

It is a pleasure to introduce HART's Hero for the month of June, faithful HART Haitian leader Patrick Alziphat.

When asked to be HART's Hero this month, it was no surprise that Patrick's response was, "Why, what have I done as a hero?" An expected response from such a humble human being!

This coming from a man who literally took a bullet for HART! Yes, Patrick was shot outside of a bank while picking up money to prepare for the arrival of HART volunteers several years ago. Praise God, he walked away with two wounds that were just bandaged, not even stitched!

Patrick has been with HART since our first trip to Haiti in 2010. He started as a translator and quickly built a relationship with HART as a respectable, reliable, trustworthy staff member.

Patrick has worn many hats for HART but currently helps to run the HART of Jesus Medical Clinic. He ensures the clinic is stocked with medications and supplies and makes the dangerous several hour trek up and down the mountain. When there is a patient that has medical needs that exceed the clinic's capabilities, Patrick then takes these patients to the hospital for each and every visit.

Patrick organizes applications and the selection process for our Trade School program. He oversees the students' tuition needs, meets with them personally, helps organize their faith formation get-togethers, and follows their progress post-graduation.

He also oversees and runs everything for HART's Feed My People program. He manages the purchase, transport and distribution of food essentials for the St. Jude families.

When HART volunteers can travel to Haiti, Patrick facilitates and coordinates the trip from the Haitian side. He makes sure everything is in place before, during, and after HART visits.

When asked what makes him feel so connected to HART, Patrick says the people of HART enjoy what they do, so it makes him enjoy what he does. "It is more than a working relationship it is a family; they are family. They actually care about me and call often to check on me. And I really enjoy helping other people!"

Patrick says that growing up his father was a pastor and that he played the drums at his father's church. They had a church van and Patrick would go around pick the people up for each service. His parents would help the poor and give out food. They didn't own the building they rented it and sometimes they had a hard time making the rent so his mom and dad would pool their pay checks together to make the rent payment to keep the church open. I really admired that about my parents and always wanted to be a pastor because of their example. But God has His own plans, he said.

Well Patrick, we at HART are so thankful part of God's plan for you was to be part of our HART Family and Team!

