

## **Resolution of Appreciation**

For Contributions to Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti

by

**Raphaela and Dr. Rolf Maibach**

It is with gratitude and great pleasure that we, the Board of Directors of the Grant Foundation and Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti take this opportunity to adopt this Resolution of Appreciation for the many gifts that Raphaela and Dr. Rolf Maibach have given, and continue to give, to the HAS and the people of Haiti. We value the many outstanding contributions they have made to the overall strength of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer and anticipate many more years of having them continue to be such a critical part of all that we do.

Hôpital Albert Schweitzer has been blessed to be the beneficiary of a partnership with Raphaela and Dr. Rolf Maibach for the past 22 years. They have been instrumental in assuring that HAS continues to deliver on its promise to collaborate with the Haitian people to deliver an improved quality of life in the Artibonite Valley of Haiti.

Rolf and Raphaela have served in many, many different ways. By bringing their expertise, compassion and dedication to HAS, they have not only provided treatment to patients along with advanced procedures in the laboratory, but provided the leadership and inspiration to build a true collaborative approach to healthcare that exhibits the best of combining international medicine with the difficult conditions that exist in Haiti.

After returning to Switzerland from their first trip to HAS in 1996, they began to advocate for HAS with their energy and passion. In 1997, they formed the Bündner Partnerschaft Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti to recruit medical specialists and raise critical funds for HAS. That organization, now named Schweizer Partnerschaft HAS Haiti (the “Swiss Partnerschaft”) continues to work on HAS’ behalf, led by the tireless efforts of Raphaela serving as President and Rolf as a Director. Since its inception, this organization has provided the means to sustain core programs such as Pediatrics, Neonatology, Laboratory, Surgery, as well as, a Social Service fund that pays fees for those that are unable to afford healthcare costs.

Over the past 21 years the Swiss Partnerschaft has led numerous efforts to obtain support in Europe for projects in the hospital, prosthetic clinic, as well as community health dispensaries.

Perhaps their help was never so needed, as in 2009 during a financial crisis, when the HAS Board was forced to consider a dramatic downsizing of service. Only through the Maibach's leadership, long-term commitment and hard work locating funding sources, was HAS able to navigate this crisis and continue the core programs. The continued participation of the Swiss Partnerschaft is a key element in assuring HAS' long term sustainability.

It wasn't enough that they volunteered for two-week or even month-long service trips. After retiring from his Pediatric practice, Rolf and Raphaela together made a commitment to be a full time pediatrician and a lab technician for Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti. In addition, they continued to return to Switzerland annually to advocate and raise funds for HAS.

When Raphaela and Rolf hiked up to a remote dispensary in June, 1999, they saw first-hand the need to store vaccines and medications at proper temperatures. Working with International Rotaries, and assistance from Switzerland over several years, they were instrumental to upgrade the dispensaries, installing necessary equipment to greatly improve the services that we were able to deliver in these remote settings.

Rolf has served on the Board for 18 years advancing patient issues and helping our organization make the best decisions possible.

Raphaela worked alongside the lab technicians, encouraged them in her understanding way, and introduced new skills. Rolf supported and enhanced the competences of the pediatricians.

But it was not enough to just augment knowledge and skills here in Haiti. They brought Haitian physicians to Switzerland to attend Alumni gatherings and, even more importantly, to arrange for residencies for Haitian physicians in Switzerland.

Rolf agreed to serve as Medical Director in 2008, a position he held until 2010. He will always be remembered for his leadership, and the daily anticipation of a Haitian proverb to start the day at the morning meetings.

Rolf and Raphaela's broad vision also extends to critical infrastructure systems. Recognizing the high cost of continuing with diesel powered generators as our only power source, they have formed a strong partnership with Swiss, German and Canadian entities to build a Solar Power system at HAS that will dramatically reduce energy costs and increase reliability. With the first phases already in operation, HAS is enjoying the results that will only increase as the system is completed.

Albert Schweitzer's ethic of Reverence for Life is accurately embodied in the actions taken by Rolf and Raphaela. They have been active in the International Albert Schweitzer Organization, visited the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Gabon, and rightfully awarded the first International Albert Schweitzer Award.

Because of his ability to get to HAS very quickly after the Jan 12 2010 earthquake and for his overall humanitarian service to Haiti, especially during the time of the earthquake, he, and a Swiss nurse Marianne Kauffmann were awarded the Swiss Man and Woman of the Year award from both the Government and the popular vote.

**Now therefore be it resolved that:** the Board of Directors of The Grant Foundation and the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti, wish to celebrate and recognize with profound gratitude, the many contributions of Raphaela and Rolf Maibach which are critical to the continued success of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer and to the benefit the people of Haiti.

Rolf may be the 2010 Man of the Year for the Swiss people, but Rolf and Raphaela have been our "Man and Woman of every year" since they began working with and for HAS since 1996, an amazing 22 years!