

FOTCOH

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF HAITI



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



Executive Director's Corner

Nathan Ruby, Executive Director

People are flocking to our clinic every day, seeking help from all corners of this beautiful yet challenging country. The need is undeniable, and it continues to grow. One striking fact – in the nearest town of Jacmel, reliable, affordable healthcare is rare. This critical void makes our presence all the more vital.

Behind the scenes, there's a dedicated force of volunteers who bring their time and expertise to our cause. And then there are the donors, like you, who keep the wheels turning. You see, it's all interconnected.

Thank you for being a part of this story. Together, we are the change-makers, the doers who make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

With gratitude,

Nathan Ruby
Executive Director

PS: We will not stop. We will do everything humanly possible to continue to bring the highest quality healthcare possible to our patients. We couldn't do this without you!

Two Decades of Dedication: Dr. Stephen P. Trainor's Impact in Haiti



In the heart of our mission stands a dedicated champion – Dr. Stephen P. Trainor, MD, FAAP. For over two decades, he has been a steadfast volunteer for FOTCOH, serving as Medical Director, team leader, and board member. As Dr. Trainor steps down from his role as Medical Director, we're ever grateful for his dedication to serving the people of Haiti.

"I started with FOTCOH after the earthquake in 2010," Dr. Trainor shares. "A colleague from work had invited me for several years. He asked me again two days before the earthquake to join him in September, and I told him that I would think about it. But with the earthquake, I felt God was prompting my yes reply."

During his experiences, Dr. Trainor recalled powerful moments, "seeing the joy that most of these patients expressed, after waiting in long lines, for the little medical care that we were able to offer."

As a pediatrician, Dr. Trainor found it especially rewarding to witness the positive impact of treatment on malnourished children. "It was heartening when I would see some of the malnourished kids that were treated with the peanut butter medication (Medika Mamba) supplement. They survived and gained weight by the time that I saw them on the next visit."

This work isn't easy, and we want to extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Trainor for his commitment, service, and support over the many years!



Dr. Trainor and a dedicated team of volunteers in 2015.

Putting for a Purpose: Dr. Renick's Golf Outing

Hats off to board president, Dr. Pat Renick, who took to the golf course with a mission: to support Friends of the Children of Haiti and make a tangible difference. His passion for golf, which began in childhood, has now become a powerful tool in advancing healthcare in Haiti.

Inspired by family outings during the pandemic and the desire to do more, Dr. Renick organized a local golf event near Canton, Illinois. The response was remarkable. Friends, family, and people from all walks of life rallied to play for a great

cause, showcasing the power of community.

With plans to grow this into an annual event, Dr. Renick aims to gather 25-30 teams this year. Mark your calendars for the upcoming event on October 14, 2024! It's a challenge he eagerly embraces, knowing it will bring much-needed support to FOTCOH's vital mission. Kudos, Dr. Renick!

The community knows what we're about and wants to help; we just need to ask. - Dr. Renick



Years of Chronic Pain: The Road to Recovery

Meet Jean Marie Rosette, a resilient 24-year-old who faced two long years of chronic, debilitating arthritis pain. Her path was marked by persistent discomfort and treatment felt out of reach.

But her story took a positive turn when she sought care during January's Vital Health Clinic. With skill and compassion, our medical team performed an arthrocentesis treatment on her swollen knee, bringing immediate relief and renewing her faith in accessible healthcare.

Jean Marie's journey didn't stop there. She had her follow-up visit, and her progress is remarkable. Her pain has been resolved, and her path to recovery is well underway as the inflammation has significantly reduced.

Her story showcases the impact of our dedicated team in Haiti, supported by your generosity.

In a world where healthcare should be a fundamental right, we remain dedicated to making it a reality for all. It's hard to imagine living with extreme, daily pain when there is a relatively easy solution for it. That's why stories like Jean Marie's inspire us to continue our mission of providing accessible healthcare to those in need.



Jean Marie's knee after arthrocentesis treatment

Meeting the Growing Need: The Success of the November Challenge

In a world where demand is rising, costs are soaring, and the need for accessible healthcare in rural Haiti has never been greater, we came together in the spirit of community-driven support.

The "November Challenge" emerged as a response to the pressing needs of those we serve. As the challenges mounted, so did our determination. With every dollar raised, we are doing more to help families who so urgently rely on your support.

With the support of 59 generous donors, \$11,600 was raised! This achievement was not just a number; it demonstrated the strength of our community.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mary Loftus, who not only met her goal but exceeded it twice over, and to Board President Dr. Pat Renick, whose commitment and enthusiasm also allowed him to surpass his goal! Wow!

Our team of passionate supporters and board members, including Jim Kaltenbach, Brian Bamberger, Sue Wozniak, Katie Fry, and many others, stepped up to the challenge!

This success is a testament to the power of community-driven support and the belief that healthcare is a basic right for all.

As we celebrate the success of the "November Challenge," we also look ahead to the continued journey of making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Ready to make an impact? Start your peer-to-peer fundraiser today and join us in meeting the ever-growing need for accessible healthcare in Haiti. Send an email to communications@fotcoh.org to begin!

Accessible Medications, Improved Lives: FOTCOH's Partnership with Imres

In southeastern Haiti, where healthcare resources are scarce, the presence of an on-site pharmacy is a lifeline for many. Our pharmacy offers more than just convenience; it provides access to healthcare and essential medications without the added financial burden, especially for those who can't afford it.

In general, options are limited in Haiti often requiring patients to purchase their own medications and transport them to the hospital for their treatment. This is a task that is financially out of reach for most. That's where FOTCOH steps in to care for the whole patient onsite - from diagnosis to treatment to follow-up, ensuring that healthcare is not just accessible but also free, making a significant difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Based in Amsterdam, Imres is our long-standing, reliable pharmaceutical supply partner. Imres is a USAID/OFDA prequalified

wholesale vendor, meaning they have been certified by top international development agencies for their high-quality medicines and supplies. **They play a vital role by providing 95% of our pharmacy supplies each year.**

With over 35 years of experience collaborating closely with NGOs, governments, and agents in health projects, Imres provides our pharmacy with the highest quality and most affordable essential medicines. They also have extensive supply chain expertise and assist in getting the medications quickly and safely to Haiti.

Our Pharmacy Director, Erin Briggs, PharmD, MPH, shared **"Our partnership with Imres is vital to ensuring we get the best medicines that our patients need and at the most affordable price.**

This enables FOTCOH to treat patients who have no other access to healthcare and quality medicines. Our patients trust

the medicines they receive from our clinic and we do too because we know they are high quality, safe medicines from a trusted partner."

Together, we are committed to making healthcare accessible, improving lives and communities. Imres is crucial in our mission to create a healthier world for those in need as a trusted partner.



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Mission Moments: Upcoming Events

Next Insider Series: Stay tuned for our next Insider Series event where we dive deep into topics surrounding our mission and impact. Details will be shared via Facebook and email!

Spring Board Meeting: Our spring board meeting is scheduled for March 12th. Members, mark your calendars and plan to join us as we discuss important matters and strategic initiatives for the upcoming months.

Haitian Labor Day: Join us in celebrating Haitian Labor Day on Monday, May 1st! Also known as “Fête du Travail” in French, is a public holiday celebrated in Haiti on May 1st each year. It honors the contributions of workers and the labor movement in Haiti.

Fall Golf Outing: Mark your calendars for Dr. Renick’s annual golf outing on October 14, 2024, at the Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club! Join us for a day of fun on the greens while supporting FOTCOH’s mission.

FOTCOH.org

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