



It's our mission
for eyes in need.



IRIS Mundial News / November 2013

By Dr Francine Lavallee, optometrist

PPFB OF LABROUSSE: A MODEL FOR HAITI



In September 2010, IRIS Mundial implemented the Program for the Prevention and Fight against Blindness (PPFB) in the FODES-5 area, one of the most deprived and neglected areas of Haiti due to insufficient economic resources, very high unemployment, geographic isolation and logistical difficulties. Established over the course of three years and designed to reduce the prevalence of blindness and impaired vision of the area's population by at least 50 % and to allow over 10,000 people to access a system of comprehensive eye care, this ongoing program aims to improve their quality of life and to actively participate in the economic and social development of the community. FODES-5 (the Foundation for Economic and Social Development) is the Haitian partner responsible for the implementation of this program.

Objectives achieved: Nearly 10,000 people have already benefited from eye care

Three years after the program began, we already note with pride that the program results are excellent and its objectives have been achieved. More and more people can now experience better vision in this region where no eye care existed before. With the population of the area being dispersed over a large mountainous region, the program was ambitious to say the least. Nurses and assistants must travel by motorbike or quad through the territory to access the population in order to provide awareness sessions and to perform the visual screenings. People have to walk long hours to reach the health center. Thanks to the hard work of the team, 5960 children were seen for visual screening in schools and 3637 adults have benefited from screenings offered in one of the various locations in the area. Several were able to purchase prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses or eye medication for a nominal fee. Those with vision problems or eye health conditions were referred to the Notre-Dame-de-Labrousse Health Center, where an examination room has been set up. To date, 870 people have benefited from an ophthalmologic consultation. Seventy-five people received surgical care (cataracts, pterygium, etc.) and were able to regain functional vision.



The experience continues: from awareness to autonomy

Familiarizing the local population has led to a significant reduction in the impact of blindness in the lives of these people and improve their quality of life. Nurse Miriame Cadet, and her assistant, Maxi Marcelin, continue to do amazing work in Labrousse. They have acquired skills and experience, allowing thousands of people in need to find a solution for their visual impairments and also prevent certain conditions lead to preventable blindness. Following the encouraging results of PPFB Labrousse, IRIS

Mundial decided to continue the program for an additional year to consolidate gains and attempt, in collaboration with the local partner, to find ways to ensure its autonomy.

IRIS MUNDIAL ESTABLISHES A NEW PERMANENT VISUAL AID TO LIMBE



The PPFB Labrousse experience was so positive and successful that IRIS Mundial made the decision to establish a second permanent program in the Limbe region, more specifically in the North Department of Haiti. As far as health and education are concerned, this town has little infrastructure. Visual services are inaccessible to most people because of poverty. The Program for the Prevention and Fight against Blindness in Limbe aims to provide access to comprehensive eye care to more than 10,000 adults and children. This ongoing program has been set up under the responsibility of Haitian partners in this region: the CEDI-VE (Centre for Education and Integrated Development, the Village of Hope) from Limbe and the Vision Plus Clinic from Cap-Haitien.

Training mission and synergy between programs

An IRIS Mundial team visited Labrousse in Haiti from October 7 through the 14th. Francine Lavallée and Vicky Larochelle, IRIS optometrists, participated in the training of the Program for the Prevention and Fight against Blindness team of which has just started in Limbe. During their stay, they seized the opportunity to follow up on the program that is currently established in the region of Labrousse for three years and to update the skills of local staff. Thus, the new teammates have benefited from the experience gained in the field by their colleagues.



The Limbe program team consists of Viviane Pierre, nurse, Nelly Paul, assistant, and Djery Baptiste, mobilizer. They have learned to check visual acuity, measure intraocular pressure, and detect vision problems and eye diseases such as glaucoma, an endemic disease in Haiti. Like their colleagues in Labrousse, they will conduct screening in mobile clinics and schools in the area, in addition to providing educational sessions. People who need glasses or sunglasses can easily get them and those requiring more extensive care will be referred to the Vision Plus Clinic in Cap Haitien where an ophthalmologist will support them. Many people will also benefit from eye surgery, cataracts, pterygium, etc. Elvie Maxineau, director of the CEDI-Village of Hope, agency also took part in the team training. She is responsible for the two-year program that has just started in Limbe. The training then continued in Limbe where the clinic was set up and the team has already begun to provide visual screening.



When vision changes life...

Duluvan, 6 years old, was blind since birth. A visual screening showed he could possibly regain his vision if operated. Cataract surgery was performed in the framework of our program and he can now live like other children, go to school and hope for a better future.

Gerta, a 55 year old dressmaker....Imagine her smile when she discovered glasses for near vision, following her first eye exam!

Solomon's parents have been blind for several years. Their son is lucky because the visual screening has enabled a preventive diagnosis and the start of treatment before both eyes are affected by glaucoma as well.

Guy Mongrain gives \$5,251 to IRIS Mundial!

Mr. Guy Mongrain, a very good friend of IRIS's, participated in a television show called "Le Tricheur" during the week of October 7, 2013. Mr. Mongrain generously chose to contribute his earnings from the show in the amount of \$5251 to IRIS Mundial.

Thank you Mr Mongrain for your incredible generosity.

[Click here](#) to see a video of Mr. Mongrain talking about IRIS Mundial.



The LoyaltyOne team supports IRIS Mundial

The Montreal LoyaltyOne team held its "CommunityOne Day" on Mai 21st. Every year, employees of LoyaltyOne (the group operating AIR MILES Reward Program) across Canada gather to generously offer some time to a charity. This year, the LoyaltyOne team chose once again to help IRIS Mundial. It is in this friendly atmosphere that the whole team worked hard to repair and prepare 1000 pairs of glasses destined to our upcoming projects! It was a real pleasure for us to work with this very dynamic & efficient team.

A huge thank you to all the LoyaltyOne team! Thank you for your generosity!



Thanks to the RBC Golf Tournament, IRIS Mundial receives a donation of \$5000

On June 18, 2013, the RBC Royal Bank Business Centres of the Laval, Laurentians, and Lanaudiere regions in Quebec, held a Golf Tournament at the "Quatre Domaines" Golf Club in Mirabel, Quebec. This tournament brought together more than 140 golfing clients. Thanks to their participation, as well as the presence of major sponsors and other partners such as IRIS, the Visual Group, the amount of \$42,500 was donated to 9 various foundations. At the end of the tournament an amount of \$5000 was donated to IRIS Mundial!

On behalf of the less fortunate, we would like to thank the RBC Royal Bank as well as IRIS The Visual Group.



Benoit Tousignant receives the Rector's Award from the University of Montreal and donates \$1000 to IRIS Mundial



It is with great pride that IRIS Mundial congratulates Dr. Benoit Tousignant, who was honored with the [Rector's Award from the University of Montreal](#), in the category of involvement. This prestigious award recognizes an individual who contributes to the welfare and development of society through his/her community.

This testimony of honor is well deserved, Dr. Benoit Tousignant, optometrist and clinical instructor at the School of Optometry, has since his first year of practice been involved in the care and eye health of disadvantaged populations and the well-being of the community. In 2008, he completed a Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health, International Health profile. Furthermore, Dr Tousignant has been involved in IRIS Mundial projects in Haiti, Peru and Mexico, and is presently acting as administrator and secretary. The following [video montage](#) highlights his involvement with IRIS Mundial:

Also noteworthy, Benoit has chosen to donate the entire amount of his \$1000 award to IRIS Mundial!

We thank Benoit for his commitment and generosity!

Congratulations to Dr. Carmelle Lucien-Guerrier

To highlight his limitless generosity and commitment to IRIS Mundial projects, the *Jean-Pierre Tchang Award* was created in 2009 to reward the volunteer whose contribution stands out in any given year. For 2013, as part of the annual meeting of IRIS Mundial volunteers held in Lachute, the *Jean-Pierre Tchang* recognition prize was presented to Dr. Carmelle Lucien-Guerrier. The implication of Dr Lucien-Guerrier is exceptional; she has participated as a volunteering physician in humanitarian projects with IRIS Mundial, in Haiti, Peru and also in Benin. She is also one of the precious collaborators for our new permanent program in Limbe, Haiti. IRIS Mundial sincerely thanks her for her generosity and involvement.

Congratulations to Dr. Carmelle Lucien-Guerrier!



IRIS Mundial thanks you!

IRIS Mundial seeks the support of its business partners, collaborators and volunteers in order to carry out its projects

IRIS, the Visual Group is the most important partner of IRIS Mundial. February was IRIS Mundial Month in the 165 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 \$85 000. We would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to the owners and the team members of the IRIS stores for their efforts in promoting IRIS Mundial.

A big THANK YOU to all the IRIS team members who work on the salvaging and preparation of eyeglasses.

Every year, IRIS optometrists choose to give some of their PVI's to IRIS Mundial; we thank them for their generosity!



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