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## Allied Health Finalist

**FRANTZ SANON**  
Advance Building Associates



**F**rantz Sanon, CEO of Clayton-based Advance Building Associates, is the construction manager and architect of a planned \$240 million, 300-bed hospital complex in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Sanon, also a minister at a French-speaking Southern Baptist congregation in St. Louis, credits his older brother Christian, a medical doctor in Haiti, with inspiring the 700,000-square-foot International Medical Village. One of 10 children, Sanon moved to the United States from Haiti in 1981 when he was 16.

### What brought you to the U.S.?

My parents were living here first. It was my parents' dream that I join them. They came here for opportunity. My father was a (high school French) teacher and also a pastor, and as a professional he noticed that there is a window of opportunity here in the United States. He took advantage of it himself and also passed it on to us as a legacy.

### How did the idea come about?

(Christian) would always encourage me to come and assist him in what he was doing (in Haiti). He was developing clinics and diagnostic centers, MRIs and so forth. When I went there, I never wanted to stay myself. Now I want to go back to help him fulfill his dream that is part of my dream too now.

### What is the current medical care situation in Haiti?

They have places they call hospitals. MRIs are limited. I think there are four, and my brother has two. If you have can-

cer, you don't have anyone to help you. They don't have cancer treatment. The population is very young. People die at the age of 45 or 50 because of sanitation, medical care and so forth.

### When will you break ground?

We plan on breaking ground in December 2009 and completing construction in December 2011. We are working with the financial institutions. We are just waiting for the money to be appropriated.

### What will this hospital do for the people of Port-au-Prince?

It will not only improve the medical infrastructure in Haiti, it will create jobs. This will employ, I am estimating, over 2,000 people. That is going to be a big economic change.

### How did your work as an urban planner for the city of St. Louis help your work in Haiti?

God knew that I would have gotten to this point, that he exposed me to get the experience I got with the city of St. Louis. My job was to develop city development strategies.

### This hospital is funded privately and for profit, correct?

There is no way we can do this as a charitable hospital. If we did, it would fail. We are going to serve the poor and the rich and the middle.

- Charles Adamson