

FOTCOH

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF HAITI



PROVIDING
Health
& Hope
to the HAITIAN
People



Executive Director's Corner

Nathan Ruby, Executive Director

Limited Edition FOTCOH Merch

Available
July 10th-31st, 2023

An All-Time Record!

I'm thrilled to share that 2022 was a monumental year for FOTCOH. With the support of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors like you, **we impacted 17,446 people!** What an amazing achievement! This record would not have been attainable without FOTCOH's commitment to providing healthcare services to the underserved population in Haiti.

Even with our successes, challenges persist in the turbulent political and social climate of Haiti. **One of the significant hurdles we are navigating is the increased expense to deliver essential medicine and supplies to our clinic.** The political unrest and gang activity continue to disrupt supply chains and increase costs.

As we dive into the second half of the year, our dedication to providing accessible and high-quality healthcare remains unwavering. Thanks to our Haitian-led team of providers and staff, we're committed to facing whatever obstacles come our way and continue making a difference in the lives of those who need it most. It's humbling to witness the impact we have made on so many lives, thanks to your continued support.

Let's keep this momentum going and keep spreading hope and healing to those who need it most.

With gratitude,

Nathan Ruby

We've heard the resounding requests and seen the support from our incredible community of volunteers and donors. You've been asking, and now, it's finally happening!



We are delighted to announce the arrival of the much-awaited FOTCOH merchandise, allowing you to proudly display your support and make a lasting impact in Haiti. Show your support for FOTCOH and shop our tees, hats, and coffee mugs online beginning July 10th. Every purchase supports the people of Haiti, providing them with vital healthcare services and support. All merchandise will be printed and sent after the fundraiser ends on July 31st!



Scan this QR code or go to bonfire.com/store/fotcoh/ to shop this limited-edition merch fundraiser!



Lending a Hand in Haiti

Co-Founder Dick Hammond Visits the Clinic for the First Time Since 2019

In April, despite the turbulent social climate and escalated violence in Haiti, FOTCOH co-founder Dick Hammond traveled to the clinic after a long absence.

Driven by his steadfast dedication to serving others, and despite the risks involved, Dick was determined to visit the clinic during the 2-week Vital Health Clinic this April.

Haiti is a dangerous place to travel and it was Boyer's experience that made this trip possible. **With the assistance of Boyer, who has extensive knowledge traveling in Haiti, Dick safely navigated traveling from Florida to Port-au-Prince to Cyvadier.**

"I really wanted to see what kind of progress had been made at the clinic but I didn't want to be responsible for taking other people with me and possibly putting them in harms way. That's why I was adamant that I wanted to go by myself. I'm not a hero, I'm not brave, but it was the only way I thought I would feel comfortable."

Dick was able to witness FOTCOH's hard-working staff of 50+ Haitians running the clinic and the positive impact they are making on the lives of others. After 3 days of travel, staff and patients were overjoyed to see Dick. They gathered around him, expressing their heartfelt thanks for the assistance and care they have received. It was a humbling experience for him to once again see the resilience and strength of the Haitian people.



Nurses welcome Dick to the clinic



"They remembered me. It meant a lot to me. After 4 years, it meant a lot after all that time. People would come up and tell me what we had done for them and they were so thankful. And that their lives were so much better and it wouldn't have been that way if not for our help."

Lending a Hand continued...



"Boyer was very concerned about me and every time I left the building, there was someone there to take me around the grounds with a chair. Whenever I had to stop, I could sit and rest. Haitian people are very wonderful people. I love them very much."

When asked what he wished people knew about Haiti, Dick shared:

"I wish they knew how great the people are. The people are happy and always smile. The first time I went to Haiti, I met a community of people that were wonderful. They were welcoming. They welcomed me. I wish more people knew how loving they are and more people would reach out to help the Haitians."



Surgery is performed at a local hospital while Dick looks on



Dick and Dr. Nelson meet with former surgery patient, Baby Dani and her mom

Dick waiting en-route from Port-au-Prince to Cyvadier



Country Director André Boyer Shares the Latest in Haiti

The instability in Haiti continues, with violence and gang control gripping Port-au-Prince. This has made traveling within the country incredibly challenging, especially when it comes to reaching places like Jacmel. Limited flights and unreliable departure schedules have made it even more complex.

“Haiti now is in chaos. We have a lot of violence in PAP and gangs are in charge. The big challenge we have right now is traveling. You have to fly to get to Jacmel and flying isn’t easy – now we only have one plane.

When Dick was in Haiti, we ended up staying 3 nights in Port-au-Prince because securing a flight to Jacmel is unreliable.”

- Boyer



Boyer and Dick en route to Jacmel

With COVID, beginning in 2020, many clinic staff feared they would lose their jobs due to closures, but that’s not what happened at FOTCOH. We saw the need for healthcare more than ever and operations never ceased. We made changes and the clinic stayed open.

“Everyone was so happy - even the patients - with the changes to the clinic arrival and check-in process, new technology systems for patient records, and more”

- Boyer

Since the changes in 2020, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. **Patients and staff alike say, “Thank God you’re here, and it’s better than ever.”**



Clinic staff celebrate Co-Founder Dick Hammond

Annual Board Meeting

Strengthening Connections and Shaping the Future



Pictured:

Back row: Dr. Patrick Renick, Marty Hammond, Jenna Ford, Sue Wozniak, Ken Kersey, John Zamer
Front row: Dianne Gootee, Dick Hammond, Barb Hammond, Nathan Ruby

Each June the FOTCOH board gathers in Peoria for its Annual Meeting weekend. The weekend begins with a Saturday evening social reception and dinner. This is an important time for the board. Currently, FOTCOH board members come from 7 different states. Re-connecting with each other and renewing friendships make for a stronger board.

The daylong meeting on Sunday focuses on updates about the clinic as well as finances, fundraising, programs, and administration. Additionally, substantial time is dedicated to each program as staff report on successes, challenges, future plans, and goals.

The highlight of this year's meeting was Dick reporting on his trip to the clinic.

The annual meeting is also the time when the board digs deeper into FOTCOH's vision and mission. Haiti is constantly changing and what works today will not work tomorrow. Defining a clear vision is crucial to ensure a strong, sustainable future for FOTCOH

**PROVIDING
Healthcare
& Hope
to the HAITIAN
People**

FOTCOH
PO BOX 789
Peoria, IL 61652

NON PROFIT
US Postage
PAID
Peoria, IL
Permit #888



**With Gratitude to
OSF HealthCare Saint
Francis Medical Center**

We're so thankful for our generous corporate partners including OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. Thanks to OSF for their continued support, generosity, compassion, and commitment to improving the lives of the Haitian people. Together, we will continue to make a profound difference in the healthcare landscape of Haiti.



FOTCOH.org

Facebook + Instagram @FOTCOH
PO Box 789, Peoria, IL 61652

Board of Directors



Dr. Patrick Renick
President

Michael Henderson
Vice President

Brian Hersey
Treasurer

Jenna Ford
Secretary

Ernie Aud

Dr. Brian Bamberger

Julie DuBois

Dick and Barb Hammond

Marty Hammond

Jim Kaltenbach

Dr. Garron Lukas

Sue Wozniak

John Zamer