



IRIS Mundial newsletter

August 2015

The programs of IRIS Mundial: *Access for thousands of Haitians to visual care*

Eager to offer visual services throughout the year, IRIS Mundial has implemented two "Programs for the Prevention and Fight against Blindness (PPFB)" that aims to make available a quality eye care system to the most disadvantaged population located in isolated areas. The field teams are working tirelessly to enable thousands of people each year to experience better vision. The results of the ongoing programs are very impressive. Here are the results in May 2015 :

PPFB of Labrousse

Consolidation II phase: October 2014 to September 2015

- 2273 students and 125 teachers screened in schools
- 897 adults screened in mobile clinics or at the permanent clinic in Labrousse
- 244 complete eye examinations carried out and 17 eye surgeries carried out
- 131 medications distributed and 116 pairs of eyeglasses provided

PPFB of Limbe

Initial phase : October 2013 to September 2015

- 4389 students and 227 teachers screened in schools
- 1768 adults screened in mobile clinics or at the permanent clinic in Limbe
- 479 complete eye examinations carried out and 20 eye surgeries carried out
- 540 medications distributed and 177 pairs of eyeglasses provided

"There are many students who have problems... and the IRIS Mundial program has allowed them to benefit from a vision screening examination to find out what was wrong with their eyes. It is a program that everyone in the area loves."

- Maxi Marcelin, mobilizer of the Labrousse program



Miss Miriame Cadet, head nurse, during a mobile clinic

In this edition

- A follow-up and training mission for staff in the 2 permanent programmes in Haiti.
- IRIS Mundial month in IRIS Canada boutiques raised \$75 700 \$
- IRIS Mundial received a donation of \$5000 from the RBC golf tournament.



Nadia Bazil during a school screening session

A training and follow-up mission of our programs in Haiti

From May 12 to May 19, Catherine Rioux, General Manager of IRIS Mundial, and Francine Lavallée, optometrist, visited Labrousse in the south east of Haiti to carry out a training and follow-up mission with the team from the organization's first permanent eye care program. Since its implementation in 2010, nearly 13 0000 people among the most disadvantaged have benefited from quality eye care, thanks to the outstanding work of Miriam Cadet, head nurse, and Maxi Marcelin, assistant-mobilizer.

Visual care training and sharing experiences in Labrousse

The training was given in the *Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes de Labrousse* Health Center, in an isolated area in the heart of the high mountains. In a spirit of synergy between its two ongoing programs in Haiti, two teammates of the similar program located in Limbe, in the north of Haiti, joined the training: Nadia Bazil, head nurse, and Emmanuel Mesidor, mobilizer. They enjoyed their first visit of the eye clinic and had the opportunity to discuss their respective realities about the program. Moreover, during the week, teammates increased their knowledge and learned new oculo-visual examination techniques that will help them improve the quality of their vision screening examinations with patients. Furthermore, these techniques were put into practice during a vision screening day in an elementary school, and during a mobile vision screening clinic for adults, and the two trainers assisted the team.

Training continues in Limbe

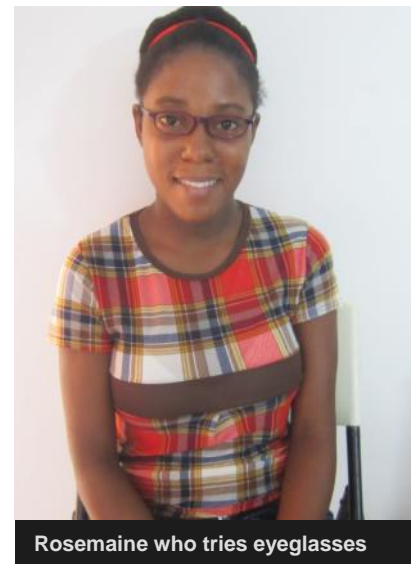
A second training week was carried out with the team of Limbe, in northern Haiti, from 19 to 26 May with Mrs Rioux, accompanied by a volunteer optometrist, Marie-Chantal Hudon. They were warmly welcomed by the team and by the many children living around the CEDI-VE (*Center for Education and Integrated Development – Village of Hope*). Throughout the week, they also taught new eye care theories to the team, in addition to giving advice on how to organize a mobile clinic. Since its implementation, the program has enabled more than 6000 people to receive eye care.

The relevance of services provided

At the end of the week, Djery Baptiste, one of the program leaders, explained how important this program is, in a region that has no ophthalmological services: "It's terribly difficult for residents to go to Cap-Haitien when they have a vision problem. Now, with the introduction of the program, [...] they have access to that service at the Village of Hope". Proud to work within the IRIS Mundial program, he also told us that many people have benefited from surgery they would not be able to pay for themselves. Finally, after a busy week full of ups and downs because of the oppressive heat and the tropical rains, both trainers returned to Quebec, satisfied with the work done with the team. Mrs. Rioux says she is proud of her teammates and is already looking forward to meeting them again in Haiti!

The dream of Rosemaine

Rosemaine is a 21 year old woman who was screened by the PPFB program nurse in Labrousse. She currently studies at the public school and wants to continue her studies at university. She wanted an examination of her eyes because she had near and distance vision problems in class. The nurse had referred her to the ophthalmologist of the program. She was diagnosed with severe myopia. She needs a prescription (-9.00) which is unusual and not available at the clinic right now. She will soon receive eyeglasses produced tailor-made in Quebec thanks to our partners who contributed the lenses and spectacles frame. Rosemaine will therefore continue to learn and pursue schooling in order to exercise the profession of her dreams.



Rosemaine who tries eyeglasses

Testimony of a happy beneficiary

Alfred Étienne, coordinator of FODES-5, our principal partner in the Labrousse area in Haiti told us: « In 2011, I was in the Puit salé region, in Daquin, a very wooded area. A voice called me, came to me and said : "Is it you Mr. Étienne?" And he hugged me! "I was blind, and now I can see!" He is a young man who received cataract surgery during the 2009 mission in Labrousse. He asked me : "How is your daughter Rachel? She was with me during the operation. I can now see and I have started working again". Now, he is an active young man working in the fields and providing for his family's needs.

¹Foundation for Economic and Social Development



Christella and Loudedine, two children of Limbe

75 700\$ have been raised thanks to the IRIS Mundial month

February 2015 was IRIS Mundial Month in the 160 IRIS stores across Canada. For each pair of eyeglasses sold during this special month, a donation of \$10 was made to IRIS Mundial, thereby contributing to the grand total of \$75 700. We would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to IRIS, the visual group, the owners and the team members of the IRIS stores for their efforts in promoting IRIS Mundial and its projects.

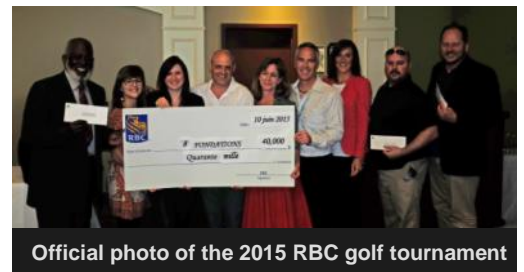
Thanks to this sponsorship, IRIS Mundial will continue to provide eye care to the most disadvantaged populations, allowing them the opportunity to experience better vision as well.



A donation of 5000\$ thanks to the RBC golf tournament

For another consecutive year, IRIS Mundial has received a donation of \$5000, thanks to the RBC Royal Bank - Business Group which organized the 18th Golf Tournament for the regions of Laval-Centre, the Laurentians and Lanaudiere. Approximately 140 golfing clients were reunited on June 10th 2015, to play and enjoy the day.

Thanks to their participation and, with the presence of major sponsors and other partners such as IRIS The Visual Group, the amount of \$40,000 was donated to 8 various foundations. On behalf of the less fortunate, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the RBC Royal Bank organization and IRIS The Visual Group!



Official photo of the 2015 RBC golf tournament

To make a donation, please refer to the section "make a donation" of our website: <http://irismundial.ca/donations/>

The nurses of our programs in action



About us



IRIS Mundial is a group consisting of Optometrists, Opticians, Ophthalmologists and other professionals who work as volunteers with the most disadvantaged people. Our mandate is to educate people on vision health and how to prevent blindness.

IRIS Mundial offers preventive and curative eye care services that complement those already available in the host country to people who would not normally have access. Thanks to the contributions of volunteers who offer their professional expertise, time, and availability, IRIS Mundial develops and sponsors activities to prevent blindness in order to help the population. IRIS Mundial also promotes the development of a good relationship with local organizations in the host country.

While promoting autonomy in terms of eye care in developing countries, IRIS Mundial seeks to establish permanent eye care services and aligns its management with local partners in respect to cultures and structures of the country.

It's our mission for eyes in need.


To contact us

Do not hesitate to contact us for additional information on our activities.

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