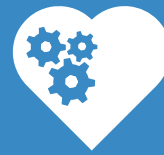


# Annual Report

July 2016 - June 2017



**94 Life Saving  
Surgeries**



**943 Cardiac  
Exams**



**\$2,800  
To Save a Life**

Dear Friends,

We just returned from Haiti after a weekend of cardiac clinics in Port-au-Prince with our partner Hospital, St. Luke, and in Montrouis, an hour out of the capital with our friends at Kay Mackenson clinic. We saw over 40 patients on this trip – kids with congenital heart disease requiring urgent surgeries and older kids and young adults with valvular heart disease. In this one weekend we saw more patients with rheumatic valve disease than I (Jim) had seen in all my years of practice in the States.

Over this year we're proud to say that with our partners we've been able to accomplish nearly 100 heart surgeries for Haitian children and young adults who would otherwise have died of untreated heart disease, and we've examined nearly 1000 patients and gotten them diagnosed and started on medications to help tide them over while on the path to life-saving surgery.

Just as important as hands-on patient treatment, however, has been the deepening of partnerships and relationships with our Haitian colleagues, so that we can continue to support their vision and leadership as they extend sustainable, high-quality cardiac services to their fellow citizens. Dr. Alexandra Noisette, a Haitian pediatrician who works at the country's only children's hospital, is an invaluable partner in diagnosing and managing children with congenital heart disease, even as she continues to expand her expertise through training and mentorship opportunities both in Haiti and abroad.

Elsewhere in the country, Haitian colleagues at Hospital Sacre Coeur, in the far north, diagnose and treat children and adults with heart disease on a daily basis; doctors and technicians in Pignon, in the country's interior, are learning to implant and manage pacemakers; and our cardiologist colleagues working in the private sector in Port-au-Prince continue to share their vision and leadership for the future of cardiac care in their

country. Meanwhile, we're now finalizing an opportunity for a Haitian to undergo multi-year training overseas to become a professional echocardiography technician.

Despite all of this exciting momentum, much more work remains. Our diagnosed patients are not reaching surgery quickly enough, and in the past year alone over 50 operable patients died while waiting for a surgical slot to open for them. One little girl we saw over the last trip succumbed despite medications while waiting for her surgical slot – which would have likely had come in a few days. This would never have happened in the States. In addition, without critical infrastructure such as a cardiac catheterization lab and an operative suite for adult patients, many of our patients will have no option but to continue to seek cardiac care outside of Haiti, instead of in their own country. Together with our partners in Haiti and overseas, we are working with urgency to address these challenges.

On behalf of our patients and their families, we thank you for your generosity and encouragement over the past several years since our founding – and we ask you to continue to support this important work so that together we can achieve our goal of establishing sustainable, high-quality, Haitian-led cardiac care that is accessible to all Haitians who need it.



Dr. Jim Wilentz  
Board Chair



Owen Robinson  
Executive Director



## GUERLINE

is a 12-year-old girl from the mountains of central Haiti who suffered a rheumatic fever at age eight that severely damaged her heart's valves. By age nine, she was too sick to attend school, and over the next several years she was hospitalized more than thirty times due to the severity of her heart illness. Guerline was examined repeatedly by visiting cardiologists who felt that she was too sick to attempt surgery, and who recommended palliative end-of-life care. The team from Health City Cayman Islands, however, was willing to give her a chance at life; in December 2016, Guerline underwent an extremely difficult surgery followed by a long period of recovery in ICU. Not long ago, Guerline dressed up in her school uniform for the first time in years, and is now attending classes and making friends in her newly strengthened heart.



## ARIA

is a 1-year-old girl who was diagnosed in infancy with a large hole between the two lower chambers of her heart. Because she was so sickly as an infant, her mother felt overwhelmed and unable to care for her, and left her at a local hospital where she was treated medically and enrolled in an orphanage. Because of Aria's orphaned status, it was nearly impossible to consider obtaining a passport so that she could travel abroad for surgery. Fortunately, HCA has worked in partnership with other organizations to establish an in-country surgical program in Port-au-Prince that is capable of repairing heart defects like Aria's. In May 2017, the hole in Aria's heart was surgically closed in Haiti; she is now thriving, gaining weight, and living an active and healthy life.



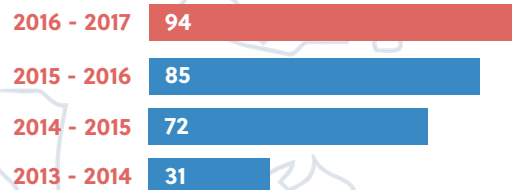
# What Haiti Cardiac Alliance Does



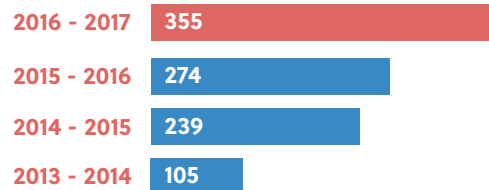
- We **screen and diagnose** hundreds of young Haitians each year who have cardiac symptoms.
- We maintain a **comprehensive national database and triaged waiting list** of all Haitian patients judged to require cardiac surgery, as well as those who have already had surgery and those who are being followed medically.
- We serve as a **primary point of contact** for children with heart disease and their families, answering their questions and keeping them informed at every step of the process.
- We **develop the final candidate lists** for in-country surgical missions and **coordinate the logistics, transport and social work** to assure that the patients and their parents or caregivers are present for examination and surgical selection.
- We **present patient cases to a broad network of overseas hospitals**, and arrange all logistics of getting patients and families to and from their surgical site, including travel, visa, local hosting, translation, and social work accompaniment.
- We **take primary responsibility for clinical follow-up of cardiac patients after surgery**: for five years in the majority of cases, and for life in the case of patients with mechanical valves.
- We engage with partners in **developing and supporting a strategy for permanent, Haitian-led cardiac capacity in Haiti**.

# HCA by the Numbers\*

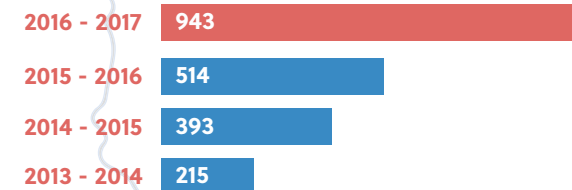
**94** Patients Received Heart Surgery



**355** Patients on HCA Waiting List

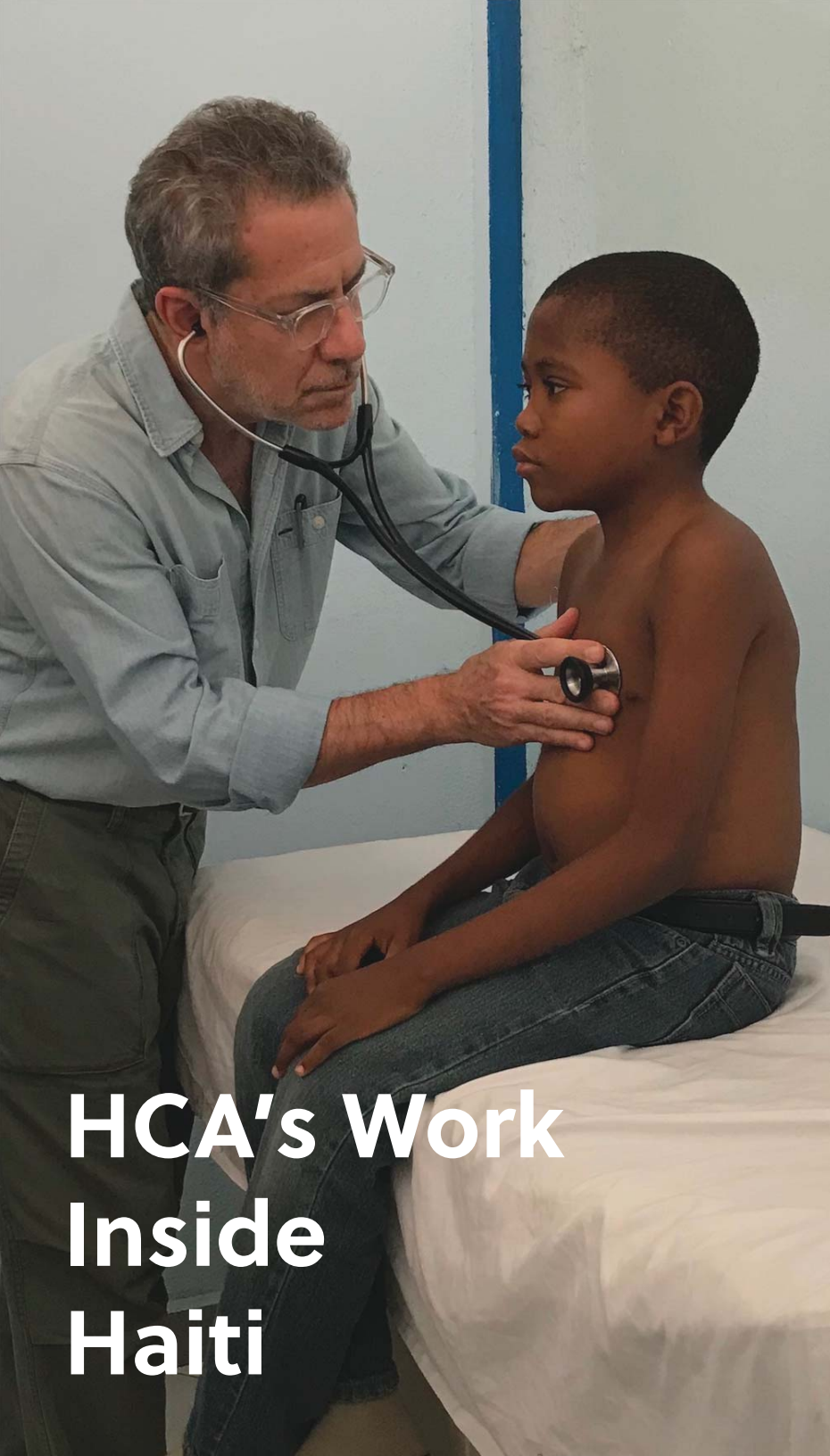


**943** Diagnoses and Exams Performed



- From July 2016 – June 2017, **26 patients** (31% of total) had heart surgery within Haiti itself
- In the second half of 2017, an additional **45 patients** underwent heart surgery in 5 different countries
- Our overall program mortality rate remains below **5%**

\* statistics are through the end of the latest fiscal year, which ended June 30th, 2017



# HCA's Work Inside Haiti

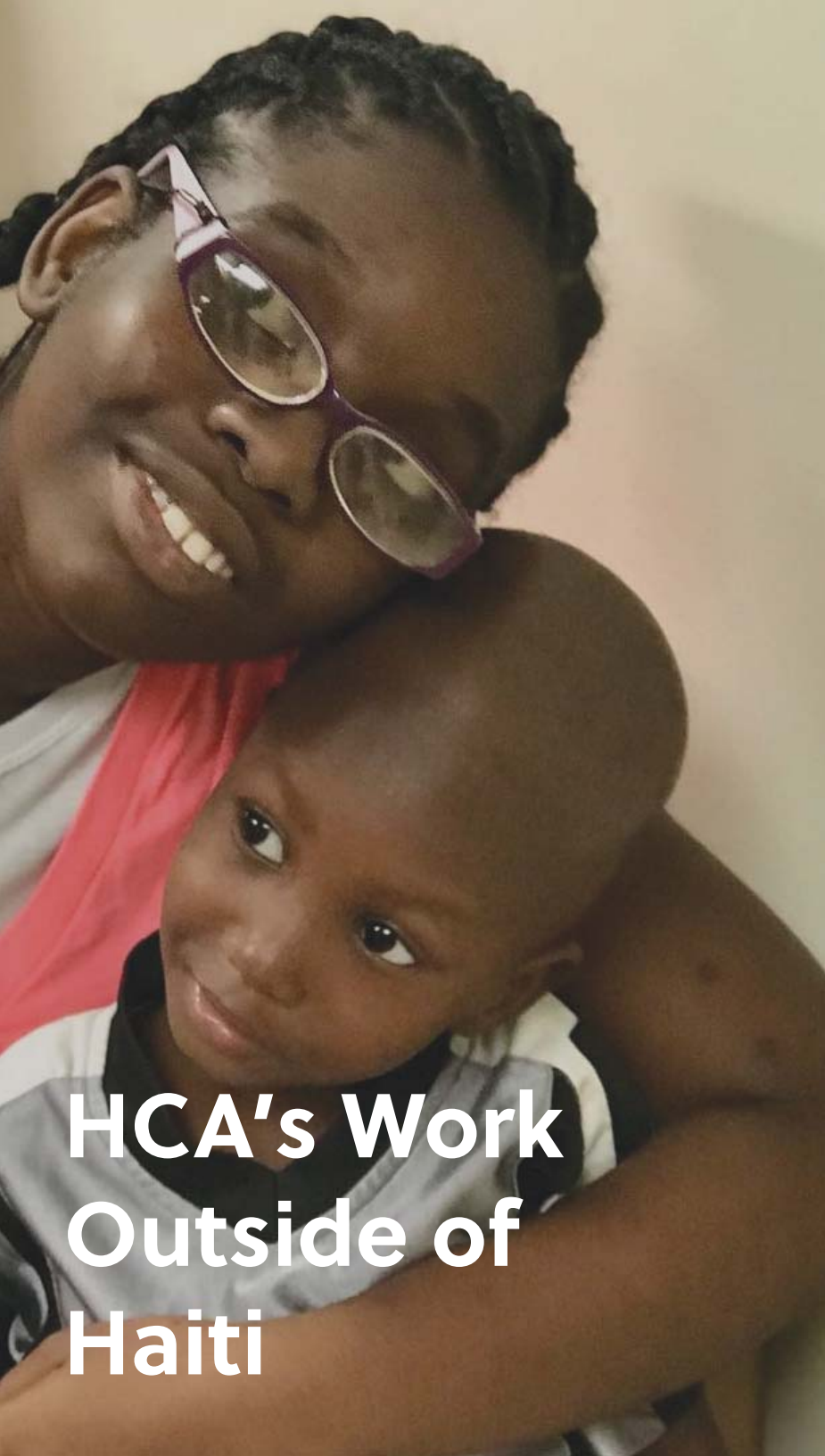
We are **strengthening our in-country social work capacity** in order to form deeper bonds of trust and accompaniment with the families we serve. In the past year, we have added two new professional social workers to our team, and have set a goal of interacting with each family awaiting surgery at least once a month. By doing so, we can better understand their situation and needs, and build relationships that will carry through their surgeries and for years beyond.

We are **continuing our work with a coalition of partners who perform pediatric open-heart surgery within Haiti**. We coordinate the selection, pre-operative workup, and long-term follow-up of these children and help to facilitate financing for the missions. During the past year, 23 children underwent heart surgery within Haiti, by teams that included Haitian doctors and nurses working alongside international colleagues.

With our partners, we are **training the next generation of Haitian doctors and nurses to diagnose and treat cardiac disease**. For the first time, a Haitian pediatrician with in-depth pediatric cardiology training has been able to begin offering a regular cardiology service at Haiti's only children's hospital, diagnosing and following hundreds of patients. We are now working closely with the hospital's administration to develop a genuine department of pediatric cardiology, with nursing and social work support, in order to continue this momentum.

Lastly, we are **continuing to advocate internationally for the development of a cardiac catheterization lab and other key cardiac infrastructure** within the near future. By bringing stakeholders together and demonstrating the specific patient needs, we hope to channel expertise and investment into the areas that need them most.





## HCA's Work Outside of Haiti

As in years past, Health City Cayman Islands and Have a Heart Cayman have continued to share their exceptional generosity and expertise with the people of Haiti, performing 56 surgeries and working with us to diagnose hundreds more. Cayman Airways, meanwhile, generously offers deeply discounted charter arrangements to move patients and their parents between the two islands.

Our international network of hospitals to which we refer patients also continues to grow, including a ground-breaking new partnership with a coalition of US and Dominican hospitals and organizations that are beginning to offer surgical opportunities in Santo Domingo to Haitian young adults with rheumatic heart disease.

Finally, HCA is beginning to work with partners in other countries to replicate aspects of the HCA model, and to facilitate opportunities for surgery for children beyond Haiti. In the past year, HCA has worked closely with new partners to arrange surgery for children from countries as varied as the Philippines; Sierra Leone; Yemen; and Dominican Republic.

# HCA's Stewardship of Donor Support

At HCA, we focus intently on stewarding our resources so that as many patients can be treated as cost-effectively as possible – we spent on average less than \$2,800 for every surgery we facilitated last year – while running a modest surplus each year in order to ensure our long-term financial stability, so that we can be sure to fulfill our promises of long-term clinical follow-up to the children and families who are in our care.

## BALANCE SHEET (June 30, 2017)

Cash & Cash Equivalents:	\$175,481
Fixed Assets:	\$16,995
Total Receivables:	\$0
Total Liabilities:	\$1,185
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$193,661</b>

## OPERATING STATEMENT (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

<i>Operating Revenues</i>	
Unrestricted Donations:	\$253,281
Designated for Diagnosis, Surgery, & Follow-Up:	\$212,372
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$465,653</b>
 <i>Operating Expenses</i>	
Program - Surgical Matching & Travel	\$136,860
Program - Diagnosis & Follow-Up	\$65,673
Program - Direct Patient Care	\$13,705
Program - Surgical Partner Support	\$76,000
<b>PROGRAM SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$292,238</b>
Administration/Office:	\$41,058
Fundraising:	\$12,852
<b>ADMIN/FUNDRAISING SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$53,911</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE:</b>	<b>\$346,148</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS:</b>	<b>\$119,505</b>



# Our Core Partners

## Sustaining Financial & In-Kind Support



## Surgical Treatment



## In-Country Patient Care & Accompaniment



## Leading Supporters

\$10,000+

Brad and Mary Burnham  
Edwards LifeSciences Foundation  
The Hess Foundation  
Craig Russell and Dr. Pamela Jones  
Robin Maxwell  
NYDG Foundation  
Dr. James Wilentz

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Kirk and Peggy Davenport  
Julie and Matthew Richardson

## Board Members

Dr. James Wilentz, *Board Chair*  
Daniel Condon, CPA, *Board Treasurer*  
Robin Maxwell, *Board Secretary*  
Alison Curry  
Owen Robinson  
William Van Pelt



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## Key Volunteers

Diane Bueker  
Dr. Martine Canal  
Dr. John Clark  
Dr. Michael Crapanzano  
Dr. Ismail El-Hamamsy  
Jackie King  
Keith King  
Dr. Hugues Lucron  
Jennifer McCarthy  
Courtney Scott  
Dr. Greg Tatum  
Dr. Sripadh Upadhya  
Andi Wilson

## Haiti Cardiac Alliance Staff

Owen Robinson, *Executive Director*  
Kessy Acceme, *Patient Coordinator*  
Steeve Andre, *Patient Social Worker*  
Dr. Samantha Lacossade, *Patient Social Worker*  
Nedgine Casseus, *Patient Social Worker*  
Dr. Martine Canal, *Pediatric Consultant*

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