

35th Anniversary FOTCOH

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF HAITI



Executive Director's Corner

Nathan Ruby, Executive Director

One of the things I love most about FOTCOH is that our impact isn't built in a single moment. It's built week after week through consistent care. As we mark 35 years of service in Haiti, that commitment continues through

medical, dental, vision, surgical, and clean water services despite ongoing challenges.

As you read the stories in this newsletter, I hope you're reminded that every patient served and every

family reached is part of a larger story that you help make possible. Thank you for being part of it. With health and hope,

PROVIDING
Healthcare
& Hope
to the HAITIAN
People

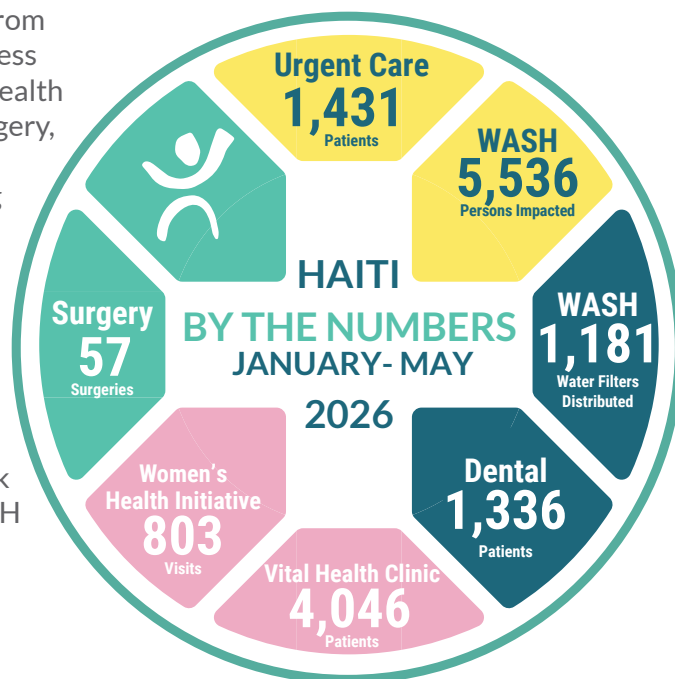
What Board Members Heard From Haiti



In June, board members traveled from across the country to gather for FOTCOH's annual board meeting.

The heart of the meeting was the same as it has always been: the people we serve. Updates from Haiti highlighted real progress across Urgent Care, Vital Health Care, Women's Health, Surgery, Dental, Vision, and WASH, while also making one thing clear: the need for care continues to outpace what we can currently provide. Surgery schedules are filling months ahead, dental care is nearing capacity, and more families continue arriving each week because they know FOTCOH will be there.

Board members left encouraged by the progress being made and focused on what comes next: strengthening support, funding growth, and expanding access so more families can receive the care they need in southeastern Haiti.



A Legacy of Service

How Judy Renick's commitment to serving others continues to impact families in Haiti today.

Long before FOTCOH offered weekly health care and long before thousands of patients could count on seeing a doctor, pharmacist, dentist, or nurse, volunteers were carrying supplies in suitcases and doing the best they could with what they had.

One of those volunteers was Judy Renick, a nurse whose compassion and commitment to serving others would shape her family for generations.

Judy was the mother of FOTCOH Board President Dr. Patrick Renick. In 1996, she traveled to Haiti as a nurse with FOTCOH. The conditions she encountered reflected tremendous need: burn victims, patients with serious wounds, uncontrolled disease, and needs that far exceeded the resources available.

"The demand far exceeded what could be provided," Dr. Renick shared.



At the time, there was no permanent clinic building. Medical teams brought what they could carry and treated as many patients as possible. Still, Judy came home inspired. Helping people was simply who she was.

Whether caring for patients in the emergency room, raising five children, serving as a case manager, or volunteering through FOTCOH, she had a habit of putting other people first.

Years later, Dr. Renick would follow in her footsteps.

His first trip to Haiti came in 2007. Like many volunteers before him, he was not prepared for what he would see.

"That first few hours that you are in Haiti are life-changing," he said.

He remembers driving through Port-au-Prince and seeing overwhelming poverty: homes made from scraps, mountains of garbage, limited infrastructure, and difficult living conditions. But he remembers something else too.

"You also see hope," Dr. Renick said. "Parents taking their children to school, people working and doing their best, beautiful mountains and ocean."

Over the years, Dr. Renick witnessed something remarkable: not just individual lives being changed, but an **entire health care system taking shape.**

In those early years, patients often arrived desperately ill, with burns, severe dehydration, or advanced infections. Medical teams regularly treated urgent cases wherever they could find space, sometimes on a cot beneath a palm tree.

Today, those scenes are far less common because FOTCOH is there every week, year-round.

Regular clinic hours, patient education, preventive care, and weekly services families can count on have changed what is possible for patients in Haiti.

"Having the clinic open and seeing patients every week prevents a small problem from becoming a crisis," Dr. Renick said.

"Dick's vision of a Haitian-led clinic has made this possible," Dr. Renick said.

Today, Dr. Renick helps carry that mission forward through the annual golf outing held in Judy's honor, continuing the spirit of service that

first brought his family into the FOTCOH community.

When asked what Judy would think about being honored in this way, Dr. Renick laughs. "Honestly, my mom is probably cussing me," he said. "She was never one to want attention."

"She is the reason I am in health care and the reason I am in the FOTCOH family," Dr. Renick said.

This year's golf outing will be held on October 12, 2026, at Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club, where friends, family, and supporters will gather to help make vital health care possible for families in south-eastern Haiti.

Supporters who cannot attend in person can still participate virtually by registering a virtual team, playing their own round at their own course, and using the QR code to support FOTCOH's mission from anywhere.

Judy Renick's legacy lives on through Dr. Renick's service, through the supporters who gather each year in her honor, and through the families in Haiti who receive care because people continue to show up.



*Scan to register
or donate*



For the First Time in Years, Healing Has Begun.



Upon arrival, Emmanuel's wounds were carefully cleaned and assessed by the clinic's medical team.



After treatment, clinic staff applied specialized bandaging to help protect the wounds and support healing.

For years, Emmanuel lived with wounds that would not heal.

What began as problems with the veins in his legs slowly became something much more serious. Open sores developed on his lower legs and feet. The wounds became painful, repeatedly infected, and increasingly difficult to manage.

Over the years, Emmanuel sought treatment from multiple healthcare providers. Dressings were changed. Medications were prescribed. Infections were treated. At times, the wounds improved.

But they never fully healed.

After years of living with pain and worsening recurring infections, Emmanuel arrived at the clinic seeking help. The drainage had increased, swelling had spread to both feet, and the wounds had become increasingly difficult to live with.

Access to consistent medical care is more than a convenience. It can mean the difference between years of suffering and the opportunity to heal.

Since that first visit, Emmanuel has continued returning to the clinic for follow-up care and dressing changes. Healing wounds that have persisted for years doesn't happen overnight, but today he is improving. With each visit, the medical team is helping his body do something it hadn't been able to do for a very long time: heal.

For patients like Emmanuel, that's what consistent care makes possible. Not just relief in a moment, but the chance to come back, be treated again, and keep moving forward.

Helping Girls in Haiti, One Kit at a Time

When longtime FOTCOH supporter Mary Loftus traveled to Haiti many years ago, she saw a need that often goes unspoken.

Mary shared that need with her daughter, Kathy Goldrick, whose work with Days for Girls has been a passion for nearly a decade. Kathy immediately understood how helpful reusable period kits could be for girls and women served through FOTCOH.

A few kits made their way to Haiti through earlier trips. Then COVID interrupted travel, and the supply stopped, but the need did not.

Two years ago, Kathy reached out to FOTCOH to help restart the effort. Today, reusable period kits are sent to Haiti twice a year through the support of Days for Girls volunteers, Dominican Sisters, students, community members, and FOTCOH volunteers.

FOTCOH board member Julie DuBois, who has been involved with Days for Girls for nearly a decade and carried kits to Haiti on past medical trips, says the organization's work has helped women and girls around the world continue school, work, and family life with dignity.



Final step before these kits are packed and ready to go.

The kits provide practical support, privacy, and dignity during a normal part of life that can become much harder when reliable supplies are limited.

"Knowing that women in Haiti can navigate their monthly periods in a clean, healthy way gives our chapter great satisfaction," Kathy shared.

It's a beautiful reminder that care does not only happen in exam rooms. Sometimes it starts with someone seeing a need, and it grows because a community is willing to sit down at sewing machines, cut fabric, pack supplies, and help, arriving in Haiti carefully stitched by hand and ready to provide a solution.

A Partnership Rooted in Peoria: OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois

FOTCOH has always been powered by people who believe health care should reach farther.

That makes OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois sponsorship of the Vital Health Clinic especially meaningful. With deep roots in Peoria and a long history of medical professionals connected to both OSF and FOTCOH, this partnership reflects a shared commitment to caring for people who need consistent, trusted care.

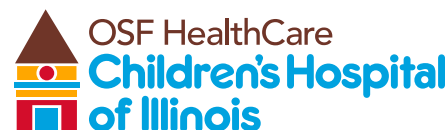
We are especially grateful to board member Jennifer Croland, Vice President Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer, OSF Health-

Care Saint Francis Medical Center, for helping strengthen this connection and support care for families in Haiti.

She shared, "The growth of the dental and vision programs over the past year is a beautiful example of mission in action. By expanding these services, Friends of the Children of Haiti is reaching more individuals and families, caring for

them in new ways and helping meet needs that deeply impact daily life and well-being. This work aligns closely with the OSF Mission of serving with the greatest care and love, and we are grateful to witness the impact of this expanding ministry."

Thank you, OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois, for standing with FOTCOH and help-



Expanding Clean Water Across Haiti

For years, FOTCOH has helped families in southeastern Haiti gain access to clean, safe drinking water through our WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Program. In partnership with Wine To Water, thousands of households have received water filters, hands-on training, and education that help prevent water-borne illness and improve everyday health.

Now, we're expanding that impact.

This year, FOTCOH launched **Water4All**, a new initiative that equips other nonprofit organizations across Haiti with the tools, training, and support they need to bring safe drinking water to their own communities.

Through our partnership with NGO Wine To Water, FOTCOH is now the exclusive distributor of Wine To Water DROP water filters in Haiti, allowing us to serve as a resource for organizations working throughout the country.

Through Water4All, partner organizations can receive:

- Affordable Wine To Water DROP water filters
- Household water filtration systems
- Train-the-trainer instruction for filter installation and maintenance
- WASH education for local communities
- Ongoing logistical and technical support from FOTCOH's WASH team

By sharing knowledge, resources, and trusted solutions, Water4All helps extend the reach of clean water



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Mission Moments: Upcoming Events

Vital Health Clinics:

July 6-16, 2026

October 5-15

Volunteer-Hosted Fundraisers:

Celebrating FOTCOH's Accomplishments

at the Glassy Pavilion, September 20, 2026, Glassy Mountain, SC

Judy Renick Memorial FOTCOH Golf Outing,

October 12, 2026, Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club, IL

Pints with a Purpose:

September 2026, Bust'd Brewing, Peoria Heights

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