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### **Our Lady of Hope Clinic physician returns from relief mission in Haiti**

Our Lady of Hope Clinic physicians Michael Kloess and Anne Volk Johnson have served hundreds of uninsured patients since Madison's only free full-time clinic for the uninsured opened last June, but that's not the full extent of their work to serve those in need. In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that rocked Haiti earlier this year, Kloess spent the second week of April on a medical mission trip to the tiny Caribbean nation.

Kloess is no stranger to such humanitarian efforts. He's taken part in several over the past few years, including a week spent providing health care in rural Mexico last November. But the journey to the Haitian port town of St. Marc was the first time a trip has been in direct response to a natural disaster.

"I treated one young girl who survived the earthquake by crawling out of the rubble after three days of being trapped," Kloess said. "I was delighted to see she was actually doing quite well."

While Kloess treated a number of people injured in the earthquake, he said that St. Marc is far enough away from the quake's epicenter that it avoided much of the destruction that hit cities like Port-au-Prince. However, the disaster decimated the already poor Haitian infrastructure, leaving the government unable to respond to diseases like malaria and tuberculosis.

Kloess also traveled to tent cities set up to accommodate the estimated one million people left homeless by the earthquake. "We took care of a lot of orphans—kids who lost one or both parents," he said. "And while many of the people in these tent cities have had their immediate injuries treated, they need continuing care that we were able to help provide."

Upon his return, Kloess was back at work quickly. On Saturday, he and Johnson volunteered at the Touched Twice clinic, a biannual event that provides a full spectrum of services for those in need. And on Monday he was once again providing free care to the uninsured at Our Lady of Hope Clinic.

For additional information on Dr. Kloess and Our Lady of Hope Clinic, visit [ourladyofhopeclinic.org](http://ourladyofhopeclinic.org) and call Steve Karlen at 608-445-2063. Public tours are available at the clinic (6425 Odana Road) the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.