

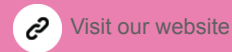
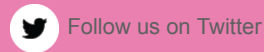
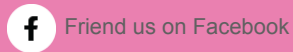
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From: kim haley

An update from Project Medishare for Haiti- Cancer Programme

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Get to know Melone, our first patient to have a full breast reconstruction in Haiti!

Melone Darasse is a 47-year-old woman from Port-au-Prince and a patient of Project Medishare's Women's Cancer Program. Like many of Project Medishare's cancer patients Melone spent many months trying to find a center in Haiti that would treat the swelling mass in her breast.



Spotlight on our partner Kim Haley and 'Medebra'

This month Project Medishare Women's Cancer Program has a visit from Florida based designer and entrepreneur Kim Paucek who has donated more than a hundred of her specialized post-surgery medical bra's to the program.

Kim was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 and after treatment turned into a breast cancer patient advocate and entrepreneur. With support and encouragement from her doctor, Kim designed a specialized post-surgical bra called a *Medebra*. The bra is a specialized design on the market like no other that includes drain holders, and supports a prosthesis as well as a strap designed for chemotherapy or dialysis. It is also the only patient designed support garment.

Unfortunately, many women including Melone come to the program with advanced breast cancer, treatable only with a mastectomy- a surgical procedure to remove the breast- and cycles of chemotherapy. But unlike any of the other 250 cancer patients that Project Medishare has treated over the last two and a half years, Melone received a breast reconstruction at the same time as a life-saving mastectomy.

Thanks to a new collaboration between Project Medishare's Women's Health Center and breast reconstruction specialist Chris Low based in South Florida, eligible patients will now be given the option of having a breast reconstruction at the same time as their mastectomy. "From my experience breast reconstruction is very important for the patients psychologically", explains surgeon Chris Low, "it means that a woman comes out of the operation feeling whole".

Melone certainly agrees with this statement. During her latest check up she told Project Medishare nurses that she was delighted with the results, "I had some pain after the operation but I feel great now. I feel very lucky to be the first woman in the program to have this procedure."

In Haiti, there is still a lot of stigma associated with breast cancer. Some women refuse to undergo surgery for fear of being shunned by their partner or community. Project Medishare hopes that this pioneering new initiative will help women feel more empowered and less afraid of treatment. Over the course of next year, Chris Low will teach Haitian surgeons how to perform breast reconstructions so that it can be integrated into the services provided at Bernard Mevs Hospital in Port-au-Prince.

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that fits the medical needs of those who have had breast surgery make sure they are as comfortable as possible.

"One of the biggest challenges I've ever had after hearing the word "Breast Cancer", she explains finding the courage to choose a surgeon, set a surgery date and those I loved my situation. We went to the operating room on surgery day, I didn't know the outcome or what I'd feel or look like". Since then, Kim has made her mission to help women with breast cancer everywhere, giving comfort and dignity to all. She feels uniquely placed as a designer because as a breast cancer patient she has been through the journey.

In Haiti, where prostheses and specialized medical equipment are scarce, Kim's donation of more than 100 Medebras, Medebra Mastectomy Bra Kits and Prostheses to our recovering patients is an invaluable contribution to the women in the cancer program. Kim Paucek/Haley has further pledged 7% of her sales towards women's cancer treatment and prevention in Haiti.

Medebra is endorsed by national and international surgeons and has multiple uses. It is the only reimbursable post-surgical mastectomy bra kit, post-surgical bra and vest available on the market.

To find out more about this wonderful product and its design visit: <http://medebra.com>

News: Our first women's health promoter meeting took place as part of the SPARC Metastatic Breast Cancer Challenge Award.



This month Project Medishare accepted the SPARC Metastatic Breast Cancer Challenge with support from the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and Pfizer. The grant was awarded to help close the information, support, awareness, and policy between metastatic breast cancer and early breast cancer, well as helping reduce the number of women diagnosed at the metastatic stage of breast cancer.

As part of this program, Project Medishare will train cancer patients to act as health promoters and patient navigators for other women in their communities. These women have also entered a program initiated by the Haitian Support Group Against Cancer (GSCC) and Project Medishare called the *Pwogram Akonpayman nan Maladi Kanse* or Accompaniment Program for Cancer. This is a first of its kind initiative at Project Medishare that aims to pair patients who have completed treatment with new arrivals to act as social and moral support and to help new patients and families navigate the care system.

For more of the SPARC Metastatic Breast Cancer Challenge Award please see the video below:



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For more of the SPARC Metastatic Breast Cancer Challenge Award please see the video below:

Meet one of the 20 organizations that has accepted the challenge to help support women with metastatic breast cancer:

“ PROJECT MEDISHARE FOR HAITI welcomes this opportunity to work with the global health community and the government of Haiti to INCREASE OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES ABOUT METASTATIC BREAST CANCER. ”

UICC SPARC MBC CHALLENGE Pfizer Oncology

Kim Haley / Survivor
Medebra / President
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Have a Blessed Day!

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