

FOTCOH

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF HAITI

PROVIDING HEALTHCARE & HOPE
TO THE HAITIAN PEOPLE



Executive Director's Corner

Our ability to adapt proved to be paramount in continuing our mission in Haiti amid a pandemic. With that in mind, here is what I see for FOTCOH in 2021.

Access to Top-Quality Healthcare Continues: FOTCOH employs 45 Haitian staff members who provide healthcare, medicine, health education, and distribute clean water filters. During a most challenging year, our staff stepped up and delivered, especially in the absence of American volunteer teams. I know this will continue in 2021.

Everything Starts When Someone Makes a Gift: The generosity of our donors allows us to continue to change lives. Medicine helps heal sick children. Supplies are available for wound care, whether caused by severe diabetes or a motorcycle accident. Solar panel batteries can be properly maintained, ensuring the clinic has reliable electricity. FOTCOH appreciates the support of every donor because without them, our mission could not continue. We hope and pray this support continues in 2021.

FOTCOH Volunteers Have the Biggest Hearts: FOTCOH relies on the talent and skill of hundreds of volunteers who give countless hours of energy and dedication to our operations. We could not function without them. Will there be a US volunteer team this year? I sure hope so; however, it's just too early to tell. Our hope is to have a team in Haiti in October. Stay tuned for updates on social media.

Haitian Resilience: The Haitian people are strong, resilient, determined and possess a strong faith. They will continue to strive toward a better life for their children and themselves, with our help. They are survivors.

Togetherness: I see us all -- Haitian staff, donors, volunteers, patients -- walking alongside each other. We will work together to deliver high quality healthcare, health education and training to those in need, and do it with much love and compassion, as is the FOTCOH way.

The poet Virgil said, "The greatest wealth is health," and this past year has taught us just how important our health is. I'm excited for 2021 and the hope and health we will continue to bring to the people of Haiti.

In Service,



Urgent Care Program

Successfully Grows Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Months-Long Wait for Care is Over

FOTCOH's biggest success of 2020 was the addition of Urgent Care Clinics. This is a monumental step toward the goal of having Haitian-run, weekly clinics. Beginning in January of 2020, the clinic operated three Saturdays each month until December, when it was open every Saturday. Weekly Urgent Care Clinics are critical because patients in need of care cannot wait for months until the next regularly scheduled Vital Health clinic is open.

Word continues to spread throughout the community and the number of patients continues to grow. Dr. Franz, one of three Haitian FOTCOH physicians, says, "Our Urgent Care Clinics have made such a difference in the lives of our patients. We can serve their needs when the patients need it most."

Their Dream Becomes Reality

Dick and Barb Hammond, founders of FOTCOH, had a dream to establish a healthcare clinic in the Jacmel region of Haiti run entirely by the Haitian people. Over the last three decades, Haitian staff has worked alongside American volunteers to provide high-quality healthcare, but never worked the clinic alone.

Fast forward to 2016 and the creation of a five-year fundraising campaign called **The Hammond Legacy Fund**. The goal was to set aside a small amount of donations that would eventually fund clinics completely run by the Haitian physicians and staff, all while the “regular” mission continued thanks to hundreds of American volunteers.

FOTCOH worked toward and successfully implemented our first all Haitian-run, two-week clinic in 2017. Due to the impact of the world-wide Coronavirus during 2020, American volunteers were no longer able to travel to Haiti. Unexpectedly, **Dick and Barb’s vision has become a reality sooner than imagined and with outstanding success!** The Haitians rose to the challenge under the leadership of Andre Boyer. This would not be possible without all our generous donors. We would specifically like to thank those who donated to this fundraising campaign, with many individuals supporting it over the full 5-year period. **Thank you for helping to fund this vision!**

HAMMOND LEGACY FUND DONORS 2016-2020

Marty and Diane Ames
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John and Mary Ellen Brady
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Sam and Elizabeth Cigelnik
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James and Carolyn Welsh
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Angelo and Elizabeth Williams
Ken and Sue Wozniak
Debi Yandell
Scott and Mary Yezek
Bonnie Zulian

“We are so grateful for your support of the Hammond Legacy campaign.
Because of your generosity our goal of having Haitian-run, quality healthcare has been met!”
~ Dick and Barb Hammond



Pictured
right:
Haitian Run
October
Vital Health
Clinic
2,102
Patients
Treated



© Chrisfort photography

APPRECIATION SPOTLIGHT

American Volunteer Spotlight: Erin Briggs, PharmD, MPH FOTCOH Pharmacy Director



Erin began volunteering with FOTCOH in 2011 and **upon seeing Dick and Barb Hammond's dedication and commitment to the people of Haiti and to the volunteer teams, she knew she wanted to be a lifelong advocate for their work.** Since then, Erin has been on 12 trips to Haiti to volunteer as a pharmacist and to restock and organize the pharmacy at the clinic. Erin became FOTCOH's Pharmacy Director in 2014. We are so fortunate to have Erin as director because her organizational skills and dedication to keeping detailed records of inventory, ordering medications, and collaborating with Roger, our Haitian Pharmacy Manager, is critical to the overall operation. Erin does a tremendous job of keeping the clinic pharmacy as well stocked as any American pharmacy. Erin currently resides in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. **Thank you for all you do for FOTCOH and the Haitian people!**

In Erin's own words:

Having worked as a Community Pharmacist for 5 years before my first trip to Haiti in 2011, I was accustomed to a fast-paced work environment and collaborating with pharmacy technicians and doctors to take care of patients. **My professional experience only partially prepared me for what I was to encounter working as a volunteer pharmacist at the FOTCOH clinic.**

The FOTCOH pharmacy fills tens of thousands of prescriptions each year and all without any modern technologies that I was trained to use. There were no computers, no electronic pharmacy prescription software, and no internet. The pharmacy utilized paper dossiers (patient records) and large drug reference books for medication reviews and dosing guidance. The prescription instructions for patients were written out by hand and translators were available for patient counseling. This was by far a much busier and more challenging pharmacy than I had ever experienced.

I first met and started working with Roger, the in-country Pharmacy Manager, during my first volunteer trip. Roger is still managing the pharmacy to this day. He lives near the clinic and has been able to fully manage the pharmacy over the last two years without pharmacist volunteers to assist him. He and the lead pharmacy technician, Nadine, have continued to operate the pharmacy despite the challenges that the world has faced in 2020. Without Roger and Nadine, the FOTCOH pharmacy would not have been able to function fluidly throughout these trying times.

As we move into 2021, FOTCOH is exploring the opportunity to upgrade to an electronic technology system that will help fill prescriptions more efficiently, reduce medication errors, improve patient care, and assist with inventory management. I look forward to collaborating with the rest of the FOTCOH team as we transition into new technologies and continue to work together to improve patient outcomes.

APPRECIATION SPOTLIGHT

Thank You for Supporting FOTCOH *On the Greens*

Despite being vastly different than previous years, the **FOTCOH Annual Golf outing**, as well as a newly created outing in South Carolina, were both huge successes thanks to phenomenal efforts of volunteers across the country!

A heartfelt thank you to past board member and volunteer, **Steve Jackson**, for leading the fundraising efforts in Peoria (even without an “in person” golf outing event) where loyal donors gave over **\$38,000** to support the FOTCOH mission.

We are grateful to the following individuals and businesses for their support:

Prairie Home Alliance

EPSS – Emergency Physicians Staffing Solutions

Drs. Patrick and Minna O’Leary

Peoria Disposal Company

Louisville Slugger

OSF St. Francis Medical Center

Leonard Sachs

Morton Community Bank

Morgan Stanley – Daren Epley

Advanced Medical Transport

Corkey and Jane Gray

Koch Consultants

Matt and Leslie Vonachen

Mike Miller Auto Park

David Vaughn Investments



Adapting to the challenges presented by COVID-19, FOTCOH held its first-ever Virtual Golf Outing. Volunteers and supporters from across the U.S. had fun participating together while honoring the Haitian people.

New Golf Outing Takes Shape in South Carolina

A talented team of FOTCOH board members and volunteers organized a golf outing event in Landrum, South Carolina in October to benefit the FOTCOH mission. It was a gorgeous day to play golf and everyone was socially distanced. Thank you all for your efforts and to those who participated in this inaugural event! ----->



Pictured at right: Nathan Ruby (Executive Director), Missy Ruby, Bob Whitehurst, Sheryl Grider-Whitehurst, Rodney Leenerts, Jenna Ford (Board Secretary), Austin Lorentz, Erin Grider



Front Row: Brian Hersey (Treasurer), Bill Canata
Second Row: Ernie Aud (Board Member), Sharon Lukas (Long-time Team Member), Dr. Garron Lukas (Surgical Director and Board Member)

Enhanced Care Continues at FOTCOH

Surgery Program Evolves to be Haitian Led

The FOTCOH Surgical Program has conducted over 1,500 surgeries in its 10-year history and we are thrilled to continue and expand our healthcare options in Haiti. So, in December, the FOTCOH board approved a permanent transition of the surgical program from being American-led to a fully Haitian-run program.

The patient population we serve has little to no access to surgical services and this will provide quality care with the best possible outcomes. Dr. Garron Lukas, founder of the surgery program, will be transitioning out of the role as FOTCOH's primary surgeon but will continue to serve as Surgical Director and travel to Haiti on a regular basis to oversee the program. Dr. Lukas has identified Dr. Victor as our next surgeon, "I have worked with Dr. Victor on many cases. His surgical expertise and his deep compassion for patients makes him a perfect fit to carry on FOTCOH's surgical program in the future." There are many benefits to having a Haitian surgeon join our team, including consistent availability, continuity of care, and enhanced surgical procedure options because Dr. Victor is available for follow-up visits if needed.

Welcome Dr. Victor! We are thankful to have you as part of the FOTCOH team. And thank you to Dr. Lukas for your years of service to the Haitian people.



Women's Health Initiative

The goals of this new program are focused on a child's first 1,000 days of life and include:

- ✓ Providing breastfeeding and nutritional education to expectant mothers
- ✓ Providing vitamins to all prenatal clients
- ✓ Providing vitamins to all children under 3 years of age
- ✓ Helping severely malnourished infants survive by providing them with Medika Mamba, a nutrient-dense peanut butter medicine/food.

In order to reach these goals, FOTCOH hired two nurses in the fourth quarter of 2020 to educate clients at each Urgent Care Clinic (now operating weekly) and throughout our Vital Health Clinic in October. They were very busy educating mothers-to-be and also new Moms on the importance of breastmilk for optimal growth and development during the first two years of life and offering individual breastfeeding support and problem solving skills.

This is a wonderful example of how FOTCOH is touching the lives of so many and making their health a priority through preventive intervention. Thank you to all who have donated to this program, whether directly or indirectly! We couldn't do it without you!

WASH Program Continues to Make a Difference

The WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) program was our first program specifically designed to be led by Haitian staff. Two individuals, Maxeaux and Madjine, were specially trained by American volunteer, Shelley Briggs-Callahan, to lead the WASH program in rural communities in Haiti. The work they are doing on a consistent basis is changing the lives of so many Haitian families and communities. Shelley continues to oversee the program which provides health education, distributes water filters, menstrual hygiene kits, and cloth diapers to patients at the clinic and during outings in the community. The Haitian WASH leaders are at each Vital Health Clinic to teach good hygiene techniques also.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Financial donations are appreciated, but if you would rather donate supplies, the following items are always needed:

Facemasks ~ digital thermometers ~ Multivitamin infant

drops 50-milliliter bottles (generic or Zarbees)

Children's Multivitamin Chewable Tablets (generic or

Flintstones w/iron) ~ Selenium Sulfide Shampoo (any size)

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste (all sizes) ~ Band-Aids (generic)

ACE Wraps ~ Hand sanitizer ~ Clorox wipes

Batteries (AA, AAA, 9V) ~ Dixie cups (3oz) ~ Pens (black) ~

90% isopropyl alcohol

Call Dianne at (309) 360-7689 to schedule a drop-off at the FOTCOH office in Morton. *Thank you!*



ATTENTION Caterpillar employees and retirees:



Did you know?

Caterpillar will match your FOTCOH gift up to \$2,000. Now your gift will make twice the impact!

2021 Clinic Dates:

January 11-22

April 12-23

July 12-23

October 11-22

**January, April, and July will be Haitian run*

***October will hopefully include U.S. volunteers*

Stay Connected:

Website: FOTCOH.org

Blog/Clinic updates:

Fotcoh.org/blog

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