



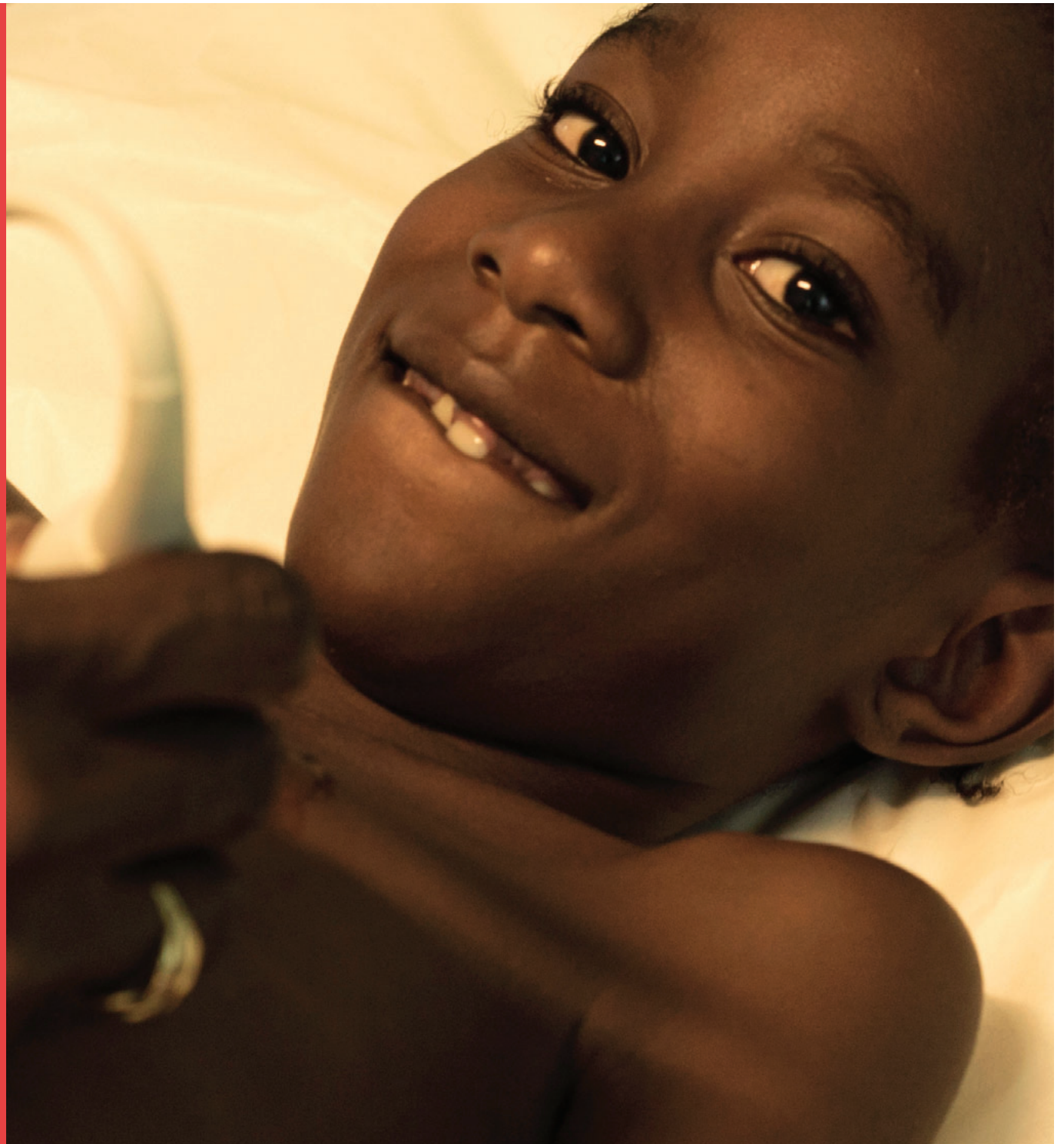
HAITI
CARDIAC
ALLIANCE

Annual Report 2019

Over 60 Life Saving Surgeries ❤️ Over 1000 Exams

**Connecting
children with
life-saving
heart surgery.**

**Building
permanent
in-country
solutions.**



From Our Co-Founders

Dear friends,

Like so many of you, our team at Haiti Cardiac Alliance has spent the first part of 2020 adjusting to a reality far different from anything we could have imagined. We first started to see the impact of COVID-19 on our work in early February, when three of our young Haitian children who were scheduled for heart surgery in South Korea had their trips postponed indefinitely. In the weeks that followed, we cautiously but optimistically continued preparing dozens of other patients for surgical trips abroad, making visa appointments and finalizing surgical dates. Then, as so many of you also experienced, all of these plans came to a halt over just a few days in mid-March. The families whose trips were canceled were understandably devastated – all the more so because many of their surgeries had already been delayed due to a wave of civil unrest in Haiti in 2019.

Were we discouraged? Absolutely – every one of those surgical cancellations came after countless hours of hard work, planning, and persistence on the part of our team and each patient's family. But are we defeated? Not at all. Over the past six years, we have built Haiti Cardiac Alliance to be resilient enough to

endure through the unexpected while continuing our forward progress. **We've done this by building deep relationships with our patients, their families, and with our partners in the Haitian medical community; by encouraging our fantastic Haitian team's resourcefulness and creativity as they have worked to find practical solutions to each patient's challenges; and by staying intently focused on our long-term goal of sustainable, Haitian-led cardiac care for all Haitians who need it.**

HCA's model underwent a real-world test in 2019 as civil unrest throughout Haiti brought the country to a near-standstill. Roadblocks and violence made even simple tasks like medication refills time-consuming, expensive, and risky for our patients; and the logistics involved in getting our patients to surgery became exponentially more difficult for our team to manage. As you'll read in these pages, though, **we persevered and succeeded in getting 66 children and young adults to hospitals around the world for life-saving surgeries – all while maintaining the excellent clinical outcomes and high cost-effectiveness that have been so important to us from day one.** At a time when many other organizations were unable to continue their work in Haiti at all, we couldn't be prouder of what we achieved

in 2019 and how strongly our model performed in the face of adversity.

As we look to the rest of 2020 and beyond, we know that navigating this new reality will require us to summon all of our creativity, flexibility, and resourcefulness so that our patients can continue to access the life-saving care they so urgently need. Until the pandemic is behind us, it may be slower going, more complicated, and yes, more expensive to do this. But with your continued support, we plan to meet the future with confidence and optimism – hundreds of Haitian families expect no less from us!

Best,

Jim and Owen



Jim Wilentz, Board Chair



Owen Robinson, Executive Director

HCA's Work Inside Haiti

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The year 2019 brought a new era of political crisis to the country of Haiti: burning barricades, violent street protests, and a widespread breakdown in law and order gripped the country in early February 2019 and persisted throughout the entire year. Although three children did undergo surgery in Haiti at the beginning of 2019, we quickly realized that the 40-50 other surgeries we had hoped to perform within Haiti itself in 2019 would not be possible. In the midst of the political crisis, we shifted our focus to helping dozens of families to overcome the many obstacles within Haiti so that they could travel internationally for heart surgery -- in many cases, literal roadblocks that prevented families from physically reaching pharmacies, cardiology clinics, passport offices, embassies, and airports.

HCA's model of consistent, personalized social-work accompaniment of every family in our program was crucial to our ability to succeed

under these circumstances. HCA's patient and family accompaniment included:

- Monthly check-in phone calls, and quarterly in-person medical appointments, for every patient awaiting surgery;
- Regular medication reviews and resupply to avoid interruption;
- Direct transportation assistance to families throughout Haiti, including air charter when needed;
- Short-term lodging and meals in Port-au-Prince for rural families;
- Nutritional, financial, and housing support to families experiencing especially extreme poverty.

By sticking closely to the integrated medical-social model that we had developed during calmer (though still challenging) times in Haiti, HCA's team was able to maintain our impact: by the end of the year, over 60 children and young adults had overcome the odds and reached international hospitals for heart surgery.

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HCA's Work Outside Haiti

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Throughout the year, over 125 Haitians (patients, parents, and social workers) traveled outside of Haiti – almost all of them for the first time in their lives – on international journeys sponsored and arranged by Haiti Cardiac Alliance. These trips involved countless medical, social, and logistical complexities and challenges, many of them happening simultaneously across multiple continents and in multiple languages. HCA's deepening experience in managing international medical travel helped us ensure that not only did patients receive the life-saving treatment they needed, but that the travel experiences were as rewarding and positive as possible for everyone involved, with new friendships and lifetime memories made.

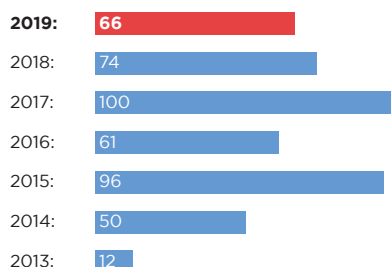
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One of our most important accomplishments outside of Haiti in 2019 was a long-term investment in Haiti's future. Steeve Andre, who began his career with HCA as a clinical social worker, spent 18 months in Bengaluru, India training to become Haiti's first-ever specialized echocardiography technician, returning home to Haiti at the end of 2019. Steeve's presence in Haiti will dramatically reduce the wait times for Haitian patients to obtain routine echocardiograms, and enable HCA and our partners to reduce our reliance on fly-in medical volunteers to provide diagnosis and follow-up.

HCA by the Numbers*

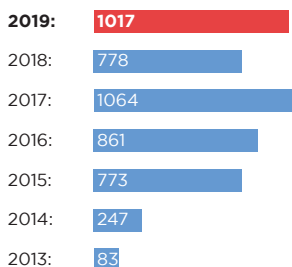
66

Patients Underwent Heart Surgery



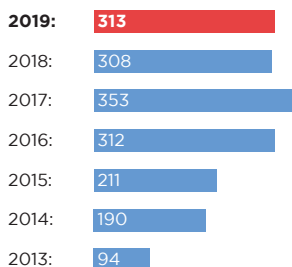
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Cardiac Exams Performed



313

Patients on Active Waiting List



• Patients underwent surgery in 9 countries: Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cayman Islands South Korea, India, USA, Canada, France, and Spain

• Long-term survival of all of our operated patients stands at 94.9%



Stewardship of Donor Support

Balance Sheet (June 30th 2019)

Cash & Cash Equivalents:	\$ 161,827
Fixed Assets:	\$ 27,376
Total Receivables:	0
Total Liabilities:	\$ 3,346
Net Assets:	\$ 185,857

Operating Statement (July 1st 2018 to June 30th 2019)

Operating Revenue

Total Operating Revenue:	\$ 371,888
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Operating Expenses

Program: Surgical Matching and Travel:	\$ 278,073
Program: Diagnosis and Follow-Up:	\$ 61,055
Program: Direct Patient Care:	\$ 35,166
Program Subtotal:	\$ 374,294
Administration/Office:	\$ 45,507
Fundraising:	\$ 16,875
Admin/Fundraising Subtotal:	\$ 62,382
Total Operating Expense:	\$ 436,676
Net Deficit:	\$ 64,788

Note: As we have described, Haiti's political unrest in 2019 made it necessary for HCA to support each of our patient families more intensely – and for a much higher proportion of these families to travel outside of the country for surgery. As such, HCA made a deliberate and carefully planned decision this year to draw a modest amount from our “rainy-day reserve” funds to ensure that we could help as many patients as possible access the treatment they needed, while remaining financially healthy and stable as an organization.



Patients in Focus

Woodmylens, age 5

When Woodmylens was only four years old, he was struck with a sore throat and fever that wouldn't go away. His family lived high in the mountains of southeastern Haiti, far from a clinic or hospital; his mother gave him traditional home remedies, but watched him get weaker and sicker until they feared for his life. Finally, they took him to the children's hospital in Port-au-Prince where HCA's team diagnosed him with Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD), explained that he needed surgery, and began working on his passport.

Several months later, with his passport in hand, HCA obtained a surgical slot for Woodmylens in Santo Domingo, with our partners at The Mitral Foundation and CEDIMAT. When we called the family to share the good news, however, we discovered that their telephones had been disconnected – a potential life-or-death emergency, as we

had only days to get him to the Dominican Republic. Since the family had no specific address in our files, our program manager Kessy Acceme got in his car with a photo of the boy on his phone, and drove to the general area where we believed he lived. After approaching dozens of strangers to ask if they recognized the child's face, Kessy finally found someone who could direct him to the family's small farm. Days later, Woodmylens and his father were on their way to meet the surgical team.

Woodmylens's surgery was very successful – the surgeon, Dr. David Adams, was able to repair the child's damaged valve instead of replacing it, which will allow him to live a normal life without blood-thinning medications or the need for further surgery. Woodmylens is now growing and thriving, and was able to start kindergarten in the fall of 2019.



Patients in Focus

Wilanka, age 15

Wilanka lives with her mother and aunt in a small village in the far northwestern part of Haiti, a journey of nearly 10 hours from Port-au-Prince. In 2016, HCA diagnosed Wilanka with a hole between the two lower chambers of her heart; she remained on HCA's long waiting list for over three years before finally getting the opportunity to have the surgery she needed, at our partner hospital in Kochi, India.

Just as HCA was getting ready to arrange travel visas and purchase plane tickets for Wilanka and her aunt, a new wave of political protests rocked Haiti – and Wilanka's community was completely cut off from the rest of the country, with protesters digging deep trenches across the only road leaving the region so that no vehicles could pass. Since the group trip to India could not be postponed, it seemed likely that Wilanka would miss her opportunity for surgery,

and would need to be replaced by another child on the list.

Shortly before the planned departure to India, HCA was able to reach a pilot with a small propeller plane who was willing to land on a grass airstrip near Wilanka's village, pick her up, and fly her over the barricades to Port-au-Prince. But a major hurdle still remained: the India medical visas and US transit visas that Wilanka needed normally take several weeks to arrange, and we had only days. Thankfully, HCA had remained in close touch with the American embassy and Indian consulate to update them on Wilanka's ordeal – and once she reached the capital, both countries issued travel visas immediately. A short time later, Wilanka was in the air to Fort Lauderdale and then onward to Dubai and India. She had a successful surgery, returned to Haiti, and is now healthy and symptom-free for the first time in many years.



Thousands of Lives Changed Since 2013

2013

We register as a 501(c)3 nonprofit and open an office in Boston, MA. Jonathan, our first official patient, has life-saving valve surgery in Dominican Republic.



2015

In-country heart surgeries begin at St. Damien Hospital in partnership with Gift of Life International.



2017

We have our most active surgical year to date, with nearly 100 patients operated worldwide. We expand our Haiti-based social work team to provide stronger wrap-around support to our patients and families.



2019

One of our team members completes two years of international training to become Haiti's first full-time echocardiographer. We partner closely with St. Damien Hospital to open Haiti's first outpatient center for pediatric cardiology.



2014

We begin a surgical partnership with Health City Cayman Islands that has gone on to treat over 110 children to date.



2016

The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano begins partnering with us to treat young adults with Rheumatic Heart Disease.



2018

We expand treatment options for Haitians by beginning long-distance surgical trips to hospitals in India.



Our Core Partners



Haiti Treatment Partners



International Treatment Partners



Other Partners



Leading Supporters:

\$10,000+

Edwards LifeSciences Foundation
The Hess Foundation
Dr. Richard Hubbard and Dr. Shira Goldstein
The Lewis Family
Watsi Foundation
Dr. Jim Wilentz and Robin Maxwell

\$5,000+

Dr. John Carroll
Dr. Michael Crapanzano
Kirk and Peggy Davenport
Peter and Erin Friedland
Dr. David Moore
Matthew and Julie Richardson
Peter Craig Russell and Pamela Jones



Key Volunteers:

Kimberly Chadwell
Margaret Challenger
Dr. Michael Crapanzano
Sherry Swanson
Mickey Wilder
Dr. David Zientek

Board Members:

Dr. James Wilentz, chair
Alison Curry
Dr. Richard Hubbard
Robin Maxwell
Owen Robinson
Roy South, treasurer
William Van Pelt

Haiti Cardiac Alliance Staff:

Owen Robinson, executive director
Kessy Acceme, program manager
Dr. Samantha Lacossade, clinical coordinator
Steeve Andre, echocardiography technician
Benissoit Gue, social worker

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A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization
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US Office:
47 Maple Street, Suite 213
Burlington, VT 05401 USA
Tel: +1 617 447 7288

Haiti Office:
Complexe Caraibes, 2nd Floor
Boulevard 15 de Octobre
Tabarre 55, Ouest
Tel: +509 3605 8565
www.haiticardiac.org

