

FOTCOH



FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF HAITI

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



Executive Director's Corner

Nathan Ruby, Executive Director

This summer's board meeting reminded me of something simple, but crucial: **progress happens when the right people are in the room.** From program advisors to board members to longtime supporters, we came together to reflect on what's working, where we're growing, and how to stay ready in an unpredictable environment. Our programs in Haiti continue to evolve with care and intention because the needs are real, and so is our commitment to meet them.

We're excited to partner with Backpack EMR, a cloud-based electronic medical record system, to help develop a new pharmacy inventory tool. This will dramatically improve how we track and manage medications, marking a major step forward for our clinic operations.

We also had the chance to share behind-the-scenes updates on recent facility improvements and a new program that's taking shape. We continue to explore how to expand our reach in ways that meet urgent needs while deepening the care we've provided in southeastern Haiti for over 30 years. More on that soon. Thank you for being part of this work. Your steady support makes moments like these, and the momentum that follows, possible.

With gratitude and determination,

Nathan Ruby

Madeline's Story: When the Pain Doesn't Stop

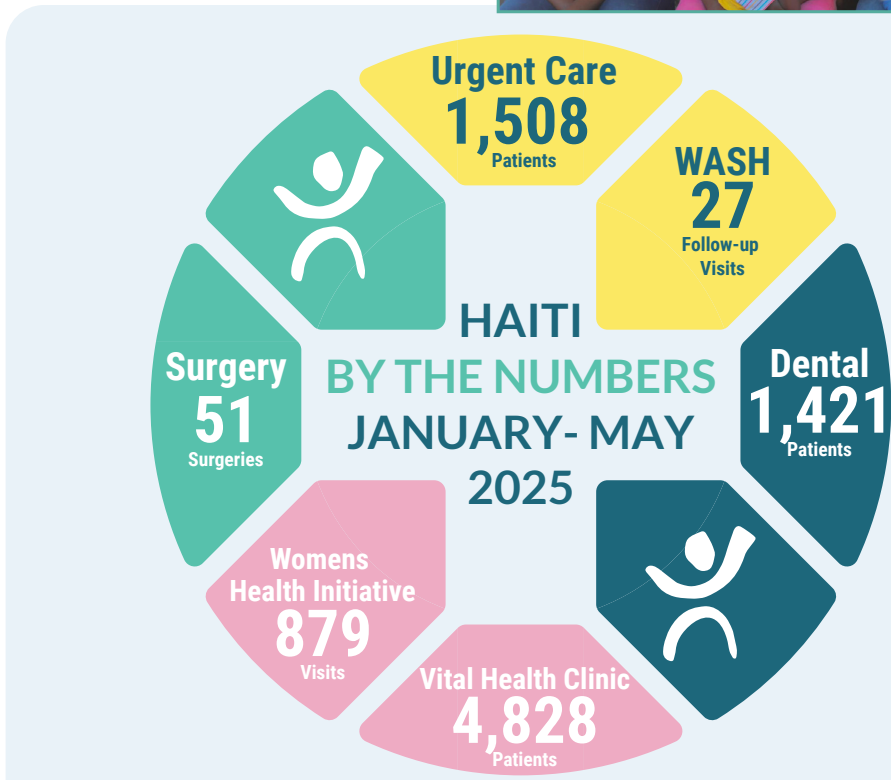
At just 38 years old, Madeline arrived at our clinic with a blood pressure reading of 200/120. She was in pain, nursing a relentless headache, stiff neck, and dizziness that had become part of her daily life.

She'd seen many doctors. She'd even undergone a C-section, which may have complicated her condition. But she never found consistent care, answers, or relief.

At FOTCOH, we listened. We took her symptoms seriously. Our providers created a plan to manage her hypertension and address the underlying issues causing her pain.

She left with the medicine she needed—and a return-to-clinic card to ensure she could continue her care.

In a country where healthcare is often too expensive, too far, or simply out of reach, Madeline finally found something that too many go without: a place that could help and would keep helping.



Leading with Purpose: Highlights from This Year's Annual Board Weekend

Each June, FOTCOH's board of directors gathers in person for a weekend of connection, planning, and reflection. This year's meeting was filled with meaningful conversations, detailed program updates, and a renewed purpose.

At Saturday's dinner, longtime supporters Russ and Kathy Proch shared why they continue to fund our WASH program: a powerful reminder of how personal stories

fuel collective impact. Board members also heard updates from our U.S.-based advisors across medical, dental, women's health, pharmacy, surgery, and more, reinforcing the strength of our programs in Haiti.

We shared recent facility improvements, including upgrades to the triage area and new security measures to protect both staff and patients. Dr. Garron Lukas and Jim Kaltenbach were re-elected to

another term and current officers will continue to lead the board.



Angela Thought She'd Lose Her Smile Forever

By Dr. Kate McGinn | Dental Program Advisor



Angela came in quiet and resolved. At 30 years old, she believed the only solution was to pull her four front teeth. The decay was severe, and she had given up hope.

But after examining her, Dr. Jefferson, one of our incredible dentists, saw that the teeth could be saved with restorative care. Though hesitant at first, she agreed to move forward.

When she saw her restored smile in the mirror, she lit up. Tears,

laughter, and relief all at once. She thanked our team again and again. Her confidence returned in real time.

We are proud to now offer restorative care, not just extractions, at the clinic. **It is truly life-changing to be able to speak and smile with confidence. Our compassionate dentists are making a big impact on their patients' lives and health.**



In Memory of Mark Purcell



Earlier this year, we lost a beloved member of the FOTCOH family. Mark Purcell was a longtime volunteer pharmacist whose brilliance, dedication, and kindness made a lasting impact on our clinic and everyone who worked alongside him.

Mark served on numerous volunteer trips to Haiti, bringing steady leadership to the FOTCOH pharmacy. From 2011 to 2014, he

mentored and trained Erin Briggs, who now serves as our Pharmacy Director. His legacy lives on in the systems he helped build and in the lives he touched through his care and mentorship.

To make a gift in Mark's honor, Scan the QR Code:



Updates from the FOTCOH Pharmacy

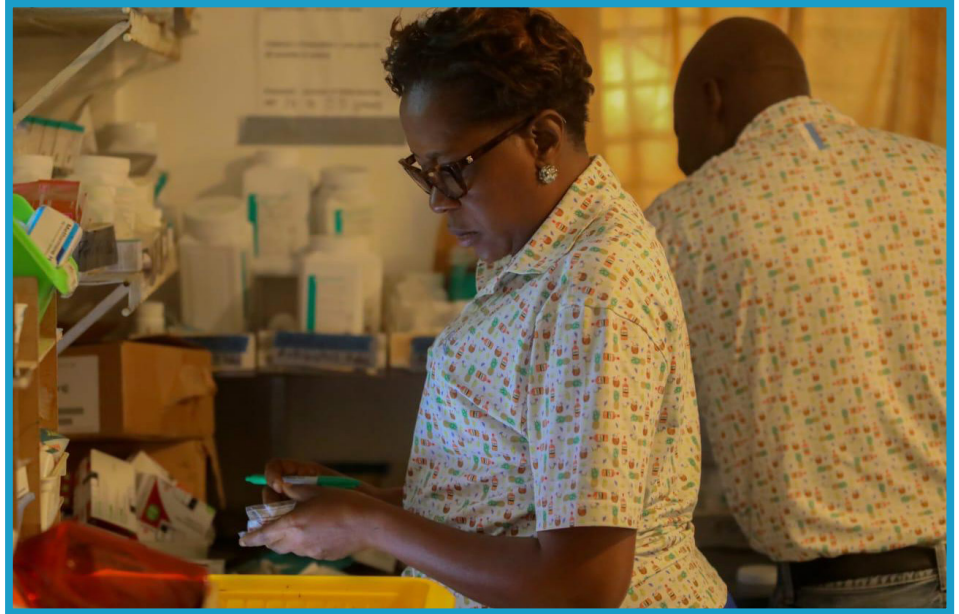
By Dr. Erin Briggs PhamD, MPH | Pharmacy Director



This past year, I've worked closely with Roger, our Pharmacy Manager, and Nadine, our Pharmacy Technician, to keep the FOTCOH pharmacy running smoothly. As more patients visit each clinic, we've responded by restocking medications more frequently and refining our systems to meet growing needs.

Alongside Dr. Nelson, we've also updated our formulary to include new treatments, like those for *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*)—a common but serious infection. This allows our providers to treat more patients on-site, without requiring external referrals.

Thanks to steady communication and strong collaboration with Boyer, Roger, and Dr. Nelson, we've kept the pharmacy well-stocked and responsive. I'm proud of our team's work, and grateful for the donors who make this level of care possible.



Protecting Two Lives at Once

27-year-old Johanne Lubin arrived at the clinic five months pregnant, battling more than the physical weight of her pregnancy. She was dizzy, weak, and unusually tired—clear signs of anemia and low blood sugar.

Like so many expectant mothers in Haiti, Johanne had limited access to prenatal care. Without intervention, her symptoms could have placed both her and her baby at serious risk.

Our medical team acted fast, administering **IV fluids, iron supplements, prenatal vitamins, and nutrition support** to help stabilize her and protect the life growing inside her.

Johanne walked out of the clinic feeling stronger, safer, and supported, with a plan in place for continued care through the Women's Health Initiative.

Thanks to your support women like Johanne don't face pregnancy alone. Each clinic visit becomes a lifeline for both mother and baby.



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Mission Moments: Upcoming Events

Vital Health Clinics:

October 6-16

Hope in Action: Glassy Mountain Event | Sunday, October 5
Bust'd Brewing, Peoria, Illinois | Thursday, September 25

TEE UP FOR IMPACT

MONDAY
OCT. 13



WEE MA TUK
COUNTRY CLUB

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