

New Executive Director - Shelly Peters



I became the FOTCOH Executive Director in February of this year and am truly honored to be part of this organization that has been bringing medicine, healthcare and hope to the poorest place on earth for nearly 30 years! It didn't take long to learn the one common denominator shared by all who volunteer your time and talent, as well as those who support FOTCOH financially: **passion** for helping the poor of Haiti. I am more awestruck each day at the unwavering dedication you have for this mission. Thank you for all you do. I look forward to working with you!

Strategic Planning Underway

A subcommittee named by the Board of Directors has begun work on a strategic plan to guide the work of FOTCOH for the next five years. Members are Josh Bradshaw, Jane Hense, Shelly Peters, Kristy Rashid, Sue Wozniak, and Amanda Wright. To ensure the effectiveness of planning, the group is focused strictly on the mission of FOTCOH —“to provide essential and sustained medical care and health education to the poor of Haiti at our clinic in Jacmel.” Every idea and plan is measured against the mission statement.

“There are so many ways we want to reach out to the people we see in Haiti, but to be effective, we have to do what we do best--provide medical care and health education through our clinic. It's hard not to try to do more, but for the overall, long term health of FOTCOH, we must remain focused on our mission,” said executive director Shelly Peters.

The subcommittee will present a draft of the plan at the upcoming board meeting in December.

2015 Clinic Dates

In 2014, because of funding and with great regret, we were forced to cancel our July clinic, resulting in approximately 2,500 Haitians going without crucial medical care. Although Dr. Frantzo Nelson, our Haitian physician, was able to see to 300 critical patients in our absence, the board agreed that we would reinstate the clinic as soon as possible. Thus, we are pleased to tell you that team building for the July 2015 mission is underway.

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Are you interested in being part of a team and seeing the wondrous work FOTCOH does?

Be assured, your life will be enriched and changed forever once you've experienced a medical mission trip with Friends of the Children of Haiti.

Here are dates for our 2015 missions and the names of team leaders with contact information:

- January 19-30;** Team leaders: Paul and Trudy Vogel.
pwvogel@msn.com
- March 9-20;** Team leaders: Ed Monroe and Carol Miller.
Emdm316@gmail.com or cmillerpnp@yahoo.com
- May 11-22;** Team leaders: Shellie Coleman.
coleman@fotcoh.org
- July 6-17;** Team leaders TBD. Contact Shelly Peters.
speters@fotcoh.org
- September 7-18;** Team leaders: Steve Trainor and Peggy Gentes.
Stephen.p.trainor@osfhealthcare.org or peggy.a.gentes@osfhealthcare.org
- November 9-20;** Team leader: Shellie Coleman.
coleman@fotcoh.org

Unable to be a mission volunteer but would like to support a particular team? Fabulous! Just let us know. Your gift will be directed to the mission of your choice and the team leader notified of your support.

New Life for the Clinic



A work team is headed to Haiti the week of March 2-9 to fix up, clean up, revamp and repurpose. Thanks to generous donors who listened with kind hearts to the capital needs requests prepared by Dick & Barb Hammond and board president Shellie Coleman, windows will be replaced, new balusters installed, a floor and roof for the patient waiting area built, the generator replaced and a permanent storage building will be erected.

The work will be overseen by Corkey Gray and Larry Shank as well as a team of Haitian workers. Meanwhile, a cleaning crew --Jane Gray, Maggie Jackson, Kay Shank, and Jane Hense-- will be inside the clinic scrubbing, sorting, painting and reorganizing. We hope volunteers will find the clinic a more comfortable place to stay while they give their all to the patients we serve.

30 Year Anniversary in 2015

Time passes fast, people always say, and it has never been truer than when we consider the last thirty years for Friends of the Children of Haiti. It was 1985 when Barb and Dick Hammond stepped off a cruise ship, took a conscience-filled look around the island nation of Haiti, and were called to be agents of good for people in such great need. The rest of the story is history—thousands of volunteers, hundreds of thousands of dollars raised, countless patients cared for, lives saved and futures ensured. We'll provide details as plans unfold, but please watch for our year-long celebration of this miraculous story.



Fantastic Fundraising Events

The 3rd Annual FOTCOH 5K took place on Friday, July 25th on Peoria's Riverfront, with 100+ runners/walkers. Thanks to the many volunteers who brought this event to life – especially Krissy Miars and Jill Kennelly. And much gratitude to our sponsors and participants whose generosity resulted in net proceeds of nearly \$9,000!



The 16th Annual Golf Benefit

was held at the Country Club of Peoria on Monday, September 29th. The weather was perfect, the course was beautiful and the food was fantastic! A sincere thank you to organizers Steve & Maggie Jackson and Corkey & Jane Gray for their tireless efforts in making this a huge success! For the 2nd year in a row, the Golf Benefit produced record-breaking proceeds through the generosity of donors and sponsors. Net proceeds were just under \$50,000, up from \$43,000 in 2013. Thank you to volunteers, sponsors and golfers!



Rena's Beads

(hand-crafted jewelry made by the mother-in-law of one of our volunteer dentists, Dr. Steve Doran) has donated over \$20,000 since July of 2013! Eighty-three year old Rena decided 16 months ago, after taking a jewelry making class, she would like to raise enough money through the sales of her jewelry, to fund one medical clinic for FOTCOH. Each trip costs around \$20,000. Congratulations, Rena! You did it and we are grateful! Learn more about Rena's Beads at www.Renasbeads.com. Interested in hosting a jewelry party? Contact Joy Doran through the website.

"Voices from the Clinic" Blog Entries

Towards the end of the first week of clinic we saw a 3 month old infant male that we diagnosed with seizures. The baby was pulled out of the crowd after we noticed he was having lip twitching and left arm jerking. The mom stated that the baby has been having these episodes since he was one month old and he was not very active. The provider consulted with our two pharmacists to ensure that we could safely dose him on anti-seizure medications. The pharmacists cut 60 pills into quarters to provide enough medication to last until our next full clinic in September.



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Today the baby came back and I was able to see him at triage. I had my translator ask how the baby was doing and mom said he was doing much better and that his episodes have stopped and he has played for the first time in two months. This is such a great example of multi-disciplinary collaboration here at FOTCOH. We all jump in to work together to do what is best for the patient. The mom is very grateful for what we have done to give life back to her son. Just another success story in Haiti...
Jenna Ford

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Today was a very good day, lots of patients, many getting better. The most remarkable patient was a woman with diabetes and hypertension. I told my interpreter that the blood sugar was out of control (318 up from 140's) and the blood pressure was much higher (180/110). Although the patient did not "speak" English, she understood what I said and started to cry. She would not talk about how she was feeling. She was sitting on a bench so I moved next to her and put my arm around her. We talked for a while and she told me that she had run out of some of her medicines and had gone to the pharmacy but could not afford them there. Then she said that if it were not for FOTCOH she would be dead. I comforted her as much as I could, the interpreter spent a while talking with her and we got her back on a treatment plan. What she said was correct and this patient made the whole trip to Haiti worthwhile. It is about the patient and we are making a big difference. By the way, the Haitians call this place "The house of life." Bill Granger

