

Now THAT'S a big team!

From December 26th 2011 through January 4th 2012, HOM organized one of our largest missions outreach programs yet. Indeed, if one looks at this trip "by the numbers":

- 185,300 pills taken for distribution
- 24,000(\$) worth of eye medications donated by Alcon
- 1075 persons seen by the medical and dental teams
- 250 teeth extracted
- 105 pieces of luggage
- 35 people on the travel team
- 19 Haitian interpreters
- 27 people going swimming at the same time (a record)
- 11 people who went cliff diving (okay, it was a very small cliff)
- 7 states provided team members
- 6 schools where medical, dental, and vision team members provided clinics
- 3 times goat was part of a meal
- 2 VERY large and impressive New Years fireworks displays
- 1 person who fell off the truck
- 1 very, very unified team

This team was, without question, one of the "youngest" (i.e., based on average age) to travel as part of a HOM effort. Beyond this, it also had the highest percentage of individuals who could say, "This is my first time on a foreign mission trip".

However, to be clear, our trips have never been about numbers.

Indeed, these efforts have always been (and will always be) about aspects that are difficult if not impossible to put numbers to. Who could quantify the number of laughs or quantity of tears shed by team members, or the ways in which lives of those who made up the team were changed? Who knows how many Haitians can now concentrate more, sleep better, and eat food without the pain of an abscessed tooth? How many people will avoid future disease because of the nutritional advice, LifeStraws, or medications provided by team members? How many can now see clearer to perform up close tasks?

Most importantly, there is no way to know the amount of hope that was brought to life for the Haitians by this trip. It truly was an amazing week for which numbers only provide a fraction of the story.

Please see our Photo Gallery for images from this trip.