’s family is provided with a $2 per day stipend to help pay for food, diapers, and some medicine so a family member may remain with the child during treatment. After the child leaves the resuscitation center, Kore Timoun continues to follow-up on their progress for a three-month period.

Our continued support of USN programs like Petit-Goâve has saved many children on the brink of death each year, and it has also helped spare their siblings from the nightmare of malnutrition.

Stabilization for acute malnutrition:
A child in distress receives in-patient therapy

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Siblings of children who have received treatment are less likely to succumb to malnutrition because their parents have learned how to prevent this devastating condition.

The story of a patient advocate:
Bébé helps a family, supports a medical team, saves a child

The decision to bring a child to a USN center for treatment is not an easy one for a Léogâne family. The journey to the treatment facility is long and arduous. A parent must stay at the hospital to care for the child, creating a financial burden and separating families. The family, like any family who seeks medical care for a child, must deal with confusing administrative matters as well as the social and psychological impediments to seeking care which is exacerbated by extreme poverty. All of this, plus the sense of shame when a child is malnourished, can significantly overwhelm any parent.

Enter Bébé.
Andromaque Roland, known as “Bébé” is our patient advocate. She helps parents deal with admission to the facility, manage the disease during a child’s stay, and provide good follow-up treatment in the months after hospitalization. Bébé came to her job through happenstance. She didn’t have a chance to learn a profession because she got pregnant just as she was about to finish high school. She lived very close to the Kore Timoun headquarters and took a job with us as a patient advocate. Through Kore Timoun she “learned how to speak and interact with people,” and she learned to “make food that’s healthy and good for the body.”

Bébé loves that she can advocate for children and their families at the USN. Many Haitian families, when faced with the prospect of having to take their very sick child to the USN, are beyond frightened. Most have never been so far away from their home and community, and the environment is vastly different than what they are used to; they feel very alone. These feelings are compounded by the shame that they feel because their child is in this situation.

When they arrive at USN Petit-Goâve, the atmosphere is overwhelming. Often these families are not well received by the workers, their questions ignored, they are forced to wait for treatment, and no one will say anything to them. “When no one pays attention to them,” Bébé says, “I speak for them. I call the doctors, talk to the nurses, and take the proper steps to make sure the children get treatment.”

One example is Baby Mila, who survived severe malnutrition. Bébé advocated for Mila and her parents to make them feel less anxious throughout their time at the USN. Once they were discharged, she continued to help the family during the lengthy period of specialized home care. Making regular home visits, Bébé came alongside Mila’s parents and siblings, educating them on their role in the recovery process, becoming a part of the family through this most difficult time.

Compassion, dedication, and love for her neighbors have earned Bébé the respect of her family, her friends, and her community.
Maternal Health
[ Contraception, breast feeding and education ]

Nutrition Programs
(The heart of what we do)

- 35,212 children screened with growth monitors for malnutrition conducted by a monitrice
- 2,934 average number of children screened per month
- 89 children enrolled at USN to treat acute malnutrition with severe medical complications
- 163 children enrolled in PTA Clinics for severe acute malnutrition treatment
- 221 children enrolled in PNS for moderate acute malnutrition treatment

Kore Timoun's Impact: 2018

- 3,120 doses of deworming treatment given to children
- 5,893 doses of vitamin A given
- 790 Plumpy’Sup® packets used
- 36,050 Plumpy’Nut® saches used to treat malnutrition

WASH
[ Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene project ]

- 96,280 prenatal vitamins distributed to pregnant and lactating women
- 1226 maternal malnutrition screenings conducted
- 20 pregnant or breastfeeding women enrolled in treatment for acute malnutrition in 2018

- 1,394 couples per year provided with pregnancy prevention protection

Monitrices

- 46 Monitrices
- 13 women’s groups led by a monitrice in 2018
- 17 health committee groups in 2018

Kore Timoun 2018 Facts

- 200,000 estimated population of Léogâne in 2018
- 87 Percentage of the CNP team that is Haitian
- 85 Percentage of the CNP team that is hired from the communities in which they serve
- 6 fellows in 2018

75 latrines built in 2018
Growth monitoring is one way for one-on-one interaction between our health workers and families, but there are other opportunities for parents to learn about nutrition. In very remote communities where we don’t have a monitrice in place, word spreads for people to come to a central place for training and support. At community meetings, such as local women’s groups, visiting Kore Timoun staff answer questions about health, breastfeeding, sanitation, nutrition, and family planning.

Our services begin before a child is born. Prenatal health is vital to the future health of a community, so we screen pregnant women, encourage exclusive breastfeeding to ensure a baby’s health, and we counsel parents on birth spacing to keep each mother and baby healthy.

Meet our Fellows

Our fellows gain experience – and a love for the people of Haiti

Kore Timoun staff includes three fellows. Kore Timoun fellowships require a bachelor’s degree, communication skills in English and Haitian Kreyol or French, a passion for global health and poverty issues, and the resiliency needed to live in a developing country. Our 2018 fellows fit the bill:

Caroline André focuses on a collaborative approach to pediatric and maternal nutrition.

Caroline André is a nutritionist specializing in pediatric and maternal nutrition. Caroline provides nutritional quality and training. She leads Kore Timoun team members and the community through theoretical and practical training on nutrition and malnutrition, and she introduces new tools to evaluate nutritional quality.

Lauren Marlar offers a determined focus on what the data tells us.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Lauren Marlar analyzes the results of growth monitoring and other Kore Timoun programs. Dr. Anany Prosper says “Lauren is patient, amazingly thorough and well organized.” Her talent for analyzing data with an eye for improving program outcomes will affect the quality of our programs long after she has completed her work as a monitoring and evaluation fellow.

Maude Plucker helps meet in-country goals for addressing malnutrition.

In 2018, Maude Plucker provided administrative support to Kore Timoun and executive assistance to our in-country director Dr. Anany Prosper. She worked with staff to improve technical literacy, provided administrative support, strengthened partnerships, and managed social media and other communications tasks.

A family saved

In 2001, Monitrice Guirlene Joseph came to the home of Edouard Lapé and Simone Joissaint to assess their babies. Soon Guirlene began working with the family regularly, assisting Edouard and Simone with four children suffering from malnutrition. The family credits Kore Timoun with saving their lives.

Guirlene has grown to love the family. She says, “They would walk to our clinics to show up at their appointments on time and they never missed an appointment. They always respected my advice and took it to heart to save their children. I love this family.”

The family, in turn, loves Guirlene’s visits. “Ms. Guirlene taught me how to feed my children better quality food despite having little money,” Simone says. “When I cook, I use leafy greens, carrots, salt herring, and moringa leaves. That’s what Kore Timoun told me to make to improve the health of my children. Kore Timoun healed four of my children who had malnutrition.”

Kore Timoun helped empower a new generation in the process of addressing malnutrition. The oldest Lapé daughter, Patricia, wants to become a nurse so she can help others: “I would love to work for Kore Timoun one day.”

“Thanks to Kore Timoun, my children are alive.”
- Edouard Lape

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Nutrition for the next generation: Healthy mother, healthy child

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Kore Timoun, including two new directors who have dedicated our twentieth anniversary year brought changes to Kore. New directors bring innovation and enthusiasm to Kore Timoun.

Meet our Directors

Our Executive Director Patricia Cyr Watlington is skilled at developing organizations and relationships.

Patricia first came to Kore Timoun as Director of Development, then served as Interim Executive Director. Now she steps in as Executive Director, enthusiastically building on her experience in the world of business and philanthropy to grow Kore Timoun into a network for good. “It is a blessing,” she says, “to be a part of this vital organization.” Patricia’s background includes owning and managing a very successful real estate business which was sold to a NASDAQ traded public company, working briefly as a registered nurse, and providing a loving home to her child.

She is dynamic addition to the team that supports growth and change in Léogâne.

Thank you to our donors in 2018

These individuals and organizations generously supported the CNP of Haiti this year.
Here’s what your money can do in 2019

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<tr>
<th>COST</th>
<th>OPPORTUNITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td><strong>Sponsor a Monitrice.</strong> Our community health educators. She is the heart of Kore Timoun/CNP. Your gift assists a monitrice in all facets of her job including training, transportation, and materials to ensure every child in her community receives home visits, health education, and malnutrition screening.</td>
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<td>$2,500</td>
<td><strong>Invest in our PlumpyNut program.</strong> This nutritional supplement is at the core of our malnutrition rehabilitation program and can be the difference between life and death for a child suffering from severe malnutrition. This support would help approximately 70 children.</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
<td><strong>Save a Child.</strong> Support for our acute malnutrition treatment programs guarantees children receive quality outpatient care from nurses who travel throughout the mountains and lowlands of Leogane.</td>
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<td>$500</td>
<td><strong>Reach every child.</strong> Help CNP provide services to children in communities that do not have a monitrice. Community events such as Depistaj make nutrition screenings, vitamins, de-wormer and breastfeeding support accessible to everyone.</td>
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<td>Monthly Gift of $100, $50 or $25</td>
<td><strong>Your monthly gift provides for programs like the Hearth Program (Ti Fwaye), inpatient specialized care at the USN in Petit Goave, and additional medical items such as oxygen, blood transfusions, and medications.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Donate to our operating budget.</strong> Any amount is appreciated to help pay for Haitian staff, materials, and logistical resources that allow our programs to exist.</td>
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* Funds may be used by CNP for any of its programs depending upon the greatest need at the time.*

Scan this code or visit CNPHAITI.org to make a secure donation to Children’s Nutrition Program. Thank you for your support!