

March 6, 2021

Dear NSVI Supporter,

NSVI continues to support Domestic Vasectomy Programs in Haiti, Kenya, and the Philippines, but **COVID-19** presented substantial obstacles to our mission work in 2020. We completed our annual mission to the Philippines in late February (see <https://www.nsvi.org/philippines/mission-of-2020/>) just before COVID became a worldwide pandemic. But our four planned **2020 missions to Haiti were cancelled** due to COVID-related travel restrictions. Nonetheless, even when the international doctors had to cancel our trip in March, our Domestic Team carried on with their own NSVI-supported "Mission" and provided vasectomies for **60 men who had had** a total of **365 children** (see <https://www.nsvi.org/haiti/2020-march/>). NSVI continued to pay our Domestic Team monthly for ongoing vasectomy services, followed by another big boost for World Vasectomy Day in November when the team that usually supports our international doctors arranged for our vasectomist to attend 4 locations in 4 days to provide vasectomies for **97 men** who had had a total of **553 children** (see <https://www.nsvi.org/haiti/2020-november/>). With travel from outside Haiti restricted, NSVI supported Dr. Mesadieu with a **shipment of supplies** (\$638.87) that cost NSVI \$122.72 for shipping.

While we have strived to make our services and support available in **other developing countries** through promotion of NSVI during World Vasectomy Day events and ICFP (International Conference on Family Planning) meetings, it has been hard to find doctors in developing countries dedicated enough to serve as hosts for NSVI Missions. That is a job that entails (1) help with licensing of foreign doctors, (2) procuring service sites, (3) arranging education and promotion of vasectomy so that we have enough work to justify the mission, and finally (4) leading a domestic team to carry on with vasectomy services with NSVI financial support between missions. NSVI did pay \$50 each to help fund 49 vasectomies performed in **Guatemala** Nov 16-20 by WINGS (<http://www.wingsquate.org/>) in recognition of World Vasectomy Day 2020.

Despite challenges of civil unrest and now COVID-19, our greatest success has been in **Northern Haiti**, largely because of two people: dedicated vasectomist and local physician **Maudelin Mesadieu**, and well-connected Administrative Director **Covsky Aimable**. Maudelin is with us during missions and has continued to run our Domestic Team even during COVID, providing 30-50 vasectomies per month. For those vasectomies, he is paid by NSVI at a rate of *\$62 per vasectomy*, a sum from which he must pay himself, his patients (to cover transportation and lost income replacement), the community educators, and his staff. (See <https://www.nsvi.org/haiti/vasectomy-in-haiti/>). Maudelin explains his success: *"I understand the community works ... I do a lot of men conference ... People trust me. And a lot of people works for me to find me patients."* (English is Maudelin's third language.) In other words, through years of dedicated hard work providing primary care in his community, he has become well connected and well respected, an invaluable asset for anyone trying to promote something as personal as vasectomy. For many impoverished men, their fertility may seem like a substantial portion of their personal worth and not something to be sacrificed lightly no matter how many children they have had. For his long-standing commitment to promoting and providing vasectomy in Haiti, Maudelin received the **World Vasectomy Day Doctor of the Year Award in 2020**.

**Money transfers** (payments) to our staff in Haiti **have been challenging**. I have used Western Union (WU) cash transfers for years, but the lines at WU offices in Haiti have become very long (1-2 hour waiting times) and bad guys know that most people walking from WU offices have cash. WU and Wells Fargo (the NSVI bank in the US) do not offer transfers to Haitian bank accounts. I tried Remitly, but without success, as you can see by the refunds in the attached 2020 checkbook log. Finally, I

have been able to arrange Repetitive Wire Transfer by phone (using my "voiceprint") directly from the NSVI Wells Fargo bank account to the Unibank accounts of Maudelin and Covsky. What an ordeal!

Our Domestic Teams in Manila and Cebu (**Philippines**) were virtually inactive in 2020 because of COVID-19, but our Manila Team resumed monthly vasectomy clinics in January 2021. See <https://www.nsvi.org/philippines/vasectomy-in-manila/>.

Dr. **Charles Ochieng** in **Kenya** is providing vasectomies with NSVI payment for men who discover NSVI online at <https://www.nsvi.org/kenya/kenya-domestic-program/>. Charles works at a large hospital in a big city where there is less sense of community than there is where Maudelin lives and works. But with the help of perseverance and time, Charles is becoming more widely known as East Africa's premier vasectomist, and he is now the vasectomy trainer for the Ministry of Health. *Vasectomy is a VERY hard sell in many parts of Africa.* Recently, I received an email from Sennah Akoi, one of our best promoters in Kenya, pictured in the first photo at <https://www.nsvi.org/kenya/2018-april-5th-kenya-mission/>. He was describing bull- and cock-fighting in western Kenya. His story included "In this part of Kenya to, we've a bizarre, interesting event of Cock Fighting...interesting in the sense that, any male with highest number of females for lovers/ wives is referred to as being the Cock of the village. It's a moniker that the late dictator in the then Republic of Zaire, now called DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) would proudly refers to himself as being the Cock after marrying twins ... Though most pro vasectomy tends to be borne largely out of economic consideration, with least percentage firmly based on the selfless act of doing it for their wives."

To our donors I sent the **NSVI tax return for 2019** and the **NSVI checkbook for 2020**, both available on request to others. *Our only administrative expenses are accounting (Axiom Business Consulting, \$2090) and occasional IT work to maintain the website (Leadership Simplified, \$375). So only 4.4% of our donations in 2020 went to administration.* Money from an account in the Philippines, nearly all donated by one of the Founders of NSVI (Bob Kiamco), supported our Domestic Team in Cebu through 2019 and paid for all service-related expenses for the 2020 Mission in February. We hold \$4394 in our Philippines account to cover promotional and services expenses of the Cebu Domestic Team. Our US account balance is now about **\$22,000**. If our teams in Haiti, the Philippines, and Kenya continue at their present pace, we will spend about \$2000 per month, so our present reserves should cover them for almost a year.

The biggest "bummer" right now is that **American Airlines has discontinued jet service from Miami to Cap-Haitien (CAP)** in northern Haiti. Flights from Miami to Port-au-Prince in southern Haiti are still in place, but transportation between South and North is arduous and risky. **Spirit Airlines** flies non-stop from Ft. Lauderdale (FLL) four times per week. Connections through FLL from other North American cities are not as convenient for international doctors, and Spirit is not highly rated, but I still think volunteers will avail themselves, two having already committed to our missions in September and November as seen at <https://www.nsvi.org/interested-vasectomists/>.

**Thank you** for your interest in NSVI. This was a long note, but I wanted to summarize 2020, to explain how donations to NSVI are utilized, and to show where NSVI stands going forward.

Sincerely,



Doug Stein, MD  
President, No Scalpel Vasectomy International, Inc.