

The Miami Herald > News > Americas > Haiti

# Haiti

Friday, 01.22.10 Welcome Guest Login Register


**Current: 77°**  
 83° / 67°  
[Weather Forecast](#)

HOME DELIVERY  
**Sunday's**  
**Miami Herald**  
 6 Months for \$20!
 

Posted on Friday, 01.22.10  Recommend (0) share email print comment reprint

MEDICAL CARE

## Instant hospital: UM clinic opens

It's still makeshift, but by post-quake standards, UM's expanded hospital is the best thing going for injured people desperate for medical care.

BY DAVID OVALLE  
DOVALLE@MIAMIHERALD.COM

PORT-AU-PRINCE -- Touted as the largest functioning hospital in Haiti, the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine opened its expanded facility Thursday night at the airport here, with 26,000 square feet and 250 beds under air conditioning.

The new clinic, by post-quake standards, is a gem. Eventstar, a Miami company specializing in constructing temporary structures after disasters, built two sprawling temporary wards, which will include two operating rooms and a pediatric section.

Crews working since Saturday also erected two white Cavalia-esque tents -- one for storing supplies, the other for volunteers to sleep in, dubbed "UM Inn."

Most of the 200-plus patients -- and their families and friends -- were moved in by Thursday night. An intake center is being established to begin admitting more patients.

An earlier version of the clinic had been hastily erected in two hangars at the United Nations base next to the airport, where patients were sprawled in messy rows of cots. Like all medical facilities after the quake, the place was woefully inadequate for the stream of victims pouring in. There were few basic supplies and conditions weren't clean. Rats, roaches and even a tarantula were sighted.

But on Thursday, volunteers and Chilean and Argentine U.N. peacekeepers spent eight hours loading patients in their cots onto troop transport trucks for the half-mile drive through the base and past the airport runway.

"It's awesome. They did a lot in such a short period of time," said Marie Junis, an amazed Pembroke Pines volunteer nurse.

Under a merciless sun, doctors and volunteers -- including young, homeless Haitian men who spend the day changing bedpans and translating for doctors -- unloaded the wincing men, women and children into the cool building.

"It's much better than being over there," said patient Nerline Leonard, 19, who was nursing a broken leg. "We felt like we were outside."

As the patients moved in, surgeons in the original clinic were still administering emergency care. A young girl, about 12, had to have her leg amputated above the knee after relatives brought her in with maggots in a festering fracture.

Doctors say they still need more nurses, antibiotics and even hospital gowns; most patients are still wearing their clothes from the day of the earthquake.


 Web Search powered by **YAHOO!**

Top Searches: Obituaries | Horoscopes | Lottery | Calendar

Relieve Back Pain Naturally  
 With a Customized  
**Therapeutic Massage**  

  

  
*Massage Envy*

MORE HAITI

- A look at foreign quake aid for Haiti**  
As aid begins to flow, Haiti considers fate of millions of homeless
- University of Miami law students to help Haitians fill out TPS forms**
- African aid groups ask for aid for Haiti**
- Hairdresser brings kindness, care to quake victims**
- In Miami, baby awaits the right parents**

More

VIDEOS

wearing their clothes from the day of the earthquake.

The clinic also is soliciting donations to Medishare for Haiti, the medical organization founded by UM's Dr. Barth Green.

“It's going to cost lots to maintain,” at least “tens of thousands” a day, said Nery Ynclan, a spokeswoman for the makeshift hospital.

Also needed: gender-sorted care packages in tote bags, with soap, wash clothes, prepackaged meals, canned beans and can openers, rice, feminine hygiene products for women, T-shirts and underwear, and toys for kids.



Save 50% off regular home delivery subscription! [Click here.](#)



Support ongoing news coverage on MiamiHerald.com [Click here.](#)

recommend

email

print

share

buzz up!

Digg

### Join the discussion

The Miami Herald is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. In order to post comments, you must be a registered user of MiamiHerald.com. Your username will show along with the comments you post. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

Comments (0)

POWERED BY Pluck

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Comments: 0 Showing:

More comments on this story:

**Online Degrees**  
Get Your AA, BA, Masters or PhD at a Top Online School. Start Now.  
[Education.Nextag.com](http://Education.Nextag.com)

**Accountnow® Prepaid Debit Visa**  
\$25 bonus w/ free direct deposit. No Credit Check 100% Approval VISA.  
[AccountNow.com](http://AccountNow.com)

**Need Affordable Health Care?**  
Get Affordable Health Insurance Quotes Online - Plans from \$30 / Month  
[USInsuranceOnline](http://USInsuranceOnline)

ADS BY YAHOO!

### QUICK JOB SEARCH

Enter Keyword(s)

Enter City

Select a State

Select a Category

Advanced Job Search

Search by Category

powered by careerbuilder.com

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | BUSINESS | LIVING | OPINION | CLASSIFIEDS | SERVICES | Site Map

RSS | My Yahoo | [Newsletters](#) | [Widgets](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Alerts](#) | [Twitter](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About our ads](#) | [Copyright](#) | [About The Miami Herald](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#)

Partners: [El Nuevo Herald](#) | [Newspaper in Education](#) | [WLRN](#) | [Miami Herald News](#) | [CBS4 WFOR-TV](#) | [More](#)

Copyright 2010 Miami Herald Media Co. All rights reserved