

# Konbit Sante

CAP-HAITIEN HEALTH PARTNERSHIP



**2020** ANNUAL  
REPORT

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*Men anpil, chay pa lou.* In Haitian Creole, that proverb translates to “Many hands make the work light.” This is a well-known saying that is heard all over Haiti, and it resonates well during this time in our world. This has been a year of challenges, transitions, and growth for many of us, including Konbit Sante.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected each country around the world, including Haiti, where our healthcare partners are located. In the spring and most of the summer, our then-executive director, Dr. Nathan Nickerson, worked closely with our partners to ensure there was a consistent supply of personal protective equipment. A team of community health workers, led by our staff on the ground, dispersed into the community to spread educational messages about the pandemic. We also organized bi-weekly meetings with our partners to closely monitor the crisis, which gave them a forum to discuss their urgent needs.

While the pandemic has disproportionately affected the U.S., it has had slightly different outcomes in Haiti. According to the World Health Organization, Haiti has confirmed about 9,000 cases and about 230 deaths due to the virus. By the end of the summer, the country at large had resumed to normalcy—some wore masks, but most did not. We continue to work closely with our Haitian partners to monitor the situation.

We had multiple transitions at our office in Maine this year. I joined the team in June and became executive director on October 1. Nate, whom most of you know, will continue to work with Konbit Sante in the role of strategic advisor, and we are grateful for that. Nate has been an invaluable part of the organization since its inception. His contributions to Konbit Sante are evident as the organization has grown, and have undoubtedly impacted the lives of many in Cap-Haitien. As his successor, I know I have big shoes to fill and lots to learn. With your support and the collaborative efforts of our team, I hope to continue our work in Haiti.

At the end of this year, Richard Williams, our financial manager, will retire after serving for nine years. He has



played a key role in the organization—not just in terms of ensuring our accounts are well-managed, but also above and beyond in understanding the engagement of our donors, training the staff in Cap-Haitien on accounting principles, and ensuring that the organization is financially stable. We are fortunate to have found an enthusiastic and well-experienced replacement, and are committed to making a smooth transition.

As you can tell, there has been one constant this year—change. Despite the changes, at Konbit Sante and in our world, we are committed to our work in Cap-Haitien. Along with our Haitian healthcare facilities, our mission remains to provide access to quality healthcare to all patients in the Greater Cap-Haitien area. As we figure out innovative ways to continue our work in the midst of a pandemic, we know that it is possible with your support.

I would like to thank you for standing by us and constantly supporting us. Thank you for believing in Konbit Sante and in the work we do in Greater Cap-Haitien. In this report, you will learn more about our work and everyone who has made it possible. Please continue to spread the word about Konbit Sante, and remember to donate to keep us busy next year!

**Kenbe Fèm,  
Rupal Ramesh Shah**



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## Responding to a global pandemic

As was the case around the world, news of the COVID-19 pandemic reaching Haiti in 2020 required a rapid response. With lack of quality healthcare services, food insecurity, and political instability providing a backdrop to the global health crisis, the threat of a high mortality rate in Haiti was a real possibility.



Even before the first cases were reported in Greater Cap-Haitien, Konbit Sante set in motion a series of actions to slow the community transmission of the virus and strengthen the ability of our partner healthcare facilities to respond:

- We initiated weekly meetings with Konbit Sante staff and board members, healthcare partners, Ministry of Health representatives, and partners from other non-profit organizations to accurately monitor the spread of the disease and effectively employ preventive and treatment measures.
- We provided funds for COVID-19 triage centers at Justinien University Hospital, the Fort Saint Michel Health Center, and the Unite de Lutte pour la Sante clinic.
- We purchased air time on local radio stations and paid sound trucks to announce prerecorded prevention-oriented health messages within neighborhoods.
- We distributed more than 7,000 locally-made masks and more than 600 handwashing stations (buckets, soap, and chlorine) to residential neighborhoods.
- We collaborated with the Haiti Medical Education Project to provide training sessions on management of COVID-19 patients to frontline workers. We also trained and supported the salaries of 20 community health workers who went door-to-door in their communities to deliver masks, provide educational materials, and conduct awareness sessions while maintaining social distancing guidelines.
- We procured and coordinated the delivery of COVID-19 response materials such as personal protective equipment, emergency medicines and supplies, oxygen concentrators, and other items to partner sites that were designated as coronavirus treatment facilities by the Ministry of Health.
- We partnered with Rise Against Hunger to deliver free meals to remote areas in which residents did not have easy access to food.

We could not have done this alone. We are grateful to all whose generous support made this possible, including the Dalton Foundation, Direct Relief, Hope International, Rise Against Hunger, the Haiti Medical Education Project, Hope Health Action, Vil Okap, and especially donors such as yourself. We continue to work with these organizations, our healthcare partners, and the Ministry of Health to monitor the situation in Greater Cap-Haitien and respond as needed.

# HEALTH FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

**United de Lutte pour la Sante (ULS), our healthcare partner since 2014, completed several capital improvement projects at its clinic this past year with the help of Konbit Sante. The projects were designed to make it more sustainable and self-sufficient as it serves the rural community of Bande du Nord.**



## About JustEnergy

JustEnergy, formerly known as JAMES (Justice and Mercy Energy Services), is a nonprofit organization founded by engineers from the School of Engineering and Computer Science at Baylor University to combat poverty and injustices in Haiti by providing alternative access to energy. It partners with nonprofit organizations to provide affordable, sustainable power to healthcare clinics, homes, schools, and more. Haitian skilled workers are employed for projects, and 95 percent of materials used for the projects are from Haitian vendors to help sustain the local economy.

In addition to partnering with JustEnergy on the installation of a large solar panel array at the ULS clinic, Konbit Sante is utilizing the organization's expertise to provide solar power to our office at Justinien University Hospital and for our apartment in Cap-Haitien, which is used to house staff and volunteers while they are in Haiti.

*For more information about JustEnergy and its work, visit its website: [justiceandmercy.energy](https://justiceandmercy.energy)*

The clinic is located on the side of a mountain, where dry ravines can turn into forceful rivers and cause extensive damage to the residential neighborhood located below. In December 2019, a torrential rainstorm destroyed a retaining wall that served to divert runoff from flowing into the neighborhood. We provided funds and expertise to build a new wall with deeper and wider footings to ensure it will not be affected by seasonal rains. The construction was completed in July of this year.

Last spring, we partnered with JustEnergy to build a solar panel array that provides most of the power for the small clinic. The health center is not connected to Cap-Haitien's electrical grid, and had to rely on a gas-powered generator supplemented by a couple of rooftop solar panels for power. The solar project was funded by a campaign spearheaded by one of our supporters, Dr. Laalitha Surapaneni with the University of Minnesota Medical Center.

Plans for 2021 at ULS include completion of the construction of a triage center/waiting room and continuation of improving management of the pharmacy and depot.

# MANAGEMENT

HCBH assessment reduces costs and improves efficiency.

Haitian Baptist Convention Hospital (HCBH), our healthcare partner in Quartier Morin, underwent a management assessment in October-November 2019 as part of a formal strategic planning process with its partner in the United Kingdom, Hope Health Action. HCBH requested that Konbit Sante's then-executive director, Nate Nickerson, conduct a quasi-independent review of its management processes. Nate spent a week at the hospital's "Volunteer Village" while he conducted in-depth interviews with hospital staff and reviewed primary data.

Konbit Sante's work is largely based on the World Health Organization's building blocks for a sustainable health system. At the foundation of these building blocks is Management and Leadership—which, in Nate's words, "is not so much a building block as the mortar that holds it all together and on which the success of all of the other building blocks depend."

"There can be plenty of staff, but if they are not supported and mentored, they will not have the tools to succeed. There can be depots full of medicines and supplies, but without proper management, many of them will never benefit a patient. There can be good facilities, but without adequate management, they will degrade quickly."

The report, which highlighted procurement strategies, cost-saving methods, systems and management changes, was enthusiastically received. The hospital has since taken steps to implement many of the recommendations highlighted in the review, most notably adjusting its procurement system to reduce the cost of medicines.

To that end, Konbit Sante is working with HCBH to procure medications through partners with which we have long-standing, successful relationships, including the Pan American Health Organization, PROMESS, Hope International, and Direct Relief. HCBH also recruited a full-time operations and logistics volunteer, who began work in November.

## EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

### Haiti Earthquake Aftermath: 10 Years Later

The year 2020 is memorable not only for the events that occurred this year, but for marking the 10th anniversary of two of the worst disasters to affect Haiti in the past half-century. On January 12, 2010, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit near Port-au-Prince, causing massive damage, killing more than 100,000 people, and displacing more than 1 million residents. On October 10, 2010, a cholera epidemic was confirmed in Northern Haiti, infecting nearly 800,000 Haitians and killing more than 9,000. Following each event, Konbit Sante immediately leapt into action to assist its healthcare partners, the Ministry of Health, rescue responders, and other non-profit organizations in Haiti.

Several media outlets commemorated the 10th anniversary by shining a spotlight on Konbit Sante and the work it has done in Haiti since 2010. In December 2019, then-executive director Nate Nickerson was interviewed on "The 207," a TV news show on the Portland-based NBC affiliate WCSH. In February 2020, the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, which sent a reporter and a photographer to Cap-Haitien in 2010 to report on Konbit Sante's post-earthquake response, published a follow-up story. Also in February, Nate was interviewed by Maine Public Radio and gave a presentation at the World Affairs Council of Maine.

The multimedia coverage not only conveyed what Konbit Sante has accomplished in the past decade, it gave us an opportunity to look toward the future and to show that, while much work has been done, there is still much more to do.

# WORKFORCE & HEALTH SERVICES

## Champion for Change: Melick Derius



**Melick Derius has been managing the supply depot at Justinien University Hospital's pediatrics facility since 2016. He was hired by Konbit Sante in response to mortality reviews that revealed a high number of preventable infant deaths were caused by the absence of essential medications and supplies.**

**Melick keeps track of the stockroom to ensure that stock-outs of emergency materials do not occur, and develops monthly inventory reports.**

In 2018, a new pediatrics facility was built at JUH with funds provided by the United States Agency for International Development. With its complicated infrastructure, the new facility required a greater degree of maintenance and oversight than was previously needed.

To meet this need, JUH hired a new facilities manager, engineer Josette Martial, in 2019, and in 2020, Melick was promoted to the role of assistant facility manager to help Josette in this important task.

In addition to his stockroom duties in the pediatrics building, Melick monitors the oxygen supply and water maintenance system; keeps records of medical equipment in need of repair; assists with routine maintenance, operations, and infrastructure inspections; and more.

"Melick has been an absolutely hard and conscientious worker," said former Konbit Sante Executive Director Nate Nickerson. "He understands the direct impact of his work on the lives of the children under the care of the service, and is passionate about doing his part to give them a better chance for health." Konbit Sante Administrator Dominique Joseph concurs. "Melick is always at his best, and is very motivated," he said. "He is in great demand by the (JUH pediatrics) staff."

Originally from Pilate in the Nord Department of Haiti, Melick currently resides in Cap-Haitien with his wife and 12-year-old son. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family and playing soccer with his son.

He says his greatest satisfaction comes from helping families receive healthcare at JUH, especially those who cannot pay. When an infant is saved with the help of emergency medicines and/or supplies that he stocks, he is filled with pride.

"My work is important to saving people's lives," Melick said. "When I go home, I am full of joy in my heart."



# SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: NEW HOPE HOSPITAL

New Hope Hospital is a medical facility built and operated by Haitians. Since 2016, it has served the community of Plaine-du-Nord, which is located about 15 miles southwest of Cap-Haitien. Last fall, the hospital's founder and director, Dr. Eugene Maklin, reached out to us for help in procuring supplies and reducing costs.

Then-Executive Director Nate Nickerson happily agreed to meet with them. Nate was impressed by the facility's size, services, and cleanliness. The hospital has about 60 inpatient beds, out-patient clinics, an operating room, a small emergency room, a laboratory, a maternity ward, a small pediatrics ward, a physical therapy area, a large depot, and more. About 80% of the care it provides is exonerated because of the population that it serves.

We proposed a plan that would strengthen New Hope Hospital without expending additional resources. We consigned containers of donated supplies for the hospital from Rise Against Hunger, Direct Relief, and HOPE International, which saved them money on paying extra duties at customs.

We also told them about the PROMESS program, through which we are able to buy essential medicines at vastly reduced rates, and offered them the opportunity to purchase through Konbit Sante while they applied for their own direct purchasing authority.

They were very grateful for the advice and assistance, and we are looking forward to a continued relationship with New Hope Hospital in the future.



## CONSIGNED CONTAINERS

One of Konbit Sante's essential functions is to ship medicines, supplies, and equipment to our healthcare partners and other facilities in Northern Haiti. That includes not only shipping materials that we collect and store in our warehouse in Maine, but also consigning containers for other donor organizations. Our franchise with the Haitian government, which we renewed for the 11th year this past summer, permits us to legally import medical supplies and equipment duty-free. As of this writing, we have consigned 10 containers in 2020 in addition to our own 40-foot container, which included COVID-19 response materials and other supplies and was shipped in April. The following is just a sampling of materials that we have consigned so far this year:

- Essential medicines for our healthcare partner facilities.
- Newborn safe delivery kits, a hurricane module (essential supplies in the event of a hurricane), and personal protective equipment from Direct Relief.
- Oxygen concentrators and megaphones for the COVID-19 response.
- Baby scales, suction machines, oximeters and thermometers, patient monitors, and basic hospital equipment and supplies from the Dalton Foundation.
- Food packages from Rise Against Hunger for Justinien University Hospital (JUH) and New Hope Hospital.
- A 40-foot container with essential medical supplies from HOPE International Development Agency.
- Operating room supplies and equipment for JUH and the Serving Santé Health Center from Citizens of the World Foundation and Dr. Louis-Joseph Auguste.
- Approximately 300 wheelchairs from the Walkabout Foundation and Free Wheelchair Mission, which will be distributed throughout Haiti.

The work does not stop with the delivery of supplies. Our staff members work closely with our facility partners to effectively use and repair equipment, manage the depot of supplies and essential parts, and assess the quality of care received by patients.

## UNIVERSAL ANESTHESIA MACHINE CONSIGNED FOR SERVING SANTÉ

One of the items we consigned in the 2019-20 fiscal year was a Universal Anesthesia Machine (UAM) purchased by Citizens of the World Foundation for Serving Santé in Limbé, Haiti. Featuring a built-in oxygen concentrator, key features on battery backup, and components that are easy to remove and replace, the UAM was specially designed for use in resource-poor contexts. The life-saving machine can now be used to perform emergency Cesarean sections at the birthing center, saving women trips to the reference hospital located two hours away.

"This machine is the missing puzzle piece to start saving lives in the community," said Serving Santé's director, Dr. Nelly Osias. "Thank you to Konbit Sante for all the process to get the machine safely right to us."

*"This machine is the missing puzzle piece to start saving lives in the community."*

**Dr. Nelly Osias**  
Director | Serving Santé



# RESEARCH, DATA AND EVALUATION

## PAPER ON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PUBLISHED

Too often, Haiti is the subject of research conceived and conducted by people from outside the country. One of Konbit Sante's goals is to strengthen the Haitian healthcare system's capacity to ask and answer its own questions about its situation. A research paper examining factors affecting the implementation of quality improvement initiatives in health care was published in the June issue of Evaluation and Program Planning, an international journal published by Elsevier.

Titled "What are the characteristics of the champion that influence the implementation of quality improvement programs?", the paper focused on the importance of a "champion" to facilitate moving quality improvement practices from the planning stage to implementation, particularly as it relates to the health system in Haiti. It is the result of months of research made possible by a grant from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The paper's authors include former Konbit Sante Program Director Dr. Adrien Demes; director of the Ministry of Health for the Northern Department of Haiti, Dr. Robert Jasmin; and two administrators from Justinien University Hospital, Executive Director Dr. Jean Geto Dube and Medical Director Dr. Jean Garcia Coq.



Dr. Adrien Demes



Dr. Jean Garcia Coq



Dr. Jean Geto Dube



## JUSTINIEN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL Pediatric mortality reviews provide essential information.

Monthly mortality reviews at the pediatric service of Justinien University Hospital play an important role in identifying factors that contribute to preventable deaths. The reviews are utilized to develop processes and plans within the services to reduce and prevent such deaths.

Last winter, Dr. Adam Silverman (who is also a member of the Konbit Sante Board of Directors) and nurse Tracey Proulx with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center volunteered at the service to address some of the factors noted in mortality reviews. They trained staff on the use of breast pumps to provide nutrition to newborns, the use of

infusion pumps for controlled fluid infusions, and the basics of using an ultrasound machine.

Konbit Sante's pediatric program manager, Dr. Rony Saint Fleur, has seen firsthand the impact of utilizing the information gleaned from these reviews to inform positive change and improved outcomes in the unit. "With the mortality reviews, I discovered sometimes a little is needed to make big changes in the pediatric unit," he said.

Dr. Saint Fleur will be initiating a new quality improvement committee within the service to address additional issues that are identified during the mortality reviews.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Deborah Patten



**Deborah Patten, MD, serves an essential role for Konbit Sante: The chief liaison to Maine hospitals and clinics, she coordinates the facilities' donations of supplies and equipment that are needed by our healthcare partners in Haiti. She can often be found at our warehouse in Westbrook, dropping off a carload of donations and inquiring about what she should acquire next.**

A Maine native, Deb has a Bachelor's degree in biology and classical piano performance from Brown University and a medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. She completed her residency in pediatrics at the Tufts New England Medical Center and worked in the community health system in Greater Boston before returning to Maine to open a private pediatrics practice in Bath, where she still resides. She then joined Martin's Point Health Care Center in Brunswick, Maine, before retiring in 2017.

In 1981, Deb worked for one month in the rehydration unit of Hopital Generale (General Hospital) in Port-au-Prince. That experience would eventually lead her to volunteer for Konbit Sante after her retirement.

**Q: How did you come to work in Port-au-Prince?**

A: I have always been drawn to other cultures, and for years, I wanted to work in a developing country. I ended up searching for such an opportunity, and connected with Dr. Jean W. Pape in Port-au-Prince. At the time, the Haitian native with recent training at Cornell University had returned to Haiti as the first and only infectious disease specialist in that country. He was setting up programs, including a clinic for what was then a new entity, oral rehydration for gastrointestinal illnesses.

**Q: Can you briefly describe your work at the hospital and your takeaway from that experience?**

A: The experience was beyond shocking. The hot, small unit with a few metal cribs was without windows, electricity, or running water, and had no reliable supplies or staffing. UNICEF [United Nations Children's Fund] was sending electrolyte packets to be mixed with water, but potable drinking water was intermittently delivered. Every morning upon my arrival, there was a line of somber women with their severely dehydrated babies wrapped in towels. I would mix the solution and work with the mothers to administer it, and I would leave the unit only when every baby was treated and headed home.

However, often upon my arrival the following morning, the same patients would be back. These children, who were chronically sick and undernourished, were returning to home situations with no potable water or essential resources. It was a heartbreaking revolving door. ...

After my months in Haiti, I departed for the U.S. (envisioning the rich piles of supplies in the Boston area hospitals' intensive care units) questioning whether I had made a difference. What I learned was that, to make this work beneficial, the medical intervention must be comprehensive, long-lasting, and capacity-building. This is what Konbit Sante has been doing.

**Q: How did you get involved with Konbit Sante? What do you enjoy about it?**

A: I met with [then-Executive Director] Nate Nickerson upon my retirement to explore the organization's needs and see what might fit with my personal situation. We decided that I could be the designated person to connect with Maine's hospitals for supply donations, so I launched the project. The state's hospitals are undergoing lots of changes. I was able to collaborate with a few for ongoing donations of their unused supplies. In visiting the various locations, I have enjoyed exploring the state and supporting Konbit Sante in its amazing work.

**Q: What are your future plans?**

A: I hope to remain actively involved in a number of volunteer projects and boards, while taking some time to appreciate what I have in my life.





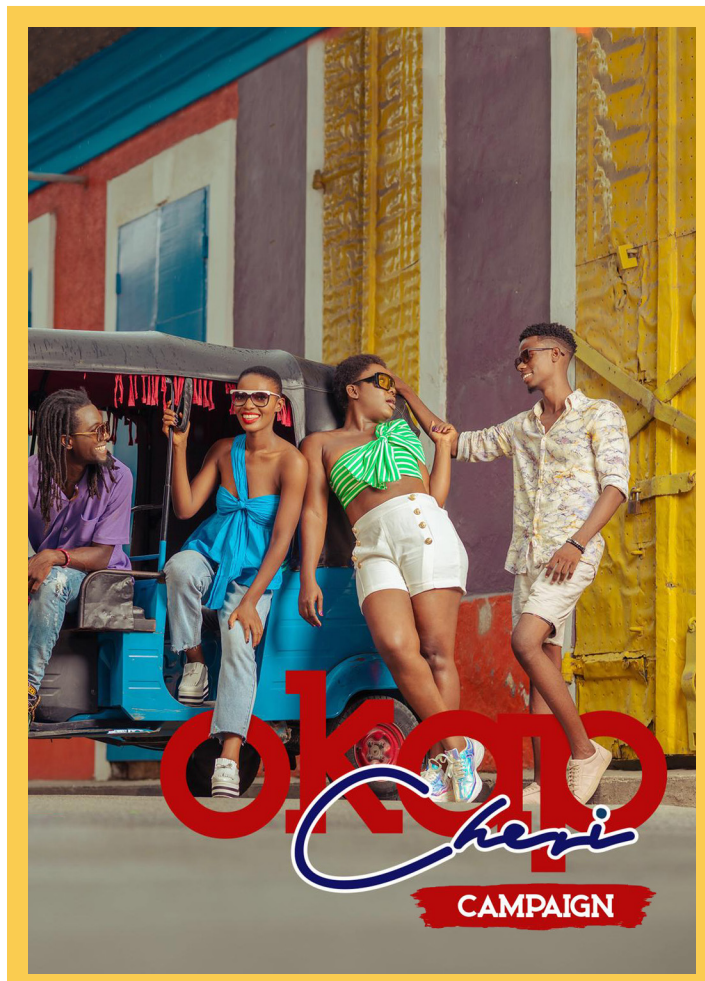
# FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

Supporters come together in times of crisis.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel our annual Maine Walks with Haiti 5K fundraiser in June, we decided to transform it into a virtual campaign that encouraged people to support Konbit Sante in whatever form they chose while adhering to protocols such as social distancing. We frankly didn't know whether the campaign would be successful, so we were overjoyed when we not only met our \$50,000 goal, we SURPASSED it by almost \$20,000!

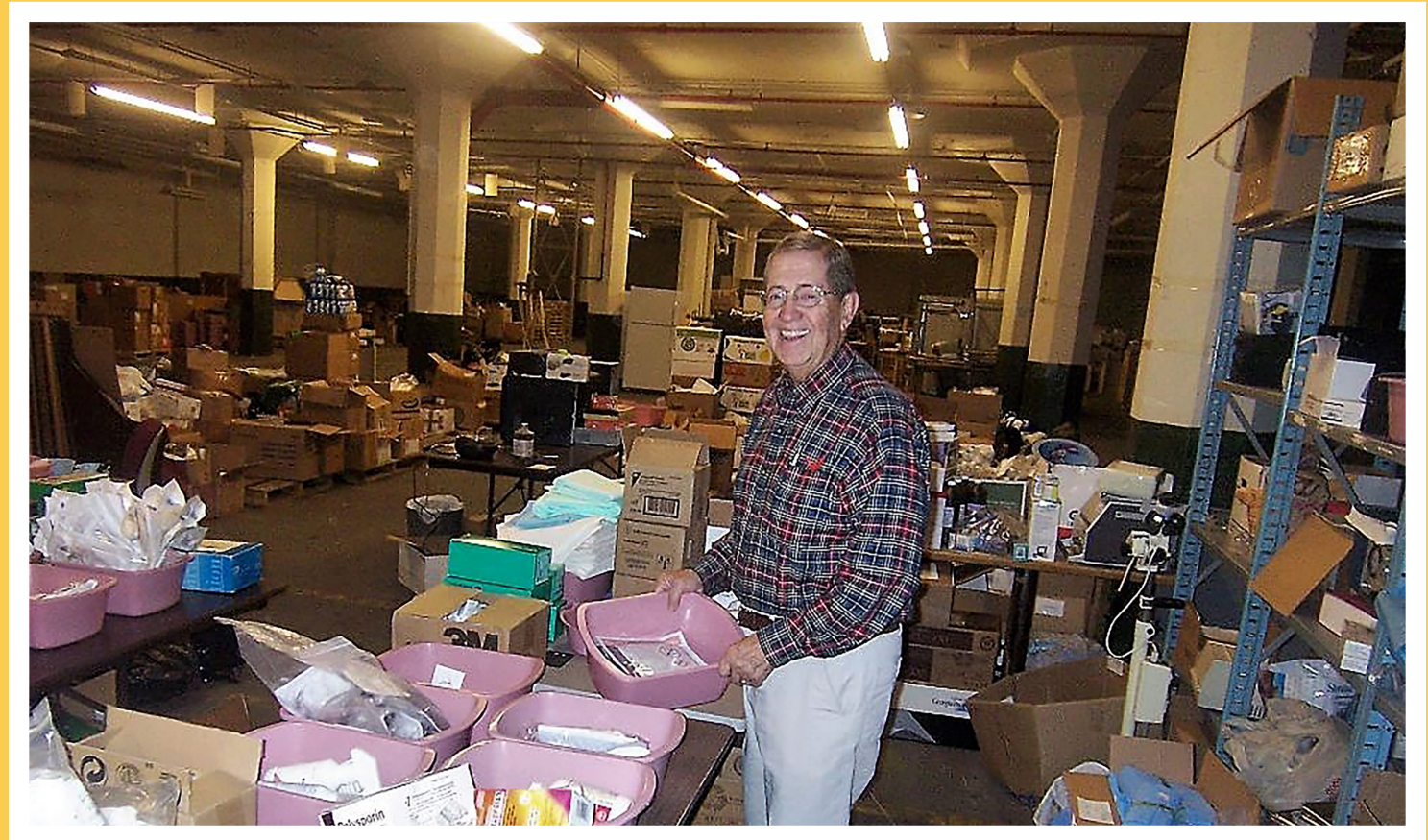
Shortly after We Walk with Haiti ended, we were approached by Vil Okap, a promotional platform created to promote the city of Cap-Haitien, to participate in the Okap Cheri (My Beloved Cap-Haitien) campaign. Running from August to October, Okap Cheri was a fundraiser for Justinien University Hospital that celebrated the city's culture, history, and people via social media, virtual panel discussions, and more. We happily agreed, and have been using funds from this campaign to purchase much-needed supplies for the hospital, such as replacement parts for medical equipment.

One again, our supporters have proven that even during times of crisis in their own communities, people can come together to support a worthy cause of a global nature. We are honored that you have chosen to support Konbit Sante. And we are extremely grateful.



# LEGACY DONATIONS

Legacy of support continues through bequest.



In August 2019, Konbit Sante lost a dear friend and longtime supporter, George Crockett. George was a financial supporter and champion who spent many hours volunteering over the years and served as the de facto "warehouse manager" for a time. We understand that we were just one of the many charitable causes that he supported over the course of his long, productive life.

In April, we received a generous gift from George's estate that will go a long way toward helping us continue our mission in Northern Haiti. In fact, funds from that gift have

already been put to good use in assisting our partners to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are deeply humbled and honored that Konbit Sante was named as a recipient in George's will, and he will always hold a special place in our hearts.

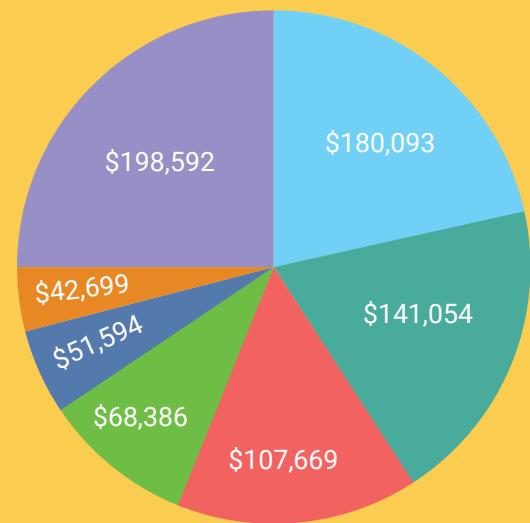
George's legacy of support and caring for others will continue through his bequest. If you are interested in including Konbit Sante in your estate planning, we are ready to assist in whatever way we can. Please contact us at (207) 347-6733 or email us at [info@konbitsante.org](mailto:info@konbitsante.org).



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

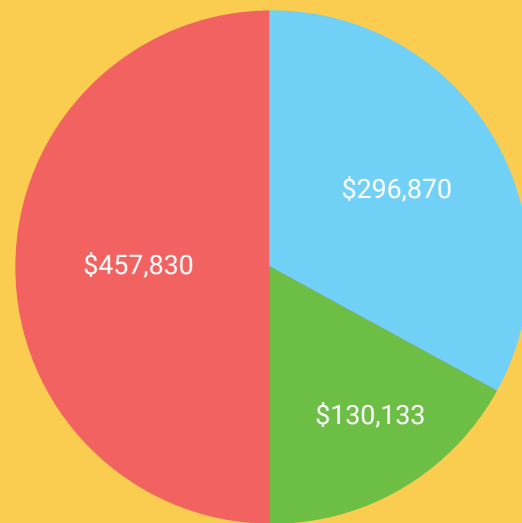
October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$790,087**



- 25.1% — Supply Chain
- 22.8% — Facility-Based Health Programming
- 17.9% — Administration
- 13.6% — Community-Based Health Programming
- 8.7% — Infrastructure Programming
- 6.5% — COVID-19 Activities
- 5.4% — Health Education, Management, & Quality Improvement

**TOTAL INCOME: \$884,833\***



- 51.7% — Donations (includes designated donations)
- 33.6% — Foundations and Grants
- 14.7% — In-Kind Contributions

\*Revenue does not reflect value of volunteer time and skills contributed. Value of the professional time volunteers spent in Haiti in FY2020 is estimated at \$5,054. (Volunteer time was sharply curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions to Haiti.)

For full financial information, including Form 990s, please visit: [konbitsante.org/financial-information](http://konbitsante.org/financial-information)

# DONOR LIST

\*OUR FISCAL YEAR IS OCTOBER 1 — SEPTEMBER 30

**\$10,000 & OVER**

Estate of George Crockett  
Jenny Scheu & John Ryan  
Anonymous  
Ekedahl Family Foundation  
Gipson Family Foundation  
Linda Robinson  
John Emery  
Susanna Place & Scott Stoll

**\$5,000 – \$9,999**

Anonymous  
Dr. Carlyle Schlabach  
Citizens of the World Foundation  
Nate and Nancy Nickerson  
Dr. Bill & Sheri Traverse  
Normand & Agnes Dugas  
Daniel Raymond Nickerson Foundation  
The Michael T. Sherman Foundation  
CRS Properties, LLC  
The New York Community Trust

**\$2,500 – \$4,999**

Pamela White  
Hugh Tozer & Kathryn Reid  
Dr. Kendra & Victor Belfi  
East Eddington Community Church  
Dr. Michael & Wendy Taylor  
Bob & Jane MacKinnon  
WestWind Foundation  
Frederick Stephen & Ann G. Larned  
Kate Healy & Charles Craig  
SG Foundation  
Michael & Susan McLaughlin  
Dr. Mac & Sue Rogers

**\$1,000 – \$2,499**

Dr. Andrew Tyan  
Dr. Steve & Polly Larned  
Amara Lynch  
Ellen Asherman  
Carrine Burns & Peter Bouman  
Dr. Jim Lonergan & Ruth Ann Burdett  
Donna Doughten & Joel Eckhaus  
The Apple Lane Foundation  
Daniel Morgenstern & Moriah Moser  
Dr. Laalitha Surapaneni  
Drs. Jefferson & Deborah Parker  
Dean Curran  
Pamela Allen

Hamilton Brown  
Woodard & Curran  
Anonymous  
Terrance & Sally Gray  
Dr. Richard & Nancy Lemieux  
Dr. Jeffrey & Jennifer Bates  
Marilyn McDowell  
Danielle & Zach Jylkka  
Dr. Carol Kuhn  
Anonymous  
William Wipfler  
Jeff & Elaine Musich  
Dr. Warren & Heidi Alpern  
Roberta Brenza  
Amy & Seth Bruning  
Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
Dr. William Cleary  
Dr. Brad & Deborah Cushing  
Sherman Family Foundation  
The Polyak Family Charitable Fund  
Dave Gleason  
Brian Hava  
James & Beverly Hay  
Dr. Brian Jumper  
James & Elizabeth Kilbreth  
Charles Manzella  
Nancy Martz  
Robert McIntire  
Drs. Eva & Rob Moore  
Sylvia Pinho  
Dayle Quigley  
Dan & Elinor Redmond  
Charles Sethness

**\$500 – \$999**

Frank Feeley III  
Leonard & Nancy Seagren  
Michael Kilmartin  
Robert & Sandy Burnham  
Donna Yellen  
Gerald McCue & Sheila Molinari  
Martha McCluskey  
Bob & Kari Suva  
Dr. Alyssa Polson  
Dr. Eileen Reilly  
Lisa Merchant & John Shoos  
Mark Griswold  
Dr. Nanny-Co Lathrop  
Pengyi Yao  
Richard Upton

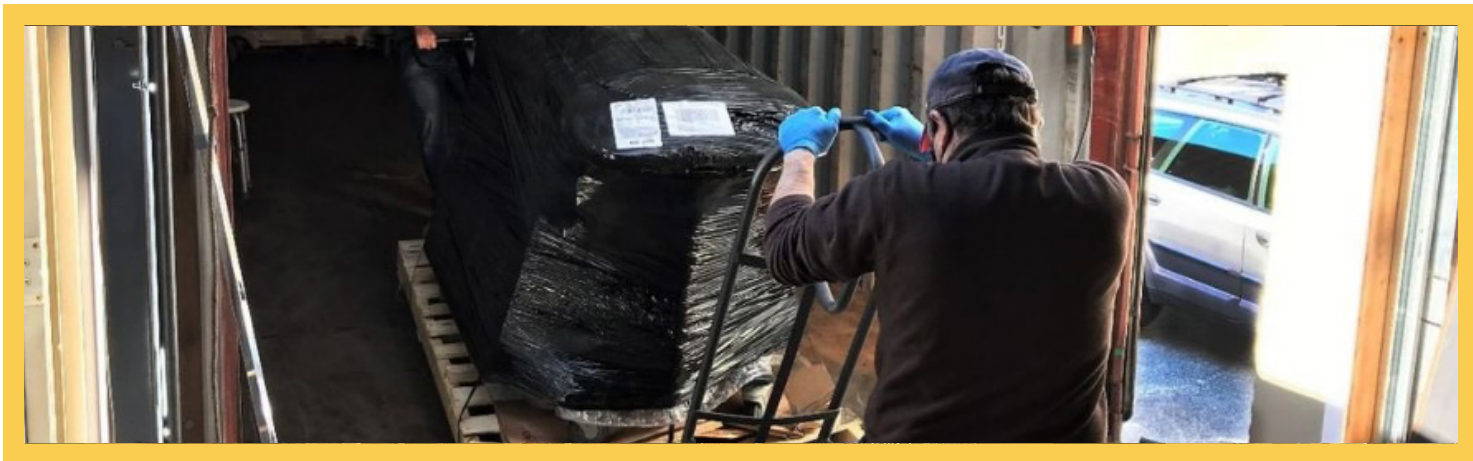
Mary McCarthy  
Sandi Ste. George & Phillip Hoose  
Ursula & Bill Slavick  
Paul & Mary Hosford  
Gerald McCue  
Marianne Ringel  
Dr. Jonathon Simon  
Bonnie & Richard Anderson  
John Atwood  
Dr. Peter & Jackie Bates  
Nancy Boulanger  
Dr. Sandra Jensen & Dr. Sam Broaddus  
The Community Church  
Dr. Eugene DeClercq  
Steve Douglas  
Mary & Mike DuBois  
Anne Famolare  
Andrew & Colleen Furlong  
Stuart Goodwin  
Christopher & Rebecca Halpin  
Nancy Hart  
Davis & Jane Hartwell  
John & Amanda Henson  
Alice & Jerry Holt  
Bo Norris & Cathy Houlihan  
Richard Hurley  
Gregory Johnson  
Joel Karp  
Marni & Roy Kolarsick  
Anonymous  
Dr. Jo Linder  
The Episcopal Church of St. Mary  
Stephen Mayer  
Susan & Frank McGinty  
Hugh & Norma Phelps  
Helen Roper  
Daniel Schuster  
Kim Simonian  
Kristin Sweeney

**\$250 – \$499**

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USAID Project Santé – Caris Foundation: Supports capacity building and strengthening work at Fort Saint Michel Health Center

National Institutes of Health – Collaboration with Researchers from Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis to study child growth development. Supports children in the greater Cap-Haitien community with staff members from JUH and FSM.

Vil Okap – Team that hosted Okap Cheri fundraising campaign; Supports ongoing work at Justinien University Hospital

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\*Konbit Sante also supports the salaries of more than 50 workers embedded in the Cap-Haitien healthcare system.

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**“PITI PITI, ZWAZO FÈ NICH.”**  
**(“Little by little, the bird builds its nest.”)**

Thank you for supporting Konbit Sante. Whether you are a staff or board member, advisor, donor, sponsor, grantor, or volunteer, you play an invaluable role in helping us in our mission to build a stronger, sustainable healthcare system in Northern Haiti. Please continue to provide support by making a donation today so that we may continue this important work into 2021 and beyond.

**Individually, we can accomplish a little.  
Together, we can accomplish a lot.  
*Mesi anpil.* (Many thanks.)  
Learn more: [www.konbitsante.org](http://www.konbitsante.org)**

Contact us: Tel. (207) 347-6733 · 362 US Route 1, Falmouth, Maine 04105 USA





## DEAR FRIENDS OF KONBIT SANTE,

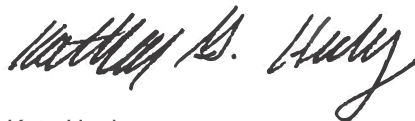
This year's message is written at a time when the world and Haiti are experiencing unprecedented uncertainty and volatility. The global pandemic has challenged the world and Haiti with the novel and potentially life-threatening coronavirus itself and with the economic fallout from the disease and its attendant public health issues. As if this wasn't enough, Haiti is also dealing with an economic crisis resulting from the inflation of the gourde and resulting devaluation of the U.S. dollar. These events highlight the connection between public health and economic security. They also underscore the criticality of Konbit Sante's work to strengthen local health systems' abilities to provide Haitians with access to health care through collaborative efforts.

As many of you are aware, Konbit Sante is also in the midst of transition. After more than 15 years as Konbit Sante's executive director, Nate Nickerson is retiring and transitioning to the role of strategic advisor. Nate's strong public health background, skills, on-the-ground accompaniment of our partners in Haiti, and unflagging dedication have allowed Konbit Sante to have an outsized impact in Cap-Haitien. We are also excited to welcome Rupal Ramesh Shah to the role of executive director, and are impressed by her smarts, energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to public health.

It seems appropriate to close this year's letter with a quotation from Nate: "This is a time of many challenges for us all, both at home and globally, but most especially for people with the fewest means. I am grateful that the Konbit Sante community has stood with, and worked beside, our partners in Haiti through many difficult times over the past two decades, and I hope and trust that legacy of solidarity and support will endure through our own organizational transitions. With change comes opportunities, and I hope you will continue to support this work so that those opportunities will continue to be realized."

Thank you for all of your past invaluable support. We hope you will continue to support Konbit Sante's efforts. It is one small way to acknowledge the interconnectedness of the world we live in and to demonstrate that the lives in Northern Haiti matter.

Sincerely,



Kate Healy  
President  
Board of Directors

