



RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, a catastrophic earthquake hit the country of Haiti, with its epicenter near the town of Léogâne; the earthquake affected approximately 3 million people and much damage was caused in the country's capital of Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, and nearby regions; and

WHEREAS, Hospital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) is Haiti's only full-service hospital and, in the aftermath of the earthquake, it was one of the few institutions able to remain in continuous operation as the facility has its own electricity and water systems; the hospital provided lifesaving surgical care and, following and in response to injuries from the disaster, has now established a prosthetics clinic to help the thousands of amputees; and

WHEREAS, Larry and Gwen Mellon, founders of HAS, were inspired by Nobel Prize winner Albert Schweitzer, a pioneer in community-based public health; in 1956, the Mellons opened HAS in the Arbonite Valley of Haiti; and

WHEREAS, today, HAS's "model," where medical providers teach the community how to provide for their own health, has been adopted by healthcare organizations worldwide, including the World Health Organization; HAS's administrative staff is located in Pittsburgh and 98% of all healthcare workers at the hospital and mobile medical units are Haitian; and

WHEREAS, HAS has continued to adapt to changes in the community; there has been a 20% jump in population since the earthquake, which has put additional strain on the hospital; there is a greater need for emergent care, and HAS has also been on the front lines of cholera with an integrated health team that goes into the community to focus on prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, by virtue of the authority vested in us, do hereby congratulate HAS on its public health work in Haiti and wish the organization many more successful years in the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hand this 12nd day of January, 2015.

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