

# NEWSLETTER

*Fall 2020*

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## Surgical Mission 2020



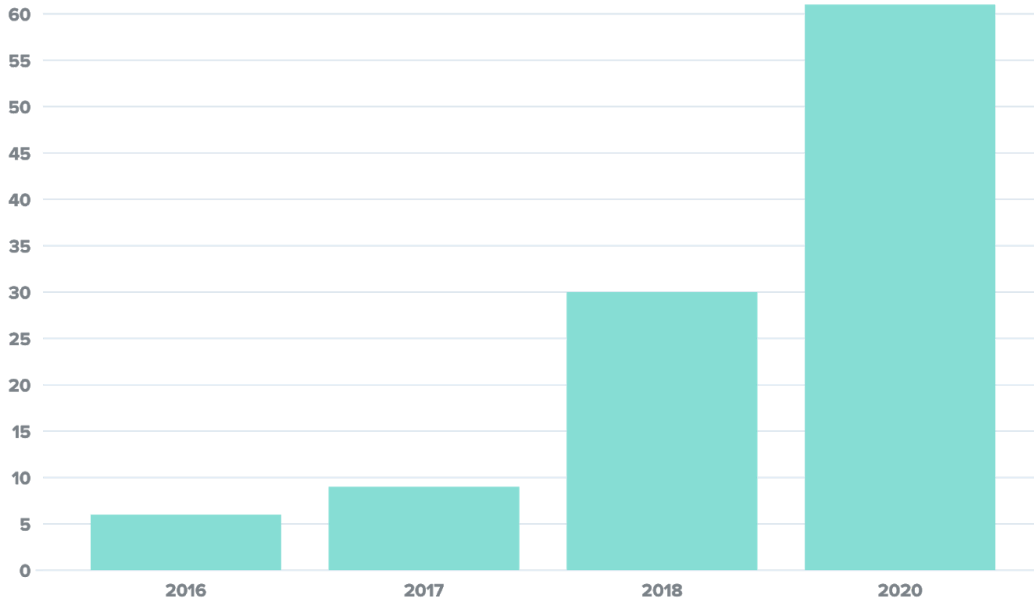
James Luc, Beth Brady, Keith Gipson, Jillian Sipperly,  
Dan Scoppetta, Jackie Pelosi, Dan Bolduc

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Grand Anse Surgery Project's (GASP's) mission to Jeremie, Haiti in Q1 2020, was exciting and fulfilling in many ways. We successfully transported two surgical teams to Jeremie this trip - a first for GASP.

Thanks to the generosity and flexibility of the St. Antoine Hospital management and staff, as well as the ongoing help and assistance of our local partner the Grande Anse Health and Development Association (GAHDA), we were able to operate in two surgical theaters at the hospital instead of our usual one.

During our weeklong visit we consulted with over 100 patients and completed 61 surgical procedures safely and efficiently. We could not have served the patients of Jeremie and the surrounding area in this way without the support of our donors, our corporate sponsors, and our local partners. We cannot thank all of you enough.

## Our Impact: # of Surgeries Per Trip



## Healthcare in Jeremie

Jeremie is a remote, rural area along the southwest peninsula of Haiti. Residents of Jeremie rely largely on farming and fishing for sustenance. Families often work together in the fields and/or on their boats. Being unable to work often means an entire family or families will go hungry. Residents are often too poor or too sick to make the long and arduous trip to the closest free hospital or clinic. GASP is able to provide local care and does not charge for their services.



## Let There Be Light!

When the generator went out and we lost electricity, our new headlamp saved the day! The surgeons were able to continue surgery even though there were no lights in the operating room. We could not have purchased this new headlamp without the generosity of our donors, as well as the generous discount given to us by Enova, the headlamp manufacturer.



Dr Dan Scoppetta, assisted by Jackie Pelosi, Surgical Scrub Tech



## Hallway Surgery

Thanks to flexible surgeons and talented surgical scrub techs (as well as our new headlamp), we were able to execute minor surgeries in the hallway of the surgical theater during the turnover of the two main surgical suites.

Dr. Beth Brady assisted by Jackie Pelosi, Surgical Scrub Tech



## Emergency Throat Wound

Above, Dan Bolduc, Surgical Scrub Tech investigates an emergency throat wound with veteran surgeon, Dan Scoppetta, M.D. FACS. This was our first trip to Haiti with surgical scrub techs. One of the reasons GASP was able to do 61 medical procedures safely and efficiently during this trip was the addition to our team of two highly qualified and experienced surgical scrub techs. GASP could not have brought two surgical scrub techs on this trip without



the help of our donors. Thanks to donors like you, more patients were able to receive surgical care during GASP's Q1 2020 visit than any previous trip.

## Breast Surgery

Beth Brady, M.D., FACS, assisted by Dan Bolduc, Surgical Scrub Tech, performed a mastectomy for a local woman. Breast surgery is GASP's primary mission in Jeremie, per our affiliation with our local partner, GHADA. We are excited to have Beth, an experienced and renowned breast surgeon from CT, as a new addition to our team. We do all general surgeries as needed, but breast, thyroid and hernia surgery are GASP's focus in Jeremie.



Jill Sipperly, R.N, nurse anesthetist, pictured in background, also joined our team in Q1, 2020. We could not do what we do without the dedicated complement of anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists that make up our GASP team. Without them we cannot accomplish our mission. We thank them for their continued dedication to our goal of providing quality surgical care for the residents of Jeremie, Haiti and the surrounding area.

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## Education and Autonomy for Haiti's Surgeons



Dr. Keith Gipson, Chief of the Department of Anesthesiology, Bristol Hospital, Bristol, CT, is pictured here working with James Luc, a local Nurse Anesthetist, during GASP's Q1, 2020 visit to Jermie, Haiti. Keith joined our GASP team in 2020. James was interested in completing a month-long internship at Bristol Hospital, sponsored by Dr. Gipson. James, who lives in Port au Prince, Haiti, was denied a VISA to enter the US and complete this internship. This is just one of the many obstacles Haitian's face as they work their way towards surgical autonomy. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, GASP was able to underwrite James' one-week internship at St. Antoine's Hospital in Jeremie, Haiti, with Keith and the GASP surgical team.

# Gratitude



The GASP team stopped on their last day to thank the St. Antoine’s surgical team for sharing their knowledge, their friendship and their support, after working together to care for the people of Haiti. GASP gave a special thanks to Miss Danielle, head of the St. Antoine’s O.R. Unit, (pictured separately below), for all her extra help during an unusually busy week. An excerpt from GASP’s thank you:

“...while our skin color and languages might be different, we are united in our belief that all men and women deserve to be healthy, no matter where they live...”



Miss Danielle, Head of O.R., St. Antoine’s Hospital



## Thank You To Our Donors

Without surgical intervention, mothers will die prematurely of breast cancer.

Surgical removal of diseased thyroids allows women to breathe, care for their families, go back to work and rejoin their community.

Men and women with untreated, oversized hernias are unable to work. Men and women who can work can be independent and support their families. Families without a breadwinner face devastating consequences in Haiti. When you support the health of the men and women of Haiti, you not only support them, you support their children.

Thank you so much.



Last Row: left to right, Dan Bolduc, Keith Gipson, Jillian Sipperly, James Luc. Front Row, Local kids on the main street of Jeremie Haiti, on their way to school.

# The GASP Team, Q1, 2020

Dan Scoppetta, MD, Surgeon  
Beth Brady, MD, Surgeon  
Keith Gipson, MD, Anesthesiologist  
Jillian Sipperly, RN, Nurse Anesthetist  
James Luc, Nurse Anesthetist  
Jackie Pelosi, Surgical Scrub Tech  
Dan Bolduc, Surgical Scrub Tech  
Jim Sayre, MD, Surgeon\*

\*Jim was hospitalized two days before the trip and unable to participate in the mission (he is fine now!). We thank him for collecting and organizing the multiple duffle bags full of donated equipment and supplies we brought to Haiti. We also thank him for being available for telephone consultation on some of the unusual cases we experienced during our week in Jeremie. Thank you, Jim. You were with us in spirit!



## Grand Anse Surgery Project

SURGERY • EDUCATION • AUTONOMY

[www.grandansesurgeryproject.org](http://www.grandansesurgeryproject.org)

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