A new start
MGHfC provides comfort and care to young girl and her mother from Haiti

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CARING HEARTS

AN MGH TRANSPLANT CENTER grand rounds on April 23 brought together two families, the Bents and the Slamas, whose lives were forever changed following the tragic death May 29, 2007, of the Bents’ son Josh, a 27-year-old architect. The event provided the two families the opportunity to share their stories with MGH caregivers and spread the word about the importance of organ donation.

Frank Bent, Josh’s father, discussed the care his son received at the MGH, where caregivers tried their best to save Josh’s life. He spoke about his son’s passion for life, as well as his generosity and caring nature. He described how, at age 18, Josh had talked to his parents about becoming an organ donor.

“We were so grateful that Josh had made the decision for us and put the little check mark on the back of his driver’s license,” said his mother Johanne. “When the time came, we didn’t have to think about it. We knew we were doing what he wanted us to do.”

Michael Slama, 56 years old in 2007, suffered from familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy along with numerous other cardiac and health issues. He was at the MGH, where he had received care for more than 35 years, and was preparing to celebrate his 31st wedding anniversary in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit with his wife, Nancy, when he received news that a donor heart was available. “I thought it was going to be our last anniversary, but it turned out to be our best one, with many more to come,” said Nancy during the grand rounds.

Michael said he knew he would eventually meet the Bents, because he wanted to thank them personally. “I consider Josh and his family true heroes,” he said.

Josh’s memory carries on through a scholarship fund at Wentworth Institute of Technology and through the nine individuals, including Michael, whose lives he helped save by deciding to be an organ donor. The Bent and Slama families keep in touch and have become close friends.

For more information on organ donation, access www.neob.org.

CARE AND COMFORT: From left, Benjamin, Curran, Gedline and Ginette

TWO FAMILIES, ONE HEART: From left, Michael and Nancy Slama and Johanne and Frank Bent

THE MEDIA’S COVERAGE of the destruction and sorrow in Haiti following the Jan. 12 earthquake may have slowed, but the grieving and efforts to rebuild are still in the early phases. The following is the story of 12-year-old Gedline Agard and her mother Ginette LaForest. With help from their faith and the assistance of volunteers from across the world, including from the MGH, they are recovering.

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The MGH celebrates women’s health

NATIONAL WOMEN’S HEALTH WEEK was observed May 9 through 15. During the week, the MGH – one of only three health care organizations in Massachusetts registered to take part in the campaign – hosted a number of educational activities aimed at empowering women to make their health a top priority.

On May 10 and 11, MGH Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology hosted an information table in the Main Corridor to promote women’s health across the life cycle. MGH experts representing reproductive, mental, nutritional and general health were on hand to speak to passersby about managing their own health. Pamphlets were available on topics such as health tips for teens, reproductive health and annual health tests that every woman should have through the decades of her life.

“This was the first year the MGH celebrated National Women’s Health Week,” says Abigail MacDonald, LICSW, clinical social worker for MGH Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology. “We had hundreds of women and men stop by the table, ask our volunteers questions and pick up information.”

For more information about National Women’s Health Week, contact MacDonald at asmacdonald@partners.org or access http://womenshealth.gov.

PROMOTING WOMEN’S HEALTH: From left, Marie Henderson, CNM, MSN, of MGH Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology; MacDonald; Stacy Nelson, MS, RD, LDN, of Nutrition and Food Services/Ambulatory Nutrition; Marlene Sullivan, RN, of the MGH Cancer Center; and Amy Smith, CNM, MSN, of MGH Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology

— Haiti

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saw his niece, however, he realized that she was not dead. Her wounds – a head injury, broken spine and fractured femur – were critical.

Along with thousands of others injured, Gedline was treated in a field hospital, where she spent nine days. Due to the severity of her injuries, the U.S. military transferred her to the USNS Comfort, a U.S. Navy hospital ship docked off Haiti.

“On the ship, she was transfused with red blood cells and underwent surgery to fix her broken femur as well as a spinal fusion for her spinal cord injury,” says Marjorie Curran, MD, physician-in-chief of MGH C. Curran helped care for Gedline while they awaited transport to Boston.

While appropriate and safe travel accommodations were being made to bring Gedline to the states, her condition deteriorated. The Comfort had left Haiti, and she was receiving care in a local hospital. Her injuries left her unable to urinate, and the catheter that had been put in place had led to recurrent urinary tract infections that rapidly became resistant to antibiotics. Unable to move her legs, Gedline lost 20 percent of her body weight.

“She likely would have died if she had not arrived at MGH/C when she did,” says Curran. “She wasn’t eating because of the pain and fevers from the infection. The infection and weight loss would have killed her within a few weeks.”

MGH/C resident Phuoc Van Le, MD, MPH, who had been working with PIH, flew with Gedline and Ginette from Haiti to Florida and cared for Gedline while they awaited transport to Boston.

When she arrived at MGH/C April 15, a medical team treated Gedline’s infection and provided pain medicine. William Butler, MD, of Pediatric Neurosurgery, reviewed her case and determined that she did not require any additional spinal surgery. Rafael V. Pieretti, MD, of Pediatric Urology, provided a plan for catheterization and bladder training. A team of physical therapists and nutritionists began the hard work of helping her regain weight and muscle function.

Ellison 18 pediatric nurse Kiki Benjamin, RN, who emigrated from Haiti more than 20 years ago, has become close to Gedline and Ginette. She has not only provided care, but she also has translated for the family and spent time with them during her off hours. She has offered much comfort and support, bringing them Creole food, clothing and serving as a compassionate and caring friend.

Today Gedline is recovering at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, where she has taken her first steps and can stand for short amounts of time on her own.

“She is regaining control of her bladder,” says Curran, who also has a special place in her heart for Gedline and Ginette and often visits the two. “Her recovery is especially miraculous given the elapsed time between her spinal injury and her spinal fusion. She has exceeded all of our expectations.”

When asked the first thing she would like to do when she leaves the hospital, Gedline says that she plans to go to church to thank God for saving her. She also looks forward to going back to school.

Since the earthquake, Ginette has not left Gedline’s side. She often thinks of her other children in Haiti – 1-year-old twin daughters Brianna and Rianna, her 9-year-old son Junior, and her 17- and 19-year-old daughters Waneska and Joanne – who are being cared for by family members.

“I need to be here with Gedline at this time,” she says. “If I had 20 children and one was sick, I would be with the one who needs me the most. I pray for all of my children every day. I thank God for saving them, and I thank God for Marjorie, who is like my angel. I also am so grateful to Kiki and all of the doctors and nurses at the hospital.”
**MGH midwives: An international perspective**

**WHILE THE** International Day of Midwives was celebrated May 5, midwives at the MGH maintain an international perspective year-round. The MGH Midwifery Service recently hosted two colleagues from abroad, and several midwives are providing care and education in Haiti through the support of MGH Vincent Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Zhang Xinrong, RN, RM, a senior staff nurse from Kandang Kerbau Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Singapore, came to the MGH on behalf of the hospital in February. She was specifically interested in learning how midwifery fits into the overall health care system and how U.S. clinicians differentiate high- and low-risk cases. Xinrong observed midwives at work on Blake 14, Yawkey 4 and at the Revere HealthCare Center.

“The opportunity to have an international visitor spend time on our unit allows us to step out of our own practice and share ideas across cultures, and in doing so, enhance our practice,” says MGH midwife Anne-Marie Armstrong, CNM, RN, MSN, who is originally from England.

Estelle de Prost Lignon, CNM, a midwife from France who is living in Boston while her husband completes a research fellowship at the MGH, observed the midwives practice at the MGH in March. She noted several differences between the scope of care offered by midwives in the United States and in France and shared her findings with MGH staff.

In addition to hosting the international visitors, several MGH midwives have been providing care and training nurses in Haiti. Angela Ferrari, CNM, MS, was the first MGH midwife deployed to Haiti April 5 through 18 with Project HOPE. She estimates she assisted with approximately 20 births, but her focus was mostly on educating her Haitian colleagues. Amy Kogut, CNM, MSN, is currently in Haiti assisting with medical care. She returns May 23.

**MGH Training and Workforce Development Office supports progress**

**Grant helps MGH employees**

**APPLICATIONS** are now being accepted for 2010 Support Services Employee Grants (SSEGs). Last year, the MGH Office of Training and Workforce Development awarded 86 SSEGs, totaling nearly $60,000, an increase from the previous year. The grants recognize eligible nonexempt employees in clinical, technical, service and clerical positions and assists with expenses associated with achieving academic goals.

Grants can be used for tuition, books, lab fees and other costs related to skill building and career development.

Taree King, an MGH patient financial counselor, has received the grant twice. She attends Springfield College full-time, where she plans to graduate with a degree in human services. In addition to her full-time work and full course load, King is a single mother. She used her first SSEG grant to buy a laptop and her second to cover tuition and books.

“The grant was a great help for me because I had the resources I needed to study effectively at school. I also could take out fewer loans,” says King. “In MGH’s growth-oriented environment, nothing can hold me back.”

SSEG applicants must be employed by the MGH for a minimum of two years as of Sept. 30, 2010. Applications are due June 11. For more information or an application, visit http://is.partners.org/hr/New_Web/mgh/mgh_training.htm or call John Coco of Human Resources at 617-724-3368.

**College Fair offers information**

**MGH EMPLOYEES** had the opportunity to visit with representatives of 24 area colleges and universities during the Office of Training and Workforce Development’s annual College Fair April 28 in the Bulfinch Tents. The event gave those interested in furthering their education an opportunity to learn about degree and certificate programs in all areas of health care.

Shawtae Sullivan, MA, a medical assistant in MGH Cardiology, says the fair came at the perfect time for her. She recently decided to pursue a nursing degree and attended the event to find out about the prerequisite courses she would need before entering a nursing program.

“It’s so awesome that everything is here,” she said. “I don’t have to rush around from place to place after work just trying to find this information.” Sullivan says she spoke with representatives from the University of Massachusetts and Bunker Hill Community College about their programs.

Luiz Marques, a Nutrition and Food Services coordinator, was in search of information about two occupations in which he has interest – radiology technologist and surgical technologist. Both roles, he says, would allow him to interact with patients, something he says is the best part of his current role.

For Marques, the college fair is one of many opportunities offered by the MGH that have helped advance his career. He is a graduate of the hospital’s English for Speakers of Other Languages program and is now enrolled in other classes to prepare him for his next career.

“I’m so glad they have these ways to help us,” he said. “There are so many good opportunities out there. I’m trying to decide which one is the best for me.”
WHAT'S HAPPENING
New parking payment system
MGH Parking and Commuter Services has replaced paper parking coupons with “debits” programmed onto the MGH ID badge for employees with evening Fruit Street garage or day or evening Nashua Street parking. Employees can order more debits by accessing https://hub.partners.org/commuters-corner. Debits will be processed onto badges within 24 to 48 hours.

Free summer help available
The MGH Center for Community Health Improvement (CCHI) Summer jobs program is seeking departments to host students part-time this summer. Students are selected from CCHI’s partner schools: East Boston High School, The Engineering School, Kennedy Academy for Health Careers and the James P. Timilty Middle School.

Participants will spend 25 hours per week at their job placement site, Monday through Friday from July 8 to Aug. 20. These programs are funded by MGH Human Resources and are available at no cost to departments. For more information, contact Galia Wise at 617-724-8326 or gwise@partners.org.

Partners Office for Interactions with Industry
The Partners Office for Interactions with Industry (OII) reminds all employees that new Partners HealthCare rules forbid any gifts from vendor representatives to Partners individuals or offices, whether tickets to a Red Sox game, a bouquet of flowers, a round of golf or anything else even of small value. For more information, access http://pulse.partners.org/OII/index.html. A link to this website is also available through the MGH Intranet site. For questions, call the OII at 617-643-7752.

Computer classes available
Partners IS Training is offering free Microsoft Office 2003 “Info-Byte” computer classes at the MGH on June 15. A course schedule is available at http://sharepoint.partners.org/phs/istraining/. To attend one of the sessions, register via PeopleSoft using course code “ISM.” A manager is required to approve the registration request. For more information, visit http://is.partners.org/training.

Series on working with industry, monitors and the FDA
The MGH Clinical Research Program, MGH Imaging and the Partners Human Research Quality Improvement (QI) Program are offering a four-session workshop series Thursdays, June 3, 10, 24 and July 1 from 11:30 am to 1 pm in the Simches Research Center, Room 3.120. Eric Tomasini, director of Research Operations for MGH Imaging, and Cindy Monahan, senior QI specialist for Partners Human Research QI Program, will provide participants with the tools and knowledge to successfully navigate the industrial clinical trials landscape and manage monitor visits and interactions with the FDA. This course qualifies for 24 CMR 5.00 for six contact hours of nursing continuing education. To register, access https://hub.partners.org/catalog/. For more information, contact Lauren Michaels at lmichaels@partners.org or 617-726-5010.

Patient memorial service
The MGH Social Service and MGH Chaplaincy are hosting a patient memorial service May 27 at 5:30 pm in the O’Keefe Auditorium. The service is an opportunity for staff to remember and honor the patients for whom they have cared. A “Ribbon Remembrance Tree,” on which staff may write a patient’s first name or initials, will be available all day May 26 and 27. For more information, contact Katrina Scott, MDiv, kmscott@partners.org or Todd Rinehart, MSW, LICSW, at trinehart@partners.org.

Disaster preparedness seminar
The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) will host “Avoiding a Disaster During a Disaster: Improving Medical Volunteer Response,” May 19 from 4:30 to 8:30 pm at MMS Headquarters, 860 Winter Street, Waltham. This program will provide attendees with an overview of preparedness challenges, including lessons learned from the Haitian earthquake response, an outline of state and federal emergency management systems and volunteer options, and a discussion of the differences between disaster and humanitarian response. CME credit is available. Dinner will be provided. For more information, access www.massmed.org/cme_events.

IN GENERAL
The MGH Emergency Department (ED) Case Management Team was announced the winner in the ED Category of the Case in Point Platinum Awards, sponsored by Case in Point, the official magazine of the Case Management Society of America. The awards recognize the most successful and innovative case management programs working to improve health care. ED case managers are: Christine Greenwood, RN, BSN, CCM, CRRN; Brenda Donovan, RN, BSN; Barbara McAulaylin, RN, BSN, MSN, CCM; Diane Sands, RN, BA, ACM; Maria Seavey, RN, BSN; and Kathleen Walsh, RN, PhD.