



**Health Horizons  
International**



## Note from the Executive Director

Greetings from the DR!

It's been an exciting Spring in the Dominican Republic for HHI, with many exciting activities in motion and on the horizon. In May, HHI continued to provide quality health services for a growing number of chronic disease patients through its most recent mobile health clinic, as well as follow-up care and accompaniment for patients through our Referral program. In April, HHI hosted an exciting musical activity in Cabarete, bringing together old friends and introducing our organization to new audiences in the region, updating the public about HHI, its mission and extended team!

As many of you know, this summer HHI will undergo some staff team changes and growth. In August, I will be passing the torch of the Executive Director role over to Elizabeth Geier, HHI's current Director of Public Health Programs. This is an exciting transition and I am very optimistic that Elizabeth will do a stellar job with her experience, leadership and vision. Also this month HHI bids a sad farewell to Janelle Bitikofer who is leaving HHI's Clinical Programs after three years. Yet with equal emotion, we are excited to announce that Andrea Catalano is coming on board to lead the program area—welcome Andrea!

Of course, no letter from me would be complete without recognizing all of you, the supporters of HHI—individuals and representatives of foundations—who have helped us continue to work toward better community health in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to you for your continued support, and have a very pleasant transition into summer!

With warm regards,

Paul

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**Interview with Elizabeth Geier in Forbes Magazine  
Online**

Check out the interview with Elizabeth Geier in Forbes' online magazine focusing on young people with alternative careers. [Read it here.](#)

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## Thanks and Farewell to Janelle



After three years of passionate commitment to Dominican communities and to Health Horizons International, Janelle Bitikofer will be leaving the organization and the DR this month. We are very sorry to see her go. Janelle was instrumental in building HHI's Clinical Programs into what they are today—an efficient, effective and sensitive structure that enables physicians, medical students and physician assistants the opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge in collaboration with local community health workers, local doctors and pharmacists to provide access to quality health care for communities that otherwise have major challenges to health care. We will all miss Janelle's big heart, attention to detail, and commitment to others. We all wish her the best

of luck.

Thank you Janelle!

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## HHI welcomes Andrea Catalano as New Clinical Programs Director!

Andrea is the newest addition to the HHI team in Montellano, arriving last week in the Dominican Republic to take the lead for HHI's Clinical Programs. She brings a passion for public health and commitment to social justice, with a Masters of Public Health from Emory University. Previously, Andrea served as a health educator with the Peace Corps in Honduras and collaborated on a variety of capacity building projects in nutrition, family planning and HIV prevention. She has also worked with CARE, the Georgia Department of Public Health and HolaDoctor. Read more on the HHI website [here](#).



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## Thanks to Volunteer Emily McNab



HHI wants to thank Emily McNab, a Quinnipiac PA-Student for her service this Spring during an HHI Rotation. Emily arrived in Montellano in April and worked in preparation, during, and the follow-up of May's Medical Service Trip. Emily brought prior HHI volunteer experience with her, as well as a great attitude and set of skills. She also pushed her boundaries in working with patient education regarding chronic disease which you can read more about

[here.](#)

Thank you Emily!

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## Another Successful MST in May 2014!



Thanks to the May 2014 MST team for carrying out yet another great Medical Service Trip. This service week was highly professional and productive. The visiting medical team included: HHI Board members Dr. Ayaz Madraswalla, Dr. Michael Good, Dr. Melissa Bishop, and PA Laticco Robinson. Also a special thanks to second-year PA student Emily McNab. Together with the HHI Staff and extended team including 17 Community Health Workers, 4 translators, and local doctor, HHI offered consultations to 308 patients over four days in the communities of Negro Melo, Arroyo de Leche, Severet and Pancho Mateo, growing its Chronic Care Program to over 150 individual patients receiving year-round medical attention for diabetes, hypertension, asthma and epilepsy.

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## New Position Opening with HHI in the Dominican Republic

HHI is beginning its search for a new **Director of Public Health Programs**. It is hoped that the new DPH can begin this summer! The position will include oversight of new and exciting projects and programs for HHI and will work closely with the rest of the team to move forward HHI's five-year Strategic Plan. Click [here](#) to learn more and how to apply.

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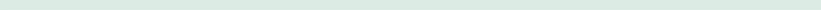
## Piano Night Success!



On Friday, April 11th Health Horizons International hosted an exceptional evening of piano music at Maraja restaurant in Cabarete with nearly 100 guests in attendance. Thomas Törnheden, a classically trained jazz pianist and professor of music in Stockholm, Sweden, played for several exciting hours with accompaniment on guitar by Juan Guivin, and renowned vocalists Anthony Jefferson and

Mary Horan.

Several other vocalists joined in during the evening to participate. It was an innovative and diverse musical event enjoyed by all. Thanks to David Zinaman for helping with planning and photographer Jose Mercado Hernandez, also to all the Community Health Workers who helped out, and a great huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended, we hope to host another event later in the year!



Your contribution will enable us to provide medication, preventive health care services, and specialty medical care to families living in poverty. It will also support on-going efforts to build community health through our year-round community health workers program, medical service trips, and diverse public health programs.

Please considering making a donation today to support our cause.

**DONATE** ▶

**Our mission is to improve community health by building local capacity for quality primary care and public health.**



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