



HAITI
CARDIAC
ALLIANCE

Annual Report

2018

74 Life Saving Surgeries 778 Cardiac Exams \$2,800 To Save a Life

This past year, our fifth since we started HCA in 2013, has been a banner year for us. By the time you receive this report we will have passed the 400th patient who has been treated with life-saving cardiac intervention under our auspices. Meanwhile, our partner Dr. Alexandra Noisette has returned from her training at Hôpital Necker in Paris, and is now working closely with our team as Haiti's first ever full-time pediatric cardiologist! HCA's own social worker, Steeve Andre, is also midway through 18 months of cardiac ultrasonography training in Bangalore, India; when he returns to Haiti at the end of 2019, he will also begin seeing patients on a daily basis, taking us even further toward the goal of permanent and sustainable cardiology capacity in Haiti. Even as we work toward this long-term vision, during 2018 we worked closely with volunteers and partners to examine and prescribe treatment for nearly 800 children and young adults; facilitate surgery for 26 Haitian children within Haiti itself; and arrange surgery outside of the country for an additional 48 patients whose cases were too complex to do in country.

Partnerships remain at the core of what we do and how we do it. We continue to work closely with Kay Mackenson Clinic to ensure the safe follow-up of our patients who have implanted heart valves, including monitoring their blood anticoagulation at home with point-of-care testing machines. We also remain part of an active coalition of partners who are dedicated to making heart surgery available within Haiti itself, including St. Damien Hospital, Gift of Life International, Akron Children's Hospital, and Rotary International. Finally, we are partnering with hospitals and organizations around the world – from the Dominican Republic, to the United States, to India – to make life-saving surgeries available to children and young adults throughout the year.

Although we continue to make important strides forward, we also face ongoing challenges in our work. As many of you know, Haiti has entered a new period of especially severe political unrest, including roadblocks and street violence; these events have been extremely disruptive to the health care system and have required us and our partners to cancel a number of planned screening and surgical visits to ensure the safety of our medical volunteers. This brings to the fore the inextricable link between political systems and healthcare delivery. In the short term, we are responding to this challenge by arranging surgery for increasing numbers of our Haitian patients in other countries – sometimes as far away as Delhi – in order to provide avenues to quality, life-saving care as cost-effectively as we can. Although this work does not directly further our goal of developing a sustainable cardiac program in Haiti, it does help us to reduce the impact of these political events upon the patients and families who are most in need of cardiac care.

It is our fervent hope that Haiti will return to peace and stability as quickly as possible. In the meantime, we will continue, with our donors' help, to do what needs to be done for these children on the waiting list, whether that means securing treatment for them within Haiti; elsewhere in the Caribbean; or around the world. We are also actively exploring new areas of activity, potentially growing to adapt our proven model in Haiti to other countries with cardiac health care disparities.

We take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for your generosity since our founding five years ago – and we ask you to continue to support this important work.



Dr. Jim Wilentz
Board Chair



Owen Robinson
Executive Director



Kesny, age 17, and HCA executive director Owen Robinson visiting with our partner Dr. Paul Farmer of Partners in Health, just before Kesny's successful heart surgery in Texas.

HCA'S WORK



Dr. Jim Wilentz examining a cardiac patient in an HCA screening clinic in December 2018

INSIDE HAITI

In 2018, we worked closely with our partners to continue Haiti's transition from a "fly-in" model for pediatric cardiac care, to a model that is permanent, sustainable, and Haitian-led. In December of 2018, Haiti's first-ever pediatric cardiologist, Dr. Alexandra Noisette, returned to the country after two years of intensive training in Martinique and France. She now sees patients on a daily basis at the children's hospital, and works closely with HCA to refer patients for surgery and manage their ongoing medical needs. Meanwhile, HCA has sponsored one of our own employees to spend 18 months in India, where he is being trained to become Haiti's first pediatric echocardiography technician. Through these efforts and others, Haiti is becoming less reliant on visiting cardiologist volunteers, and more able to diagnose and manage its cardiac patients through the efforts of Haitian professionals at Haitian facilities.

Meanwhile, we continue to work closely with our partners to perform a larger share of heart surgeries within Haiti itself, instead of sending them abroad. During 2018, a total of 26 children were able to undergo surgery at the children's hospital in Port-au-Prince – and all 26 of them made full recoveries after surgery and are doing well today.

Finally, we are continuing to expand and strengthen our ability to manage social work and logistical needs for the hundreds of patients in our care, including addressing social, nutritional, and educational challenges; helping them to obtain passports and other travel documents; and providing steadfast encouragement and accompaniment to patients and families as they navigate the process of accessing the care they need.



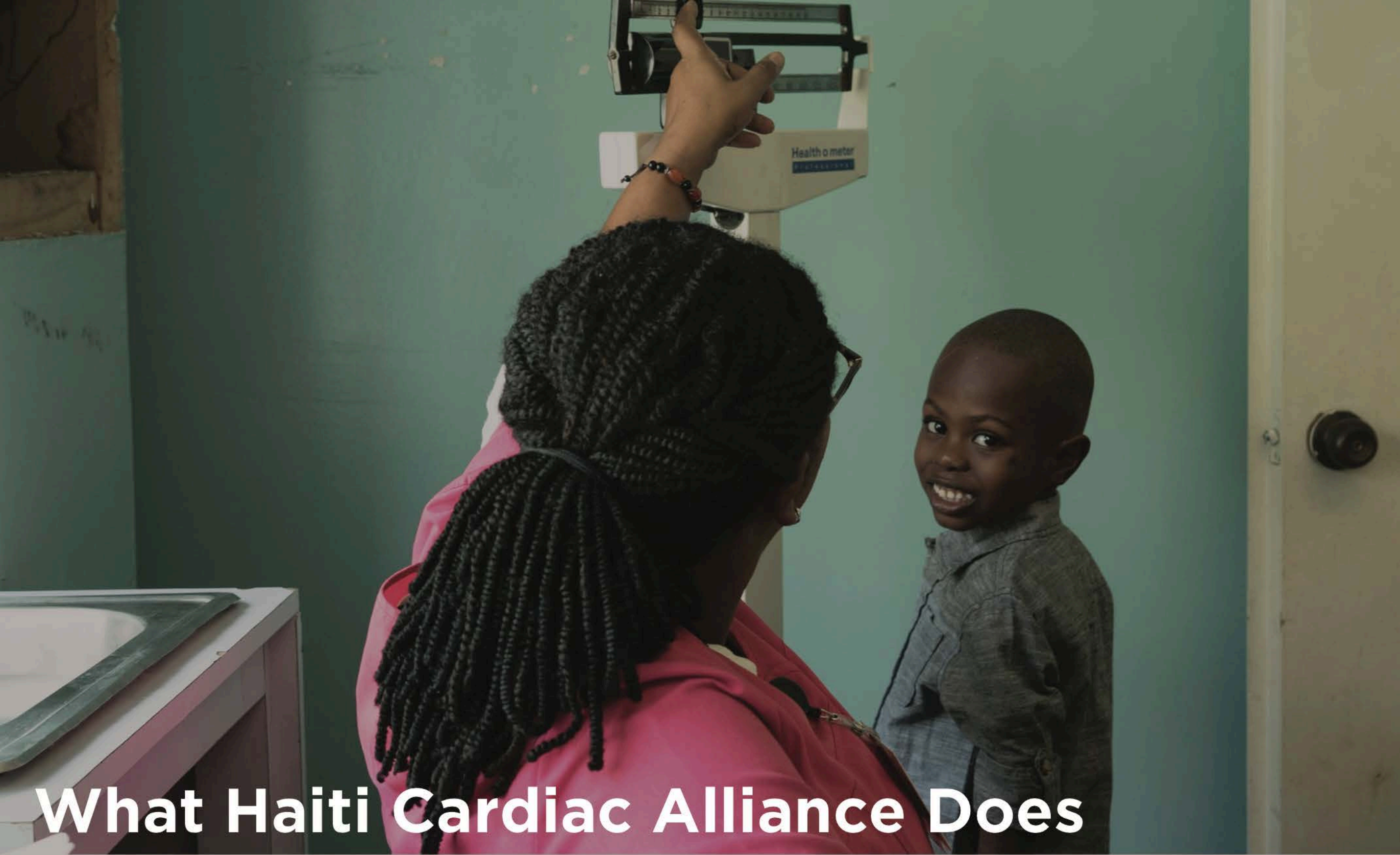
HCA'S WORK

OUTSIDE HAITI

As in years past, HCA continues to diagnose many more children and young adults with operable heart conditions than can possibly be operated in Haiti itself. To address this tremendous and urgent need, we are constantly expanding our partnerships with hospitals around the world to receive our patients for surgery.

Some of our patients travel by bus just over the land border to the Dominican Republic; others, meanwhile, fly for as long as 20 hours to reach countries like India for their heart surgeries. Wherever they may go, the patients and families are accompanied by an HCA medical social worker who supports them throughout, including by translating to and from Haitian Creole and by helping them navigate their unfamiliar surroundings.

In 2019, Haiti will continue to accompany patients to partner hospitals throughout the Caribbean, North America, Europe, and Asia so that they can access the care they need without delay. To accomplish this, we work in close partnership with a range of foreign embassies in Haiti; a network of volunteer host families and communities around the world; and charitable partners who help to sponsor airfares, lodging, meals, and even the surgeries themselves.



What Haiti Cardiac Alliance Does

THE PROBLEM

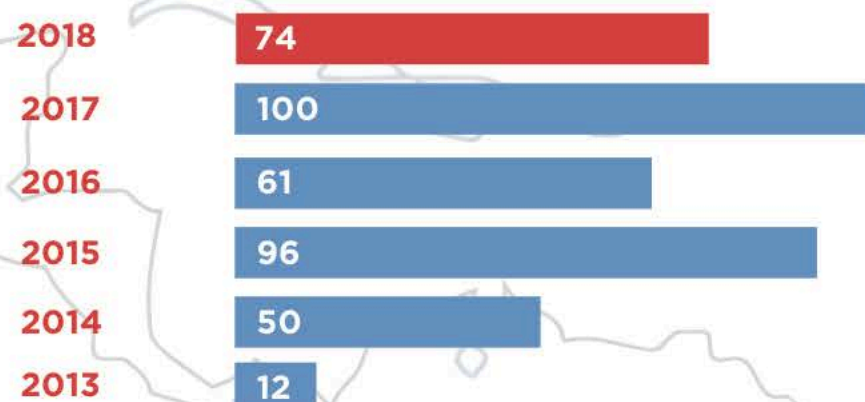
Each year hundreds of Haitian children die from curable heart conditions because not enough pediatric cardiac care is available in Haiti.

OUR SOLUTION

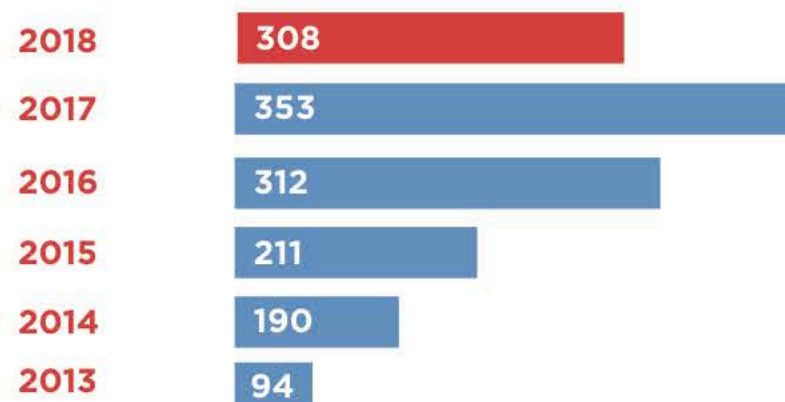
We build partnerships to scale up the availability of heart surgery so that every Haitian child with a curable heart condition can access the life-saving treatment they deserve.

HCA by the Numbers*

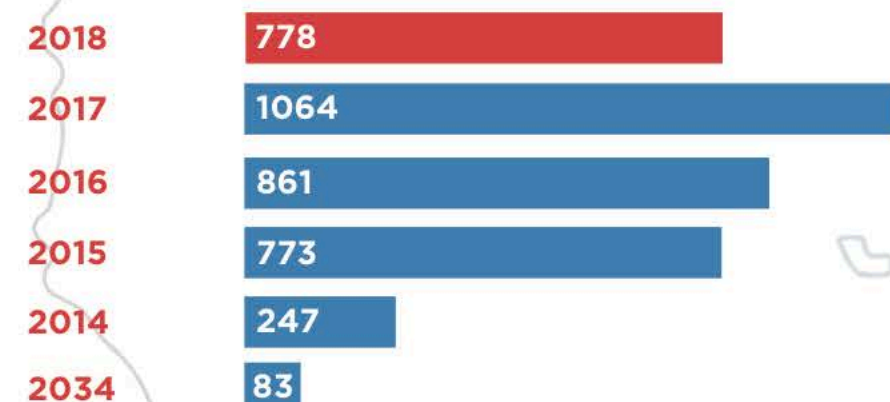
74 Patients Received Heart Surgery



308 Patients on Active Waiting List



778 Cardiac Exams Performed



- In 2018, 26 patients (35% of total) underwent surgery in Haiti itself
- Our overall program mortality rate remains below 5%, and mortality among our patients operated in 2018 stands at 0%
- Fewer children were served in 2018 than in the year prior due to factors beyond HCA's control such as political unrest and hospital funding shortfalls; our goal for 2019 is to continue our upward growth in total patients served.

*Statistics are presented here for each calendar year; in previous year's annual reports, statistics were presented by fiscal year (July to June).



JONENSKIA

When Jonenskia was five years old, a routine checkup revealed that she had a large hole between the two lower chambers of her heart. Although she outwardly appeared to be in good health, her cardiac exams revealed that her heart was under increasing strain from the extra effort it had to make to pump blood through her body.

Jonenskia's parents were very worried about her heart condition, and even considered taking her out of school so she wouldn't exert herself any more than she absolutely had to. After spending over two years on HCA's waiting list, Jonenskia finally had the opportunity to have surgery in Port-au-Prince through a partnership between HCA, Gift of Life International, Haiti's only children's hospital, and other partners.

She made a quick recovery, and will now be able to live a normal and active life without worrying about her heart condition.



ROOBENS

When Roobens was two years old, he was diagnosed with a very serious heart condition called double outlet right ventricle with malposed great arteries. This is a challenging surgery in the best of situations, but was made even more so because Roobens showed signs of having blood pressures to his lungs that were high enough to make him inoperable.

The only way to know for sure would be to do a cardiac catheterization – something that can't be done anywhere in Haiti. Rather than giving up, HCA got passports for Roobens and his father and took them to Dominican Republic for the procedure, which showed that his surgery would be difficult but not impossible. Fortunately, one of the world's best pediatric hospitals – The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada – agreed to take on the challenge.

The surgery went well, and after two months of recovery at the home of a volunteer host family in Toronto, Roobens and his father returned to Haiti. Roobens now plays soccer and walks to and from school – both things he could never have done before surgery.

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, 2018)

Cash & Cash Equivalents:	\$203,285
Fixed Assets:	\$5,272
Total Receivables:	\$55,400
Total Liabilities:	\$13,313
NET ASSETS:	\$250,664

OPERATING STATEMENT (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

OPERATING REVENUES

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE:	\$515,413
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OPERATING EXPENSES

Program - Surgical Matching & Travel	\$273,637
Program - Diagnosis & Follow-Up	\$81,621
Program - Direct Patient Care	\$49,860
PROGRAM SUBTOTAL:	\$405,118

Administration/Office:	\$36,123
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Fundraising:	\$22,561
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ADMIN/FUNDRAISING SUBTOTAL:	\$58,684
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TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE:	\$463,802
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NET SURPLUS:	\$51,611
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Our Core Partners



EDWARDS
LIFESCIENCES
FOUNDATION



Haiti Treatment Partners



NOS PETITS FRÈRES ET SŒURS
www.nospetitsfreresetsoeurs.org



International Treatment Partners



Other Partners



Leading Supporters

\$10,000+

Brad and Mary Burnham
The Hess Foundation
Thomas and Susan Hubbard
The Lewis Family
Robin Maxwell

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Kirk and Peggy Davenport
Peter and Erin Friedland
Peter Craig Russell and Pamela Jones
Quentin van Dooselaere

Board Members

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

Key Volunteers

Kimberly Chadwell
Margaret Challenger
Dr. John Clark
Dr. Michael Crapanzano
Dr. Sharrone Forrester
Dr. Les Hixon
Jillaine Lewis
Abigael Pamintuan
Dr. Stuart Rowe
Dr. Charmaine Scott
Dr. Greg Tatum
Mickey Wilder
Dr. David Zientek
Kate Zientek

Haiti Cardiac Alliance Staff

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Dr. Samantha Lacossade, *Lead Clinical Coordinator*
Benissoit Gue, *Patient Social Worker/Translator*
Steeve Andre, *Echocardiography Trainee*
Niouseline Perdre, *Patient Social Worker*

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