



What's It Like?

Dear Friends,

When I returned from my first trip to Haiti in 2007, people asked, "what's it like?" The short answer was that I'd never experienced such a palpable sense of desperation. We have so much, and they have so little. Fast forward to today and, frustratingly, I can't answer "what's it's like?" from personal experience since mission trips were suspended in 2020 for safety reasons.

Still, I am proud that through MATH's continued remote support, Dr. Wilkens expertly leads the hospital staff in serving about 700 patients per month! This is no easy task considering the personal danger and shortages they face every day. I am equally proud that over 95% of every dollar you give to MATH serves our mission: *Helping Haitians Heal Haitians*.

As I write, a Kenyan police delegation has arrived in Haiti to assess security needs. Dr. Wilkens has expressed hope that if international police support comes to fruition, the power of the gangs will be overcome. We are all watching the situation closely. I hope the stories of significant accomplishment in this newsletter inspire you to give generously.

Kind regards,

Rick Thibadeau, President & Founder of MATH



IN MY OWN WORDS

Wilkens Gilbert, MD | Medical Director, Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne, and BOD Member

Often, I think my relationship with Dr. Tomas Gorin, who I consider my adoptive father, goes beyond luck. Perhaps it is appropriate to speak of a true destiny. Could sheer luck alone have brought about all this thrilling success? When I go back to my very early teens with the story of my hen in the spring of 1991 [*"operating" using a kitchen knife and my mother's sewing kit to remove a stone from its throat*], I did not yet know Dr. Tom. Our first meeting took place about 8 years later during my preparation to begin medical school. Is it chance, luck, or rather fate? Dr. Tom did not provide just occasional support but paid for my medical study fees and my books for 6 years. His action testifies to a pure love and a will to act and catalyze, marvelously, the destiny of a young person of different race and country who was totally unknown to him.

My first visit to Tom at his home in CT took place in the spring of 2007, when I had the pleasure of visiting the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) and where I met Michael D. Bourque MD (Pediatric Surgeon) [and distant cousin of Michael R. Bourque, MD Retired OB / GYN and MATH BOD]; who two years later would send me a precious gift: a textbook of surgical techniques that I still treasure today. It was a veritable bible to me during my specialized training in surgery.

My partnership with MATH is yet another major piece in this success-story puzzle. If Dr. Tom contributed to the preparation of the vector, MATH provided the logistics and the necessary armament in this great operation of ours that works to overcome the barriers to medical care in communities that are deprived of everything.

All in all, this amazing chronology feels like a real destiny, and I draw from it both comfort and the energy for resistance in the difficult times that I am currently experiencing in my country. *Thank you, and thank you again, for always being by our side.*

SAVE THE DATES AND JOIN US

<https://medicalaidtohaiti.org/events/>

October 20, 2023



October 22, 2023



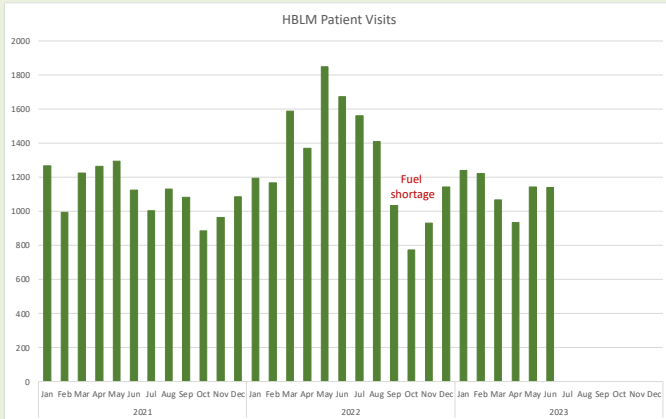
From Broadway to the Met!
Featuring Rochelle Bard and Friends

November 11 – 12, 2023





Dr. Wilkens recently said, “With regard to the relationship between the healthcare personnel and the community, I can affirm without ambiguity that this relationship embodies a reciprocal sense of hope. The dedication and self-transcendence displayed by our healthcare providers generates hope among the people served. The relief shown by the people inspires providers to redouble their efforts and believe that the best is yet to come.”



Healthcare services available 24 / 7 – with focus on primary / hospital care and pediatrics Monday-Saturday, surgery Tuesdays and Thursdays, maternal healthcare and ophthalmology Wednesdays, and dental Thursdays and Fridays. The nutrition program now includes an on-site Community Garden.



Emergency Triage



Patient Registration



Maternal Health Care



Pediatrics



Surgery



Hospital Care



Nutrition Program

“Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality.”
– Jonas Salk

Despite the daily risks and difficulties of violence, kidnapping, inflation, and shortages, the stories of hope generated by staff efforts and patient outcomes continue through your support and generosity.



*January (Facility)
Installation of three (3) reserve fuel tanks*



*February (Pediatrics)
Baby delivered at 32 weeks going home healthy after 22 days.*



*April (Dental Services)
On-site dental prosthetics service*



*June (Nutrition)
A field of corn and green beans in the Community Garden at HBLM*



*July (Operations)
Electronic medical records training*

Thank you to all who supported Winter White

Started by Kathy Aries RN, Maureen Corey RN, and other St. Francis Hospital Labor & Delivery Nurses, and with the generosity of Jimmy Cosgrove and the staff of Salute, Winter White has been a “fun(d)raising” event held on Super Bowl Sunday since 2015. Friends, mission team members, and supporters, new and old, gathered this year on 12 February and enjoyed the great food and camaraderie / remembrances of mission trips.



Friends, Family, and Supporters



Veteran Mission Team Members from the Early Days

Deliciousness by Salute

“Did I Win?”

Two-generation of Mission Team Members and the Family who Support Them



This annual event provides 15% in bonus bucks for all donations received during the Travelers Championship at TPC in Cromwell, CT. This year's goal was focused on raising funds for improving pediatrics and neonatal care, and imaging services at Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne.



Thank you to all who helped us raise ~\$25,000, and to Renee DiNino, Director of Community Affairs & Community Programming for iHeart Radio, for giving us the opportunity to raise awareness for our mission of *Helping Haitians Heal Haitians*.

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/139-community-access-26936016/episode/medical-aid-to-haiti-math-118000842/>

Do you have ~1.5 hours a month to spare?
Volunteers are needed for Finance, Marketing (social media skills)
and Development (grant writing)
 Contact MATH at medicalaidtohaiti@gmail.com for more information.

95%

of each dollar received goes directly to our mission

YOUR donations to MATH sustain the momentum of this good work and gives hope through healthcare

Wish List

- Ambulance stretcher (\$2,000)
- Second Anesthesia Machine (\$8,000)
- Electrosurgical Instrument (\$2,500)
- Incinerator (~\$20,000)
- Ophthalmic Microscope (\$8,000)
- Steam Sterilizer Installation (\$5,000)
- Portable X-ray Machine (\$30,000)
- Well (\$30,000)

| WALL OF GRATITUDE | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Anonymous Friend |  ARBELLA <small>INSURANCE GROUP CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC.</small> |  BOUVIER <small>INSURANCE</small> binsurance.com | Ed & Kate Cahill |  Farrell Family <small>FOUNDATION</small> |
|  | Lagnese Family Fund |  Sisters of Charity <i>of Our Lady Mother of Mercy</i> |  Rodos Foundation |  Saint Francis Hospital <small>Trinity Health</small> |

2023 Calendar

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| <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #c07040;"><u>Events</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #c07040;"><i>Autumn's Palette, 20 October 2023</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #c07040;"><i>From Broadway to the Met!, 22 October 2023</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #c07040;"><i>Craft Festival & Marketplace, 11 - 12 November 2023</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #c07040;"><i>Winter White Party, 11 February 2024</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #c07040;"><u>Mission Trips</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #c07040;"><i>Resumption of trips is unknown currently.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #c07040;"><i>Prepare to go by submitting your volunteer application at</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #c07040;"><i>https://medicalaidtohaiti.org/volunteers/forms/</i></p> |
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TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER, ADVOCATE OR FOLLOW US:



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 344 N. Main St, Suite 1, Marlborough, CT 06447
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