

FOTCOH

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF HAITI



PROVIDING
Healthcare
& Hope
to the HAITIAN
People



Executive Director's Corner

Nathan Ruby, Executive Director

This year has been one of extraordinary growth and extraordinary need.

Every clinic day, more patients walk through our doors than ever before. Families arrive after traveling hours, sometimes days, because they know that at FOTCOH, they will be seen, cared for, and treated with dignity.

The numbers are staggering. We designed our clinics to serve a steady flow of patients, but week after week, we're seeing far beyond what we planned for. Urgent care days that once expected a handful of patients now welcome well over a hundred. Vital Health Clinics are regularly at full capacity with people waiting outside who we simply don't have the staff or medicine to serve.

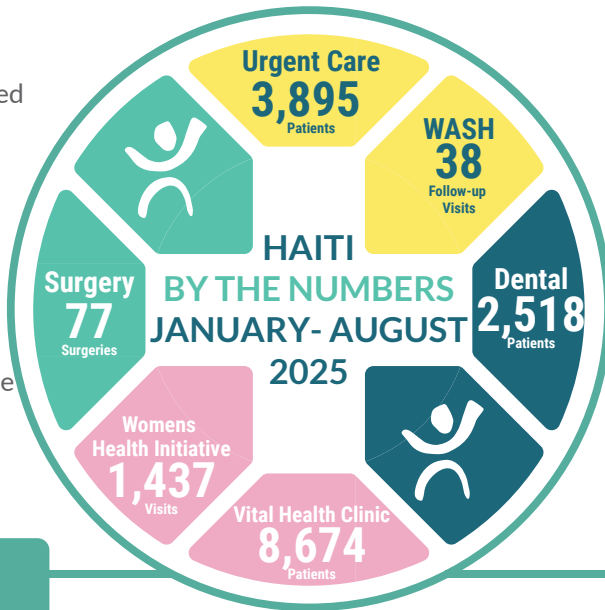
This growth is a powerful sign of FOTCOH's impact and reputation in the community, but it also presents an urgent challenge. To meet this rising demand, we've had to expand pharmacy resources, add staff, and look seriously at increasing the number of clinic days. Without the resources to match this growth, we face a painful choice: either scale up to meet the need or turn people away.

At FOTCOH, we don't take turning people away lightly. Every person deserves access to healthcare. Every mother, every child, every family deserves the chance to thrive.

Together, we are not only keeping pace with the need, but we are building a future where quality healthcare in Haiti is sustainable, Haitian-led, and available to all who need it.

Thank you for standing with us in this critical work.

Nathan Ruby



A Powerful Partnership: Hope for Haiti & FOTCOH

This year, FOTCOH formed a groundbreaking new partnership with Hope for Haiti, one of the largest and most respected humanitarian organizations working in the country. Together, we're filling critical gaps in care for Haitian families.

Through this collaboration, FOTCOH now receives a significant amount of donated medicines and supplies—from ibuprofen to infant vitamin drops, metformin, and insulin. With these donations, combined with our regular

pharmacy order, we hope to meet the increasing demand for care.

Because Hope for Haiti's warehouse is located in Les Cayes, our team can safely and reliably pick up shipments, ensuring consistency and peace of mind.

This partnership, built by FOTCOH Executive Director Nathan Ruby in collaboration with Yvette Ebb, Director of In-Kind Donations at Hope for Haiti, is more than just a supply

line. It's a powerful endorsement of the work FOTCOH is doing: one of Haiti's largest organizations has chosen to invest in our ability to deliver lifesaving care.



Carrying the Legacy Forward: Marty Hammond on Family, Service, and Hope in Haiti

Board Vice President Marty Hammond reflects on his family's roots and FOTCOH's future

When Marty Hammond was in second grade, he boarded a plane to Haiti with his parents, Dick and Barb Hammond, the founders of Friends of the Children of Haiti. What he saw would stay with him forever.

By his eighth-grade trip, he understood even more clearly: access to healthcare was not a given in Haiti—it was a lifeline. A local church had been transformed into a makeshift clinic. Wooden pews gave way to exam tables. Supplies were stacked in corners. Volunteers worked tirelessly to provide care for families who had nowhere else to turn. Even as a child, Marty could sense the urgency and the need.

“Those trips really solidified for me the tremendous need for help,” Marty recalls. “Especially access to healthcare.”

From that early exposure, Haiti and FOTCOH became part of Marty's identity. Today, as Vice President of the Board, he sees his work as an extension of the legacy his parents began, and as a calling to serve.

That calling hasn't always been easy. Marty describes himself as naturally introverted and shy.

“But FOTCOH has helped me focus my compassion and pushed me to step into service, even when it feels hard,” he reflects.

Now, decades after his parents' first mission trip, Marty is helping guide FOTCOH into a new era. One milestone he's particularly proud of: the transition to Haitian-led care.

“Year-round, Haitian-led medical care has been a long-term goal,” he says. “We're also seeing program growth and expansion. That's super exciting.”

For Marty, FOTCOH is more than his family's history; it's about the future of healthcare in Haiti and the generations of leaders and families who will continue to carry the mission forward.



Private Patient Rooms: A New Standard of Care at FOTCOH

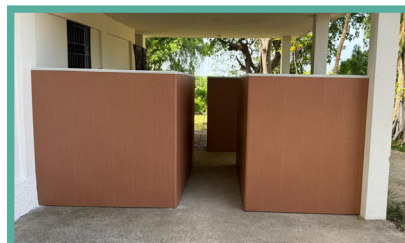
This year, we introduced new partitioned patient rooms, giving every provider a dedicated space to meet with patients. These rooms create greater privacy, improve efficiency, and allow our **medical team to deliver care with even more focus and compassion.**

A larger room was also designed for our surgical team, ensuring they have the space and resources needed when multiple doctors work together.

It's one more way we are scaling with excellence: **creating an**

environment where patients receive care with dignity, and doctors have what they need to provide it.

Your support makes these improvements possible, strengthening the quality of care for every patient who comes through our doors.



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Marge Repasz

In August, the FOTCOH family said goodbye to our longtime friend, staff member, and volunteer, Marge Repasz.

Marge first connected with FOTCOH after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. On that mission trip, premature twins were brought into the clinic. While her husband Jerry, built an incubator, Marge cared for the babies until they could be transferred for ongoing support. That moment captured her steady presence and selfless heart.

Later, Marge served as our Administrative Assistant, becoming the personal connection between FOTCOH

and our donors. She wrote thank-you letters, answered questions, and made countless phone calls, always ensuring every supporter felt valued.

Her perspective as both a volunteer in Haiti and a staff member in the U.S. gave her a unique role in FOTCOH's growth. Her warmth and dedication will be remembered by patients, volunteers, and donors alike.

Marge will be deeply missed, and her legacy lives on in the work she loved.



Kay and Larry Shank with Marge



Sue Wozniak with Marge

Patient Spotlight: Care That Can't Wait

When 33-year-old Lovely walked through the clinic doors in Jacmel, she was fighting for her life. Her blood sugar had spiked to a staggering **579 mg/dl**, her skin was dangerously dry, and open wounds covered her legs.

For months, she had endured relentless headaches, dizziness, and loss of appetite, but couldn't afford the care she desperately needed.

Hospitals in Jacmel turned her away because the high cost of medicine made treatment impossible. Like so many in Haiti,

Lovely was left to suffer without options.

By the time she reached FOTCOH, her condition was critical. Our medical team immediately stepped in, hydrating her with IV fluids, treating her wounds, and providing essential medications to stabilize her diabetes.

Because of support like yours, Lovely left the clinic with hope in her heart, the medication she needs, and access to follow-up care that will help her avoid life-threatening complications and reclaim her health.





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Mission Moments: Upcoming Events

Vital Health Clinics:

October 6-16

January 5-15, 2026

TEE UP FOR IMPACT

MONDAY
OCT. 13



**WEE MA TUK
COUNTRY CLUB**

15722 E. KENABECK TRAIL
CUBA, ILLINOIS 61427

HOPE IN ACTION

SUNDAY
OCT. 5

**GLASSY MOUNTAIN,
SOUTH CAROLINA**

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