Haiti's Amputees: One Year After The Earthquake

January 12, 2011

Austin, Texas, January 12, 2011 – One year after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti, killing 230,000+ and displacing more than 1.2 million Haitians, the recovery and rebuilding efforts continue. While there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done, there are also stories of new hope and inspiration.

Through the work of the Hanger Ivan R. Sabel Foundation and its partners in the Haitian Amputee Coalition – the Harold & Kayrita Anderson Family Foundation, Physicians for Peace, the Catholic Medical Mission Board, Donald Peck Leslie, M.D., of the Shepherd Center, and Hanger Orthopedic Group – hundreds of Haitian amputees are experiencing restored mobility and independence with customized prosthetic devices.

Fully functional since February 22, 2010, the prosthetic and rehabilitation center called the Hanger Clinic (known as the "Klinik Hanger" in Haiti) was established at the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer, an undamaged local hospital with a high clinical reputation located 60 miles from Port-au-Prince in Deschapelles, Haiti. More than 13,000lbs of prosthetic fabrication equipment and machinery were shipped to Deschapelles to construct the lab in February 2010.

Since then, 70+ prosthetists and technicians from Hanger Orthopedic Group, guest prosthetists from around the world, and medical professionals from Physicians for Peace have served clinical rotations at the Hanger Clinic, providing prosthetic care to nearly 700 Haitian amputees in just 10 months.

In addition to the volunteer practitioners on the team, the Hanger Ivan R. Sabel Foundation created a training program to educate local Haitians to become prosthetic practitioners and technicians for the provision of long-term care in Haiti. Currently, there are four Haitians in training and employed as prosthetic technicians at the Hanger Clinic.

Today, on January 12, 2011, the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer will host a remembrance event focusing on hope and restored mobility, in conjunction with the Hanger Ivan R. Sabel Foundation. Managing Director of the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Dr. Ian Rawson, Hanger's lead prosthetist Jay Tew, the Haitian technicians, and amputee patients who benefitted from the work at the clinic will be in attendance.

Professional photographs and b-roll footage of the work at the Hanger Clinic are available for download here:
http://www.hanger.com/MediaLibrary/HaitiRelief/Pages/default.aspx

ABOUT THE HANGER IVAN R. SABEL FOUNDATION:
Established in 2009 by Hanger Orthopedic Group and philanthropist, prosthetist, and former Hanger President and CEO Ivan R. Sabel, the Hanger Ivan R. Sabel Foundation (501c3) was created to enhance the productivity and quality of life for those who face physical challenges due to disease, war, or natural disasters, domestically and abroad, by supporting charitable organizations, implementing programs, and fostering volunteerism that improve human mobility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
- The Hanger Ivan R. Sabel Foundation, www.hanger-sabelfoundation.org
- The Hanger Ivan R. Sabel Foundation blog, http://haitianamputees.blogspot.com/
- Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics, www.hanger.com

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