



## Executive Director's Corner

Nathan Ruby, Executive Director

# 35 Years. Stronger Than Ever. Focused on What's Next.

What began as a grassroots model has grown into a year-round medical system delivering more than **18,000 patient visits annually**. Today, children and adults rely on FOTCOH for urgent care, primary care, chronic disease management, women's health, dental and vision services, surgical care, and clean water and personal hygiene.

In January, we completed another two-week Vital Health Clinic. Demand was high, as expected. Through strong leadership and creative problem-solving, **our team stretched capacity to serve as many patients as possible across our programs**.

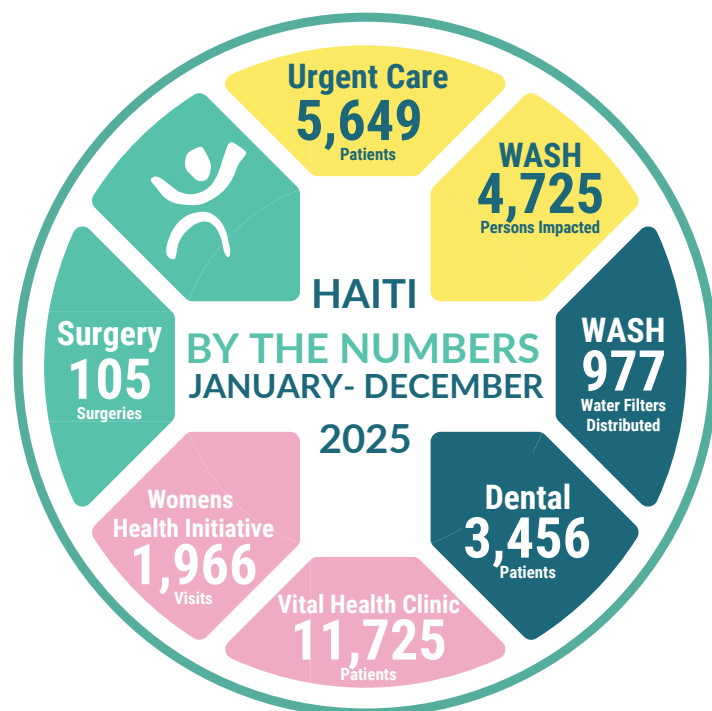
Last year, we launched the Vision program, and the demand was extremely high. For many patients, it was the first time in years they could see clearly enough to navigate daily life with greater safety, comfort, and independence.

Even amid increased demand and ongoing instability in the region, our team remains steady. The durable, year-round model we've built continues to strengthen continuity of care, patient trust, and long-term impact.

As we look ahead, our focus is simple: enhance quality, expand access responsibly, and strengthen the systems that allow this work to last.

35 years in, we are not slowing down. We are building forward.

With health and hope,



# Tax-Smart Ways to Support Care in Haiti

Your gift supports every moment of care we deliver in Haiti and there are more ways to give than you might think. If you're looking for tax-smart giving options, here are a few to consider:

## 1. Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

DAFs are a tax-advantaged, charitable giving account held at a public charity (sponsoring organization). It allows donors to make irrevocable contributions of cash or assets for an immediate tax deduction, while retaining the ability to recommend grants to qualified charities over time. Funds can grow tax-free. If you have a Donor-Advised Fund through Fidelity Charitable, Schwab, Vanguard, or your local community foundation, you can recommend a grant to FOTCOH at any time. These gifts directly support year-round medical care in southern Haiti.

To recommend a grant, simply log into your DAF portal and search for FOTCOH (Tax ID: 37-1274477)

## 2. IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you're age 70½ or older, you can donate directly from your IRA—this can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) and may reduce your taxable income. Your IRA custodian can send a gift straight to FOTCOH.

## 3. Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Donating stock can be one of the most tax-efficient ways to give. You may avoid capital gains tax and deduct the full value of the gift. We can help make the process smooth and simple.

## 4. Planned Giving

If you want your impact to continue long after today, planned giving is one of the simplest ways to do it. By including FOTCOH in your will or naming us as a beneficiary, you can care for patients in Haiti in the future without changing your giving right now.

If you have any questions or want to talk through the best way to give, we're here to help. Reach out anytime to Nathan Ruby: [NRuby@fotcoh.org](mailto:NRuby@fotcoh.org)

# Partners in Impact: Glassy Mountain's Commitment to Care in Haiti

Last fall, **The Cliffs community came together for the sixth annual gathering in support of FOTCOH's lifesaving work in Haiti.** The event was organized by Dr. Garron and Sharon Lukas, Ernie Aud, and Brian Hersey, and welcomed more than 65 residents for an afternoon centered on connection, mission, and impact.

FOTCOH was also **honored to be featured on the cover** of STROLL: The Cliffs Communities (December 2025), a meaningful reflection of the community's steady support and shared commitment of care.

Attendees heard updates from FOTCOH's U.S. team, including

Executive Director Nathan Ruby, Finance Director Dianne Gootee, and Operations Director Ken Kersey, and also welcomed Austin Young from Wine to Water, a partner supporting clean water and sanitation initiatives in Haiti.



# Remembering Dick Hammond

In early March, FOTCOH co-founder Dick Hammond passed away, leaving behind a legacy that continues to shape this work every day.

Because of Dick and Barb's commitment to bringing health and hope to the people of Haiti, FOTCOH exists. **Their courage helped build something lasting: consistent, dignified healthcare for families in southern Haiti who have had far too few options for so long.**

What began as a bold vision has grown into a year-round medical operation serving more than 18,000 patient visits each year.

Though his role changed over the years, Dick's commitment never did. He remained deeply invested in the people of Haiti and in the mission he and Barb created, offering wisdom, encouragement, and unwavering support. **As a founder, board member, and longtime champion of FOTCOH, he was a steady presence and a trusted keeper of the story behind this mission.**

Over the past decade, FOTCOH has strengthened continuity of care, deepened patient trust, and built a model designed to endure. It reflects what Dick and Barb believed from the beginning: compassionate care for Haitians in need, access that is sustainable, locally led, and here for the long haul.

The photos and memories shared here offer a glimpse of Dick's enduring connection to FOTCOH through the years: at the clinic where Haitians called him "Papa Dick," while providing care alongside family members, friends, and volunteers, and with board members and alongside longtime supporters who helped carry this mission forward.

In the weeks following his passing, we have been deeply moved by the many tributes, memories, and stories shared in honor of Dick and the work he and Barb began together. **Thank you for helping us remember a life that shaped FOTCOH so profoundly.**



# *Celebrating a Life of Legacy and Service to the People of Haiti*

"The story of how Dick and Barb started FOTCOH and built the clinic is truly amazing. I often think about it whenever I have a struggle in my life; this might be difficult, but Dick and Barb were able to create this powerful healthcare organization out of pure will and love for the Haitian people.

Dick will be sorely missed, but we are committed to continuing that mission of love."

-Dr. Patrick Renick, FOTCOH Board President

"Dick was a great leader and an inspiration to all. I have been truly blessed from knowing him and learning how to treat the people of Haiti."

-Peggy Gentes, Past Team Leader



"Dick Hammond was a force of nature greater than any hurricane that ever swept over Haiti. He and Barb made it their lifelong mission to provide love and healthcare to some of the poorest people on Earth. From a simple white building on the south shore, they dispensed care to hundreds of thousands of beautiful, grateful people over the years.

Every one of my 16 trips changed my life, inspired me, humbled me, and filled me with awe at what can be done with tireless work and unwavering dedication to others. He set out to do the impossible and never took 'no' for an answer, ever. I will always carry his influence and will always want to be just a little bit more like him.

Even in our off hours when we were loud, obnoxious, unruly, and perhaps soaking up the local poison late at night, he was patient, kind, and loving toward us - as long as we did the work and helped every person in every way we could. His example continues to inspire that work."

-Josh Bradshaw, Past Team Leader

"The first time I met Dick, I felt so honored to be providing care under his dream. Dick loved the Haitians, and that was evident in the working relationship he had going on with not only the staff but those in the crowd trying to get seen.

Dick, you leave behind an amazing legacy and were able to see your dream of the clinic being Haitian-run come to fruition. Thank you for your love, kindness, and generosity to all who had the pleasure of knowing you. You will be missed. I know you were greeted in Heaven with a well done, good and faithful servant. You were the epitome of Matthew 25:31-46."

-Krissy Hutchison, Past Team Leader

# Steady Hands Behind the Scenes: Honoring Our 2025 Staff Persons of the Year

Country Director André Boyer selected two team members whose work strengthens every corner of the clinic. **Our 2025 Staff of the Year honorees are Roger Laguerre**, Director of Pharmacy and **Savra Fero**, Tech & Operations Assistant.

**Roger** leads one of the most critical areas at the clinic. As Head of Pharmacy, he oversees medication management, inventory, storage, and distribution for more than **18,000 patient visits each year and 128,700 prescriptions!** When a patient is diagnosed with hypertension, diabetes, infection, or has post-surgical needs, the next step depends on the pharmacy being ready. Roger makes sure it is.

**Savra** keeps the clinic's digital,

operational, and communications systems running in a setting where reliable connectivity is not guaranteed. He manages **BackPack EMR**, our secure electronic medical records system that helps providers quickly access patient histories and follow-up needs so care stays consistent even when connectivity is unreliable. He also supports staff with patient records and troubleshoots the technical issues that could otherwise slow care.

Together, Roger and Savra represent two sides of the same mission: **strong systems and dependable care**. One ensures the right medication reaches the right patient. The other ensures the information and infrastructure make that possible!



## Bringing Vision & Clean Water to the Mountains

Reaching patients who live too far from the clinic to travel has always been a challenge in southern Haiti. Recently, through a partnership led by Dr. Ritza, we were able to bring care directly to a rural mountain community outside of Jacmel.

Our team conducted a combined outreach focused on vision care and water filter distribution. Patients were screened, fitted for glasses, and received filters designed to remove contaminants that cause waterborne diseases, including cholera.

It was a meaningful example of our programs working together. Clear sight and clean water are both foundational to health, and

delivering them side by side multiplies the impact.

**"It's powerful to reach communities that are simply too far to travel. When we can go to them and bring meaningful care, it changes access entirely." - Boyer, Country Director**

We are grateful to Dr. Ritza for helping spearhead this partnership and for the opportunity to extend care beyond the clinic walls.



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

## Mission Moments: Upcoming Events

Vital Health Clinics:

**April 6-16**

**July 6-16, 2026**

**October 5-15**

## Board of Directors

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