

# MATH News

Winter 2025

Issue 18

**M E D I C A L A I D T O H A I T I** Helping Haitians Heal Haitians



## 95% of your donation goes directly to where it's needed most!

Dear Friends,

The situation in Haiti seems to only worsen with each passing year, and now, many forms of aid from the US are in peril. To make matters worse, some of the largest aid providers have come under scrutiny for mismanagement of funds. Because of this news, and because the needs in Haiti are greater than ever, I wanted to reiterate the following information:

- Here in the US, MATH is an all-volunteer organization. Our overhead (i.e., expenses) amounts to approximately 5% of our annual budget making it possible for 95% of your donation to go directly to Haiti. Contrast this with many larger non-profit organizations where more than 50% of every dollar raised goes to overhead.
- Your contributions go directly to support our healthcare programs in Haiti. Funds are wired to our partner through a Haitian bank and are used exclusively for healthcare expenses including medication, supplies, and salaries. There is no intermediary or government involvement.

Suffice it to say that we take our fiduciary responsibility very seriously and through your generosity we continue to save lives in Haiti. Many thanks for your continued support.

*Rick Thibadeau, President & Founder of MATH*



## IN MY OWN WORDS

Anne D'Orvilliers | MATH Chair / Secretary

Recently on the eve of International Women's Day, I had the opportunity to listen in on a talk at Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne. Open to the community, the theme was *"How Haitian women can contribute to the improvement of the health system in Haiti."* Although my Haitian Creole is very limited, the knowledge and dedication of each presenter, and the enthusiasm and engagement of the participants were palpable.



The introduction by Dr. Marie paid tribute to the women who paved the way, broke taboos, and defied norms so women can, today, enter university and practice medicine with pride. Midwife Sara Jean emphasized the importance of education for Haitian women and girls so that they can break the barriers; and Midwife Valerie stressed the need to teach women and girls about their rights and the importance of speaking about the barriers.



In 1940, Yvonne Sylvain became the first Haitian female doctor in Haiti dedicating her career as an OB / GYN to caring, campaigning, and paving the way for generations of Haitian women to be able to wear a white coat today. The team at HBLM is 75% women, and Dr. Wilkens and staff are building a team of respect, based on their qualifications and professional skills, regardless of gender, position, etc.



*Congratulations to all who are paying it forward.*

## THANK YOU



We wish **John Chapman** all the best as he retires from the BOD. We are grateful for his dedication and commitment to fiduciary responsibility as Treasurer over the last 14 years.



**Kevin Hughes** joins the BOD as Treasurer bringing over 35 years of experience in administrative, finance, human resources, and grantsmanship skills in the non-profit arena.



**Colindall Gilles** brings his social media skills to enhance our visibility to users of Facebook and Instagram through inspiring posts of milestones achieved.

## WELCOME TO NEW VOLUNTEERS

**Do you have ~1.5 hours a month to spare? Bring your skills, ideas, and passion to the BOD, Finance, Marketing and Development (grant writing)**  
**Contact MATH at [medicalaidtohaiti@gmail.com](mailto:medicalaidtohaiti@gmail.com) for more information.**

## Partnership with Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne



As we reflect on the work that has been accomplished over the last 15 years, and consider the plans for 2025 and beyond, Dr. Wilkens, Dr. Pateau, and the staff of Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne continue to show us how to move forward with hope and determination generated by patient outcomes enabled through your support and generosity.

24 / 7 healthcare and emergency services continue, and 2024 saw additions and improvements in serving the local community and now, villagers from areas that no longer have access to healthcare due to clinic and hospital closures.

### Pediatric Services

In December 2024, Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne proudly opened the new Pediatrics Ward, a space designed to give children the comfort and support they need while receiving medical treatment. This achievement was also made possible by the shared commitment to the well-being of the children by local skilled craftsmen, who were instrumental in constructing 10 cribs needed to outfit the ward.



### Imaging Services

One of the greatest challenges in providing healthcare in remote areas is access to diagnostic tools. In November 2024, x-ray services were opened with the delivery of the portable x-ray machine, procured through the funds donated from the 2023 Birdies for Charity program, and completion of a lead-lined room. Providers now have on-site diagnostic capability, and patients no longer need to travel long distances for essential imaging services.



### Congratulations to Dr. Wilkens and Staff

On behalf of HBLM, Dr. Wilkens accepted a plaque in appreciation of their service to the community of Marlique from the Church of the Nazarene.





# Thank you to all who supported our 2024 events



[www.waterlanternfestival.com](http://www.waterlanternfestival.com)

Past mission team members, Sarah Bowlann, Anne D'Orvilliers, Donna Denault, Heather Devendorf, Maggie Levasseur and supporter Pat Devendorf came together at Mill Pond Park in Newington, CT, to help set-up and staff areas for this outreach event, which symbolizes hope, renewal, and respect for the dead.



The evening was an engaging event hosted at The Town & County Club in Hartford, with 10 teams competing in a friendly game of trivia emceed by Brian Harris of Bar Rated Entertainment, and a new Cork Pull "fun"draising raffle.



Audrey Byrnett and Lorri Chapman did another amazing job of coordinating vendors and volunteers for this legacy event. Round Hill Alpacas are always a favorite attraction, and the variety and quality items available from over 40 skilled crafters bring in the shoppers for early Christmas shopping and to enjoy the festivities, music, and homemade soups. Crafter Adele London received a holder handmade in Haiti from recycled 55-gallon oil drums in appreciation for her 10 years of participation.

Thank you to all who staffed the MATH table and / or helped with set-up, clean-up, and kitchen duty –Barbara Bourque, Mike Bourque, Nancy Cocchiola, Anne D'Orvilliers, Jody Dowling, Victor Dowling, Cari Klick, Steve Klick, Kathy Messier, Ken Messier, Giuliana Musilli, Eileen Thibadeau, and Rick Thibadeau.

**Mark your calendars for 15 – 16 November 2025.**





Sponsored by



**MATH is again registered for the Travelers Championship Birdies for Charity program, which provides 15% in bonus bucks for all donations received before June 22, 2025.**

**Thank you to all who helped us raise ~\$45,000 in 2024.** Arrangements are underway to ship 2 incubators, donated by SOMA Tech Intl (Bloomfield, CT), and other medical supplies that will enhance the neonatal and pediatric services at Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne.

Drs. Wilkens Gilbert and Daniel Jean (OB-GYN) have been selected by the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (Ministry of Public Health and Population) to undergo training in laparoscopic surgical techniques, providing less invasive surgery and shorter recovery time for patients. So, this year's goal is focused on funds needed to enhance and expand surgical services, e.g., a second anesthesia machine, and laparoscopic equipment and tools.

[https://partnerhq.com/public/events/2025-travelers-championship-birdies-for-charity/organization\\_partnerships/4236](https://partnerhq.com/public/events/2025-travelers-championship-birdies-for-charity/organization_partnerships/4236)

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

**95%**

of each dollar received goes directly to our project

#### Wish List

OR Lamp (\$5,000)  
 Drager Fabius GS Anesthesia Machine (\$10,000)  
 Laparoscopic surgery tools and cart (\$100,000)  
 Colposcope (\$2,000)  
 Autorefractor (\$3,000)  
 Ophthalmic Microscope (\$10,000)  
 Digital Dental X-ray Sensor System (\$2,000)  
 Steam Sterilizer Installation (\$5,000)  
 Ambulance Stretcher (\$2,500)  
 Incinerator (\$20,000)  
 Well Drilling (\$30,000)

#### WALL OF GRATITUDE

Anonymous Friend



Ed & Kate Cahill



Lagnese Family Fund



Sisters of Charity  
of Our Lady Mother of Mercy



Rodos Foundation



Saint Francis Hospital  
Trinity Health

#### 2025 Calendar

##### Events

Hoops for Hope, 03 April 2025  
 Birdies for Charity Program, 16 – 22 June 2025  
 Fall Event, TBD  
 Craft Festival & Marketplace, 15 – 16 November 2025

##### Mission Trips

Resumption of trips is unknown, but virtual seminars on various medical topics are being held.

Prepare to go by submitting your volunteer application at <https://medicalaidtohaiti.org/volunteers/forms/> or contact us if you have a topic you could present.

#### TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER, ADVOCATE, OR FOLLOW US:



facebook.com/MATHaiti



@medicalaidtohaiti



@MATHaiti



Medical Aid to Haiti, Inc.  
 29 South Main St, Floor 4, West Hartford, CT 06107  
 To donate or for more information, please call 860-760-7009, email to [medicalaidtohaiti@gmail.com](mailto:medicalaidtohaiti@gmail.com) or visit us at <https://medicalaidtohaiti.org/>

##### MATH Board of Directors

Pierre Antoine, Michael R. Bourque MD, Anne D'Orvilliers, Victor Dowling, Gerald H. Galipeau DMin, Thomas H. Gorin MD, Kevin Hughes, Maggie Levasseur RN, Giuliana Musilli, Sachin Parekh MD, Richard Thibadeau, Gilbert Wilkens MD